

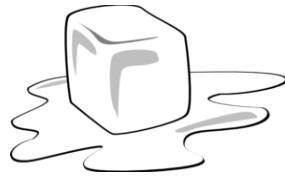
Home Group Study Guide

Sermon Title: Three Choices a Father Can Make

Sermon Series: Father's Day (Stand Alone Sermon)

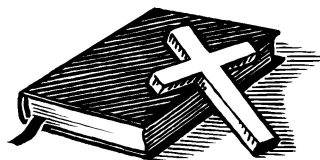
Sermon Scripture: Psalm 112:1-2 (NLT), Matthew 16:26, Genesis 7:6-7, 2 Samuel 7:5-7, 12-14, 1 Chronicles 22:5, 14-19, Numbers 13:16-20a, 26-33, Numbers 32:11-13

Sermon Synopsis: Sermon Synopsis: Being a dad is difficult today. But there are three choices that we can make that will help impact our children and beyond. These choices are not easy, and they are counter-cultural but they will ensure that your kids will become faith-filled, big-thinking followers of Jesus Christ.



ICEBREAKER

Pastor Zach gave a few examples of how the world has changed since he was a kid. For example, his family used to take the seats out of the minivan on long road trips, lay blankets down and load up everyone without seatbelts! What's something that you miss from "the good ole days" when you were a child?



THINK & READ

Pastor Zach preached a Father's Day sermon on Sunday. For the sake of our discussion, consider both your biological children AND those who watch you....We all have influence over others, more than we could ever imagine. Is there someone at work, someone from church, a neighbor, etc. whom God has given you the privilege of mentoring/leading/influencing?

Pastor Zach shared what he views as society's definition of success: "Culture says success is raising well rounded, well educated, and happy kids." While there is nothing wrong with these three things, Pastor Zach argued that it's much more important to recognize that we are called to unleash faith-filled, big-thinking children who follow Jesus.

Let's look at three Old Testament stories and draw principles from some biblical fathers.

1. Noah chose family over fame.

Have someone read Genesis 7:6-7

Noah preached for 120 years, but didn't win anyone over except for his family. Do you live your life as though the most important people God has called you to reach is your family and your children? (Can you give examples?...)

Now what's neat about Noah is that he ended up getting the fame. We are still talking about him today. First choice: Choose family over fame. Place what your family thinks about you above what others think about you.

Is what your family thinks about more important than what others think about you?

2. David chose children over career.

David wanted to build a Temple for God because God has always been worshipped in the Tabernacle (a tent) up until that point. God didn't respond the way David wanted.

Have someone read 2 Samuel 7:5-7 & 2 Samuel 7:12-13.

Who did God declare would build His Temple?
(David's son, Solomon)

David responded to God's decree in 1 Chronicles 22:5. Have someone read this verse aloud.

David could have been upset with God or jealous of his son Solomon, but instead he set aside his own career and legacy and made extensive preparations to make Solomon successful.

What motivates you to work hard?

Is it truly to provide for your family or are there other factors?

How are you preparing things, so your children and those you influence are set up for success with God?

3. Joshua and Caleb choose faith over facts.

Moses sent 12 spies, including Joshua and Caleb, into the Promised Land to explore and then report back.

Read the report of the spies in Numbers 13:26-33.

Ten spies gave a negative report, but Joshua and Caleb trusted that God could get the Israelites into the Promised Land. Because of this report Joshua and Caleb were the only people over the age of 20 who were allowed to enter the Promised Land. The rest died in the Wilderness. This story tells us that choices you make today impact generations to come.

You have the opportunity through choices you make today to give your children and those you influence opportunities that others don't have.

Choices that you make today can change your family legacy. Maybe you weren't born into a home of pastors and faithful, committed Christians. Maybe your past has been a wreck. Your family situation has been a mess. Guess what, you get to start your legacy. And trust me, your kids are watching.

The best way to make Faith-Filled, Big-Thinking children who follow Jesus is to be Faith-Filled, Big-Thinking follower of Jesus ourselves.

How are you working to provide a Godly legacy for your children and those you influence?

You cannot give away what you do not possess. How are you cultivating your own relationship with God to become a more Faith Filled Big Thinking Follower of Jesus Christ? How are you involving your family/children in your journey?



PRAYER

Take individual prayer requests from those your Home Group. Then take some time to pray out loud for the people in your Home Group.