

# Fatherhood

## Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Tell the group a joke that you like.
2. Who is one person who has been a role model for you?

**Read the following passage:** Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-12.

As far as we know, the apostle Paul was unmarried and had no children. Yet he frequently referred to himself as a father (and, in this passage, even likened himself to a mother) in his communications with the men and women in the churches he started. Regardless of whether we have natural children, God calls us to play the role of a father or mother at different seasons in our lives.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Increasingly, men and women are rejecting the opportunity to be a natural (or spiritual) father (or mother). Why do you think this is? If you do not currently have children, would you like to have children one day? Do you hope to be a role model in the lives of others?
2. In your opinion, what are the most important roles of a father?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 6:11-13. Why do you think fathers sometimes fail to open their hearts to their children? Why is it important for fathers to open their hearts to their children?
4. Describe your relationship with your father (if you had a relationship with him). How do you think this relationship has impacted your life?
5. What are some practical ways fathers can express affection for their children? Read Mark 1:11 and Mark 9:7. What do these passages indicate about the relationship between God the Father and Jesus, His Son?
6. Do you feel comfortable showing physical affection to your children or other people you love? Explain.
7. Read Ephesians 6:4. In their interactions with their children, fathers often have difficulty controlling their anger. Why do you think this is the case? What can help?
8. What can fathers do to inspire their children to follow Jesus? What should a father (or mother) do if he feels like an inadequate spiritual role model for his children?

9. What is one thing you can do to be a better role model for your children or other people?

**Pray**