

**Father's Day Celebration, Hope Community Church
Life Group Leaders' Questions - Sunday September 6, 2020**

Discussion Starter: Share the most powerful memory you have of your father.

Digging Deeper into the Word

On Father's Day, we honour Dads and consider how we can support and equip them. Read Ephesians 6:4 and consider these questions:

1. How can earthly fathers affect children's understanding of their Heavenly Father?
2. What are some ways that fathers can exasperate their children?
3. What are some ways that fathers can raise their children in the training and instruction of the Lord?

Formed by the Spirit, For the Mission

4. J.I. Packer (a giant of our generation who recently went to be with Christ) wrote this about knowing God as Father. What do you think about this quote?

You sum up the whole of New Testament teaching in a single phrase, if you speak of it as a revelation of the Fatherhood of the holy Creator. In the same way, you sum up the whole of New Testament religion if you describe it as the knowledge of God as one's holy Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all. For everything that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament new, and better than the Old, everything that is distinctively Christian as opposed to merely Jewish, is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God.

5. How can we as a church better encourage and empower our fathers?
6. Share something you think every father should incorporate into their parenting.
7. Take a few moments to pray, asking the Holy Spirit to bless, encourage and use the fathers in our church.