

FIT - The Father who Comforts and Supports

Slide 1 Cover Deuteronomy 6:7 (ESV)

⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Slide 2 A child who receives a fathers comfort and support is more likely to:
Be caring, compassionate, feel loved, giving, grateful, hopeful,
positive, sensitive, and self-confident

Slide 3 We want to be the kind of father who:
Are there for our children (ALWAYS)
Responds sensitively to a child's fears and hurts
Equips our children to stand up to unhealthy peer pressure, battle
insecurity, build healthy friendships, and earn the respect and admiration
of their peers.

Slide 4 The Father Figure

We want to be a father who supports our kids through life's trials and
difficulties: Be helpful, hopeful and responsive with them!
2Cor 1:3, 4 The Father of compassion and the God of all comfort...

By the power of the Holy Spirit living in us and working through us, we can
reflect God's nature of comfort and support to our children's in troubled
times.

Even in discipline Ps23:4 Your rod and your staff they comfort me

Slide 5 Psalm 23:

¹*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

²*He makes me lie down in green pastures.*

He leads me beside still waters.

³*He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.*

⁴ *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

⁵ *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

⁶ *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell^[f] in the house of the Lord forever.*

Slide 6 Accepting your limitations (We are imperfect)

We can't stop our kids from being hurt but we can pick them up and comfort them. Be there when they need you!

We can't stop our kids from making mistakes but we can help them correct them. Use these life experiences for teaching

We can't protect our kids from disappointment or harm but we can grieve with them. Stand along-side with them in their trial!

We can't fix everything that goes wrong in their lives but we can cheer them on. Be supportive in failures or losing causes!

Slide 7 Taking Time:

Something happening or being done; on an occasion. This is an event, occasion, or period experienced in a particular way.

Kids spell love TIME

Teach

Inspire

Motivate

Empower

A father who truly wants to reflect the image of the Father of compassion, the God of all comfort, must take TIME for his children.

Slide 8 Gauging their needs:

Being sensitive to their needs, helps to build high self-esteem.

Listen, observe, and gauge the feelings and needs that the words and actions reflect.

Abraham Maslow illustration of a person's needs: **Graphic Pyramid**

In 1943, Abraham Maslow proposed the human pyramid of needs. The interesting thing about these needs is that, with the exception of your physiological needs (food, water, etc); your body will not give a physical response in the absence of higher level needs, other than being anxious or nervous.

Slide 9 Learning the language of comfort and support

Hurting kids seldom need correction, instruction, or inspiration they need for the father to be there with compassion and support to show I care. If discipline is necessary after suffering the consequences of misconduct, offer comfort and support first.

Watching your mouth

Be aware of the power of your words

Negative words, body language or attitude will alienate a child and they will seek comfort and support elsewhere.

Dan Benson in his book *The Total Man* states, “one survey of parents reveals an average 10 negative comments to every positive comment.” Also “Experts in child psychology believe it takes four positive remarks to offset the damage to self-esteem caused by one negative comment.”

Slide 10 Entering their world

Know what your child interests is right now.

What they think is cool,

What they enjoy,

What kind of friends they hang-out with

Getting to know their world takes TIME and cultivation.

Slide 11 GO TO YOUR SMALL GROUPS – BE BACK IN HERE BY 754pm

Slide 12 *I am also your Father who Comforts you in all your troubles*

2 Corinthians 1: 3-4