

Old Man – New Man

Written by Dr. Eli Rojas

How to be a great father

Do you like assembling things? Putting things together? Some men are really good at taking a box filled with parts and putting them together. Others need a manual. Perhaps that is where the expression “*When all else fails read the manual*” comes from. But for parenting there is no manual. How can we make it as fathers? The good news is that there’s help. There is God-given advice that will help us become “great fathers.”

Declare

1. Share briefly with the group what your relationship with you father was like. What do you find yourself doing that reminds you of him?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
2. From what you have observed, how vital is the father’s role in today’s families? What visible differences are present in a family where the father is involved and a family where the father is not involved?
 - a. _____

Dig

3. Read Matthew 3:17. Why is text important in the context of Jesus’ life and ministry? What is this text telling you as a father/parent concerning your relationship with your children?
 - a. _____

4. From the following verses expand on the kind of relationship Jesus had with His Father.
 - a. John 5:19 _____
 - b. John 8:19 _____
 - c. John 14:6 _____
 - d. Matthew 26:39 _____
5. From the passages above list principles that can be applied as earthly fathers/parents. Gather at least one principle from each passage.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
6. Pastor Consuegra said that “fathers have a critical role both in raising boys and girls.” Sometimes parents have the idea that moms are to connect with the girls and the boys with their dad. From what you gathered from the interview, how is it that dads influence both genders and how important is it for fathers to connect with their children?

- a. _____
7. Perhaps the most important influence that a man will have over his children is the spiritual influence. Pastor Consuegra shared some statistics concerning this powerful influence. He explained [fill in the bank]:
- When a _____¹ joins the church 10% of the family will join the church.
 - When a _____² joins the church 35% of the family will join the church.
 - When a _____³ joins the church 85% of the family will join the church.
8. What kind of activities did Pastor Consuegra encourage fathers to do with their children?
- _____
 - Don't forget to think of the activities that children like, not the ones you like!
9. Why is it important for families to have dinner [meals] together without the disruption of media [television, computers, phones, etc.]?
- _____

Devote

10. Read again John 5:19. Prayerfully consider how this text applies to all fathers and all children. What are you currently doing that is being imitated by your children? Share with the group.
- _____
11. Malachi 4:6 says: "And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers." In what areas does your relationship with your children need healing? The purpose of this program/Bible study is not to get you discouraged because of the faults you may find in the relationship with your children, but to help you improve your relationships with your family. As you consider the last question above realize that God cares for your children and He will give healing to your broken relationships.
- _____

Close the meeting praying specifically for those fathers in your group that are struggling with their relationship with their children, and for those that are already working on their relationships that they may have an even better connection with their children. There's no age limit in this area because you don't stop being "dad" when your children reach 40 years of age or 50. All men with children need the encouragement to become "Great Fathers."

¹ Child

² Mother

³ Father