

**Slide 1: Fathers in Training: Purpose**

We are a ministry of fathers who seek to teach, train and equip men in Biblical fatherhood.

**Slide 2: Fathers In Training is:**

- A place to learn some Godly principles of child rearing and being a Godly father.
- A safe environment to connect and build relationships with other men.
- A place to share your challenges as a dad, husband & grandfather.
- A place to learn who and what God created you to be.
- An opportunity to learn and know truth, and help you put balance and margin into your life.

**Slide 3: Being a Dad in tough times:**

We are faced with the daunting task of raising children amid a culture in crisis. A child's relationship with Dad is a decisive factor in that person's physical health, development and happiness. Research tells a statistical horror story of what is happening every day in America:

- 1,000 unwed teenage girls become mothers
- 1,106 teenage girls get abortions
- 4,219 teenagers contract a sexually transmitted disease
- 500 adolescents begin using drugs
- 1,000 adolescents begin drinking alcohol
- 135,000 kids bring a gun or other weapon to school
- 3,610 teens are assaulted;
- 80 teens are raped
- 2,200 teens drop out of high school
- 7 kids (ages 10–19) are murdered
- 7 juveniles (17 and under) are arrested for murder
- 6 teens commit suicide

**Slide 4:**

- We live in a different world from the past, one that threatens our marriages, our families, and our children. We live in a culture that rejects the truth of the Bible, mocks biblical morality, glorifies sex and violence, and laughs at drunkenness & rudeness.
- A society that largely rejects the notions of morality and truth, a society that has lost the ability to decide what is right in which truth has become a matter of taste and morality has been replaced by individual preference.
- We are faced with the daunting task of raising children amid a culture in crisis. The task of being a father is of critical importance, and it has never been more so than today.
- A child's relationship with Dad is a decisive factor in that persons physical health, development and happiness.

**Slide 5: The Father Connection by Josh McDowell**

**This book has the meat and potatoes of what you need in becoming a better father to your children. If you only read this book and apply what you learned, I know and believe you will become that father your family deserves.**

**Slide 6: Is it worth it?**

It is little wonder that many men face the task of fathering with fear and trembling. But fathering is not only in many respects the most frightening job in the world; it is also among the most critically needed jobs in the world.

Fatherhood may be the most frightening job in the world, but it is also the most important, most rewarding job any man can tackle. Regardless of your limitations or shortcomings, you can become an effective father.

- You can overcome the obstacles.
- You can counter the difficulties that are against you.
- You can become the father your children need.

**Slide 7: What is the Father you want to be?**

Model of a Father looks like a father whose children:

Feel secure - Save sex for marriage - Develop a reputation as men and women of integrity (honest, ethical and hardworking) - Say my father keeps his promises - Stand up to unhealthy peer pressure - Develop healthy friendships - Earn the respect and admiration of their peers - Say no to drug and alcohol abuse and risky behavior - Say "thank you Dad for being there when I needed you" - Are safe and secure in coming to you for personal guidance and advice - Are willing to admit their sins and mistakes - Are forgiving and patient with others? - Enjoy a healthy sense of self-esteem and self-confidence - Say they want to marry someone they can respect and admire like their father or mother.

**Slide 8: Looking for a Model**

Since I didn't have a father like the model above and I haven't been one either, need to find a model I could imitate. Look for one. What did you find?

**Model Couples** you admire as great parents:

- What impressed you about them?
- Do they have a rich relationship with their children?
- Are they uplifting with each other and others?

**Model your earthly Father**

Who was your father (good or bad model)? Know what you've been taught? What impact does this idea have on your self-image?

What impact do these ideas have on your perception of how God the Father loves you?

**Slide 9:**

**Does your earthly father's value of you equate to your perception of how God your heavenly Father values you?**

**Children commonly believe:**

If earthly father was loving, warm and nurturing so is God the Father.

If earthly their father was cold, distant, and occupied with more important things than so is God the Father.

**Mistaken image of God the Father you need to transform that relationship.**

- Discover how loving, caring, and vitally interested God is.
- Let the walls fall down.
- Draw closer together to God.

**Slide 10:**

**Read thru Psalms and note every mention of the Lord's nature:**

Commit to those basic qualities of fatherhood, that are seen in our Lord are the qualities He desires to form in today's Christian fathers.

Use God the Father as the Fathering role model:

James 1:17 Source of all good things

1 Cor 8:6 From whom all things come

Luke 3:38 Breathed life into the first Son of God, Adam

Deut 32:6 Made in His likeness

Ro 8:15 God desires a good relationship with us

Mt 6:9 Listening Father who bids us to boldly approach Him

Mt 3:17 Loving Father who freely and forcefully demonstrates His love for us

Mt 7:11 A giving Father who gives good gifts to His children.

Eph 4:6 He is the Father of all.

**Slide 11:**

**God is the very definition of fatherhood, the fount of everything that is good, moral, and worthy of limitation. God the Father is the ideal model of a good and effective Father.**

Characteristics I long for are those of God my heavenly Father:

- Qualities I yearn to display to my children are God the Father's very nature.
- Understanding this can transform and empower us and free us from the crippling effects of our past.
- Understanding God's nature gives clear picture of How to be an effective father.

**Slide 12:** The Father's Resource

God the Father a thrilling journey of Discovery:

- Determine to understand the qualities of God the Father.
- Knowing the knowledge of God deepens my awareness of the Father and shows me how to be a father to my children.
- Strengthen my connection to God I strengthen my connection to my children to enhance my effectiveness as a father.
- Not a set of rules or list to do but a relationship to transform your life, your children, your family and your future.
- Makes children willing to live healthy, happy, godly lives.
- Jesus Character of God the Father to your Children and wife.

**Slide 13:** God the Father is the only resource.

- Disconnected you can't reach or be heard by anyone.
- Connected to your Heavenly Father and reach your audience.
- Creates stronger relationships with children.
- Enables them to counter peer pressure, make wise decisions, honor their father's wishes and obey his rules.
- Makes children willing to live healthy, happy, godly lives.
- Gives them confidence, security and satisfaction that strengthens them against traps and temptation when away from the family.

**Slide 14:** A Fathering Connection

**First,** approach fathering from a positive, optimistic perspective.

Look at fathering as a positive, loving influence that will not only enrich your child's life but also be a means that God will use to stretch you mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Consider it an important opportunity to invest your life in someone; believing that the time invested will bear fruit for years—perhaps generations—to come.

**Second,** look at growth as a series of small steps taken over a lifetime.

Don't allow yourself to be overwhelmed by what you aren't doing; rather, focus on some small, new step you'd like to take today. (At the end of each chapter are some suggested questions and action points to help you prioritize your ideas and move forward.)

**Third,** determine to dedicate yourself to the privilege and responsibility of fathering.

The psalmist has given us a healthy perspective on the challenge before us: Sons are a heritage from the Lord; children a reward from him. (Ps. 127:3)