

Fathers Day #DadGoals

Introduction

- Recognise that today can also be a painful time for those whose Fathers have passed on
- Also for those who have experienced painful childhood experiences
- The family is the building block of society
- And Fathers are critical in building strong, healthy and godly families
- Many do not know how to be good Fathers because they have lacked role models

A turning of hearts

"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. [6] He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse." **Malachi 4:5-6**

- We need fathers
- We need sons
- You can never learn to be a good father without learning to be a good son
- We need good godly natural fathers and good godly spiritual fathers
- Sonship is key to both

To be a good Father you must first learn to be a good son. The better you become a good son the better you will be a good Father. **Ed Cole**

Father's Growing Up

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. **1 Corinthians 13:11**

Childish ways

- A child is the centre of its universe
- A child is insensitive to others needs
- A child demands its own way
- A child has a temper tantrum if it's not catered too
- A child is unable to be reasoned with
- A child is irresponsible in behaviour
- A child obeys only concrete authority

Dad Goals

1. Be committed to Relationship

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." **Matthew 3:17**

- Fathers give identity -
 - They are to see who their children are
 - And call out their identity - Affirm it to them
 - Don't speak hurt or harm or insecurity over them
 - Speak life
- Fathers bring security - Make things safe, guard the family.
 - This is done with words and
 - Also physically with Hugs and intimacy
- Fathers are to govern - They bring discipline when needed
 - Set boundaries in a loving context
- Be fully present, not just physically in the room
 - It's so easy to be there but not be there
 - Eye contact, conversation, show interest build relationship
- Keep your word - It builds trust and teaches your children to do the same
 - Children cant tell the difference between a lie and a broken promise
- Have fun with your family - Laughter is good medicine

2. Dad Goal two spiritual

When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, [4] he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. [5] Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. **Proverbs 4:3-5**

Set the Spiritual temperature in the home

- You can only do this from the overflow of your own walk with the Lord
- Pray with your family, read the bible with your family
- Have spiritual conversations

Teach the children by example

- Let them catch you reading your Bible
- Let them catch you praying
- Let them see you living a clean life

Teach the Children by instruction

- Create teaching moments - In the moment, ask questions, allow conversation, steer conversation
- A strong part of that is listening
- Be prayerful for your children
- Pray with your children

Conclusion

- I pray that you will all know the closeness of your heavenly Father today

"There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides across the heavens to help you and on the clouds in his majesty. [27] The eternal God is your

refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemies before you, saying, 'Destroy them!' **Deuteronomy 33:26-27**

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? [10] Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? [11] If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! **Matthew 7:9-11**

- I pray children will desire to be better sons and daughters today
- I pray for single Moms and single Dads today that you will know a greater grace to parent your children
- I pray for Fathers in the house will hope that they can be great Fathers with the help of the Holy Spirit

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