

Matters of the Heart

An Initiating Heart

TAKING THE FIRST STEP AS A FATHER

- ▶ The Initiating Love of our Heavenly Father (1 John 4:19; Romans 5:8)

PRINCIPLE: We are responsible for the next generation.
(Deuteronomy 4:9)

- ▶ 2 main ingredients for being an initiating (earthly) father
 - ① show up
 - ② Be engaged
- ▶ Today's Objective: Encourage the fathers of Creekside to be proactive in leading and guiding their children (or step children or grandchildren) toward a better future with God.

A FATHER'S BIGGEST WISH...

- ▶ That our children would grow up knowing, loving
& serving God. (Proverbs 1:8; 2:1-5)

WHAT'S THE BEST ROAD MAP TO GET THERE?

① KNOW THIS

- You are the head of your home (Ephesians 5:23)
- You are your kids' greatest hero
- Lessons are more easily "caught" than "taught"
- Good parenting requires time

② AVOID THIS

- Giving way to fear or laziness
- Exasperating your kids (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21)
- Forgetting to say you're sorry
- Assuming you're kids are guaranteed to "turn out" great (Proverbs 22:6)

③ PRACTICE THIS

- Instruct with patience & repetition
 - ▶ Topics for dads to transmit to their kids
 - Truth - Building your life on a solid foundation
 - Faith - Learning to trust God
 - Honor/Love - How to treat others right
 - Respect - Appropriately relating to authority figures
 - Obedience - The over-arching command for kids
 - Self-Control - Learning to delay gratification
 - Money Management - Learning biblical balance
 - Habits - Simple personal disciplines that lead to success
 - Courage - Standing up for what is right
 - Purity - With your body, heart, mouth & entertainment
- Model a growing relationship with Christ
- Get the Bible into your kids' hearts
(Psalm 119:9,11)
- Redeem the critical moments of
the day (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)
 - ▶ Meal time
 - ▶ Transit time
 - ▶ Bed time
 - ▶ Wake up & get-going time
 - ▶ All the time - Make God's Word visible

PRAY WITH YOUR CHILDREN / PRAY FOR YOUR CHILDREN