

Old Man – New Man “Program 3”

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The Father’s Influence

John is having a tough day. He just came close to slapping his wife. All he can think of is going to the bar, with his friends for “a strong drink.” Tina argues with him. “It’s cold and we need firewood,” she insists. But John is determined. He raises his hand threatening her and takes off. It snowed recently so as he is walking away from his house he hears a little voice behind him. “Look Dad!” shouts his young son, “I’m following in your footsteps.” His son has put on John’s boots and is attempting to trace his father’s marks left in the snow. John hesitates for a moment, turns around, picks up his son and decides to stay home. In general, men don’t have a clear grasp of the powerful influence they have on their children. Let’s us explore this important subject.

Declare

1. Finish this sentence: “I’ll never get caught doing this _____.” Don’t think too hard, this can be funny.
2. What comes to mind when you think of your father? Again, share the first thing that comes to mind. There is no right or wrong answer. Try to elaborate on your answers [share why that comes to mind].
 - a. _____

Dig

3. Pastor Black shared about an event that shaped his family’s experience: the death of his older brother. In your life, was there an event that changed the dynamics of your family? Like moving to a new town, the loss of a parent’s job, a prolonged illness or other things. Share with the event with the group and how it changed the family dynamics.
 - a. _____
 - b. How can being aware of it can help you? Perhaps the group can give you support with this issue.
4. What was the spiritual condition of your family as you were growing up? Were your parents devoted or uninvolved? Did your family attend religious services? Looking back how did the family spiritual experience [or the lack of it] affect you in your early adult years?
 - a. _____
 - b. How is the spiritual atmosphere in which you grew up affecting the spiritual atmosphere of your family today? The wonderful thing about God is that He gives us new beginnings.
5. Someone said that “insanity is the only illness passed from the children to the parents.” Seriously speaking, spirituality is the one thing that parents transfer to their children whether it’s purposeful or accidental, positive or negative. Read Deuteronomy 11:18-21 and reflect on God’s instructions for parents and how this can be done in today’s setting.

- a. _____
- 6. Pastor Black also shared concerning the fact that he learned his work ethic and compassionate care from his father. What does this say concerning the influence of the father over his children? How is character and behavior transferred from one generation to the next?
 - a. _____
- 7. A father's influence. Read the following passages and indicate how the father influenced his children, indicate how it was positive or negative:
 - a. Genesis 6:9-12 _____
 - b. 1 Samuel 2:12-17 _____
 - c. Acts 16:25-34 _____

Devote

- 8. Pastor Black also shared how his gather shared with everyone that "his son was going to be a preacher." This shaped Pastor Black. What are you doing to shape the spiritual future of your children?
 - a. _____
- 9. Pastor Black was deeply impressed when he caught his parents praying for him. Question #1 above asked you what you never want to get caught doing. Now think the opposite and respond: What would you like to get caught doing? What would you like for your children to catch you doing?
 - a. _____

Fatherhood is challenging and not one is perfect. We all make mistakes. Our greatest source for wisdom and guidance in parenting is God. Close the meeting praying in the group by praying for each parent present. If someone shared their struggle with being a parent then focus your prayers on that individual.