

Conversation Starters

- How did you do on your Next Steps from last week?
- What stuck out the most to you from the past weekend's message?

Discuss

In the Bible, Timothy and Paul lived out a model "father-son" relationship despite not being biologically related. Through their example, we can examine the importance and influence a father can have in the life of a child.

"Timothy, I thank God for you — the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. I long to see you again, for I remember your tears as we parted. And I will be filled with joy when we are together again." (2 Timothy 1:3-4, NLT)

Sadly, in today's culture we often see a lack of father figures. This past weekend we examined three reasons why that may be. First, perhaps you (men) aren't being a father figure that you could be. Fathers should be leading, encouraging, and modeling how to live well before God.

"With each of you we were like a father with his child, holding your hand, whispering encouragement, showing you step by step how to live well before God." (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12, Msg)

- Do you know a man who leads their children well?
- What traits stick out to you in their leadership?
- How can you (men) improve in this area?

Another reason we examined for a lack of father figures is the neglect of reaching out to the fatherless. With the increasing number of single parent families (particularly single moms), there is an overwhelming need for non-biological fathers to be on the lookout for and be prepared to support children in these families.

- Did you know that Jesus grew up in a single parent home?
- In what (even small) ways can you impact a single parent family?

A final reason there may be father shaped holes in our lives is for a failure to appreciate the father you may already have. Not every father is perfect. In some cases it may even be a non-biological father that could or is trying to fill that hole. And they may just need to be extended a little grace.

- Are there any father figures (biological or not) in your life?
- How have you shown them appreciation lately?
- What can you do this week to extend some grace toward them?

Next Steps

Pray this week about your personal situation regarding your father or any other father figure or potential father figure. Pray for any healing that may be needed, strength for extending grace, and courage to act upon any promptings.

Did you lack a father figure or still trying to figure out what that looks like in your life? Our [Foundations 101](#) class dives into who God is, and we think you'll be able to find out how He is our Father. You can also [let us know](#) however else we may help you.

Further Reflection

Read [2 Timothy 1:3-4, NLT](#) and [1 Thessalonians 2:11-12, Msg](#)

Pray

God, you are stronger and greater than we can imagine. Regardless of any situation we are in and any past that we come from, you still love us. Thank you for your love. Thank you for the people around us. Give us strength when we lack father figures, and the ability to extend grace where we need to. Help us to appreciate what we do have and find ways to express it.