

## SESSION #3 BIBLICAL MANHOOD: DAD

### I. THE IMPORTANCE OF FATHERS

1. Present or \_\_\_\_\_, good or bad, the father/son relationship is significant in shaping all of us.
2. None of us were raised by a perfect father and this has left all of us wounded to one degree or another.
3. "Grandchildren are the crown of old men, And the **glory of sons is their fathers.**" Proverbs 17.6 (NASB)
4. Every father gets undeserved \_\_\_\_\_ from his son the minute he comes into the world.
5. Today in the United States, \_\_\_\_\_ of children grow up apart from their biological fathers.
6. Modern research has demonstrated the importance of fathers.
  - Statistically, children growing up in father – absent homes are more likely to:
    - Die in infancy
    - Live in poverty
    - End up in prison
    - Use drugs
    - Be abused
    - Be overweight
    - Dropout of school
  - Children with involved fathers are more likely to have:
    - Better grades
    - Better verbal skills
    - More confidence
    - Better physical health
  - Recent research indicates that fathers \_\_\_\_\_ add value to their children.

## II. DEFINITIONS AND REMEMBERING DAD

1. Wound: Any unresolved issue where a lack of closure adversely impacts and shapes the direction and dynamics of a man's life now.
2. Father Wound: It's "an ongoing emotional, social, or spiritual deficit that's caused by the lack of a healthy \_\_\_\_\_ with dad and now must be overcome by other means."
3. It was caused when there was a lack of heart connection, or companionship or substantive direction from dad.
4. It's about how your dad \_\_\_\_\_ to you.

## III. THREE COMMON RESPONSES TO THE FATHER WOUND

1. Anger and pain
  - The Bible shows a connection between a man's \_\_\_\_\_ and his dad.
  - Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)
  - "Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart." Colossians 3:21 (NRSV)
  - Without a dad, there is a \_\_\_\_\_ in a son's life and part of what fills that vacuum is rage.
2. The bottling up of feelings
  - To \_\_\_\_\_ like you're not affected.
  - You can never completely bottle it up, it'll express itself somehow.
  - According to John Sowers in the *Fatherless Generation*, "Fatherlessness creates an appetite in the soul that \_\_\_\_\_ fulfillment."
  - Unhealthy ways this hunger can find its way to the surface:
    - Addictions or obsessions
    - Drugs, pornography and excessive alcohol
    - Performance
3. An inner sense of lostness or incompleteness.
  - Incompleteness can be \_\_\_\_\_, we never felt accepted or validated by dad.

- Incompleteness can be \_\_\_\_\_. Dad didn't teach us to shave or balance a checking account or how to pursue a woman, etc.

#### IV. OVERCOME THE EFFECTS OF THE FATHER WOUND

1. The absence of a great father is not insurmountable.
2. With Christ's help we can \_\_\_\_\_ any obstacle.

#### V. WHAT EVERY SON NEEDS FROM DAD

1. \_\_\_\_\_ together
2. Life skills
3. Direction with solid answers to the \_\_\_\_\_ questions of life.
4. Deep life convictions
  - You will leave in your son what you have \_\_\_\_\_ out in your home.
5. Dad's heart
  - I love you
  - I'm proud of you
  - I'm affirming you

#### DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do you feel about your relationship with your dad? What are three words or phrases that sum up your relationship with him?
2. This session talked about the father wound expressing itself in three ways: 1). Anger and pain, 2). the bottling up of feelings, and 3). A sense of relational or informational incompleteness. Elaborate on how any of these three things describe you.