

Remembering Fathers

Introduction: God uses the raising of children to get us fathers to look at ourselves, our current spiritual condition, and to keep that focus when we realize just how significant our role is in the lives of our children.

I. The First Few Years

- A. Up to 80% of a child's personality is developed by age 6.
- B. Our world's approach to the concept of family and raising children.
- C. Looking deep inside and comparing to God's approach. (Deut. 6:5-9)
- D. Joshua's sound advice for any father. (Joshua 22:5)

II. "Just 5 More Minutes"

- A. Teenagers are discovering who they are, what they think and believe.
- B. Personalities, environment, and parental styles all influence this process.
- C. Despite the tensions and conflicts over teenage issues, Proverbs 22:6 is true.
- D. If your teen is disobedient and pushing limits, "what did you wrong"?
- E. Loving care does not always mean "success."
- F. Togetherness goes a long way.

III. The Father's Power of Influence

- A. Deceived by the values of our everyday-world.
 - 1. We accept an upside-down set of priorities and values.
 - 2. We have a lot of options when they are at home. But what about when they are gone?
- B. What are the strongest memories of your father?
 - 1. Good or bad, they are the living influence in your life. (Eph. 6:4)
 - 2. No father, present or absent, is a neutral, meaningless force in his child's life.
- C. What memory of you will live on in your adult child's life?
- D. The most powerful influence you have on your child when he or she leaves home will be in his or her memories.

Conclusion: No memory has the power of this memory: Dad was a fair, kind, loving, responsible person who was genuine and godly in mind, heart, and behavior. (Gen. 18:19)