

HOW TO BE A FATHER WHEN YOU ARE FATHERLESS

EPHESIANS 6

MAIN TAKEAWAY

God is a loving Father, and a good father reflects God's character. Fathers who are present and involved make all the difference!

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What was one quality you appreciated (or wish you had) in a father or father figure growing up?

What aspect of God's fatherly characteristics are you drawn to the most?

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 & PSALM 127:3-5

You are not defined by your past (2 Corinthians 5:17). Even if you did not have a father, you can be a good father (Psalm 68:5). What are some ways that past cycles of sin are broken and new beginnings are created?

Children are on loan to us for a short time. Pastor Greg explained, "Children are not ours to keep, but to nurture." In what way are children like "arrows"? How does this provide perspective about parenting?

Parents are to live in such a way that children will want to emulate them (Proverbs 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:1). How can fathers uniquely reflect God's good character (Psalm 103:13)?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS 6:1-4

What does it mean to “train up” children in the Lord (v.4)? Why do you think fathers are specifically addressed in this command?

Start reading the Bible and imprinting your children early (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). According to this passage, how should parents teach their children God’s Word? Why must it start with you?

Godly fathers don’t have to be biological. In the church, we can find and be father figures. What examples of this do you see in Scripture? Why is multigenerational ministry so important (2 Timothy 2:1-2)?

Leave a godly legacy. Pastor Greg said, “You can’t rewrite your childhood, but you can redefine your legacy.” What legacy do you want to leave for your children, grandchildren, or the next generation?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Pastor Greg explained how the absence of fathers is at the root of many societal ills. How does this message motivate you to be a godly father or father figure and to encourage fathers in the church?

Pastor Greg shared advice about doing family devotions. What has been your experience? What have you found helpful? What challenges have you faced?

How are you comforted by the truth that you have a Father in Heaven who loves you unconditionally (1 John 3:1)? How does this compel you to call out to Him in prayer (Matthew 6:9; 7:7-11)?

PRAYER

Thank God for being our perfect Father in Heaven. Ask for strength to live and lead with love. Pray for restoration in families and for godly fathers and mentors to be raised up in the church.