



Fatherhood: Getting It Right

June 17, 2018

#newpointechurch

Bottom Line: Your greatest contribution in life may not be something you do but someone you raise.

Icebreaker: Choose one most comfortable for your group. What's your favorite memory of your father? How old was your father and where did you live when you were born? What cartoon character most resembles your dad?

Key Verses: "Your children are a gift from God" (Psalm 127:3). "For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel" (1 Corinthians 4:15).

God considers children of priceless value, a gift from Him. God also considers fathers to be one of life's greatest gifts. Dads are intended to play a role in the family that no one else can fill. One of the greatest tragedies of our days is the epidemic of fatherlessness. A second great tragedy is fathers who are physically present but emotionally and physically absent. Almost any male can father a child, but being a father requires so much more than a biological contribution.

Being a father is an incredible privilege and responsibility. It cannot be delegated to anyone else in order for things to work as they should. A child's relationship or lack of it with his father can affect all of the child's future relationships, because this relationship is largely for shaping the child's view of himself/herself, and what kind of behavior is acceptable in life. We learn from the behavior that is modeled to us.

Men in general have a tremendous impact on children, and thus on the culture in general. Every set of eyes into which you look is seeking encouragement, hope, and a strong example to follow. A man does this by his example and by simply living a life of integrity, of course, but we are also charged to wisely invest our time. The wisest investment a man can ever make is investing priority time in all of his relationships: with God, his wife, his children, his family, and then with other people, specifically children, who need him. These might be children he coaches, leads at church, or neighborhood kids he sees in need. We can't love without investing time, so the greatest gift you can give someone is your time. Deliberately building relationships is one of the greatest responsibilities and privileges given to a man.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today's message?

Discuss: "If you don't want your family to turn out like every other family, then you need to raise them differently than everyone else does" (Craig Groeschel). In what areas will those differences be?

If being a father cannot be delegated to someone else, what encouragement would you offer a woman who has no active father for her children or a child who has no father?

How do you see your father's impact still playing out in your life?

What are some of the blessings of fatherhood?

"Days are long; years are short." What does this mean, and how does it apply?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

What does a man loving his wife faithfully and with consideration have to do with being a good dad? Can you separate being a good dad from being a good husband? Why do you think so?

"If you live by a double standard, your children will choose the easier one." Discuss.

"Kids are not looking for perfect, just genuine parents and people." Sometimes you genuinely screw up. What do you do then?

"So many of us men trade in what we desire most (good legacy) for what looks good right now." What are safeguards against that?

How can a man make appropriate emotional deposits in the lives of his own children? In the lives of other children?

What is required to be a spiritual father?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Discuss how to schedule time with your kids, young and grown, regularly.
2. Discuss how to get vulnerable with your kids spiritually.
3. Discuss how your group can inject hope into the lives of the fatherless.
4. Commit to action this week.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Your greatest contribution in life may not be something you do but someone you raise.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Malachi 4:6

Tuesday: Ephesians 6:4

Wednesday: 1 John 3:18

Thursday: 1 Kings 2:1-3

Friday: John 15:5

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)