



SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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JUNE 17, 2018

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: The God-life is a journey, and we're all traveling it together. Everyone needs spiritual leadership along the way. Are you seasoned in your relationship with God? Be a spiritual father for those following behind you.

2. DISCUSSION:

1 John 3:1 [NIV]

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

It's God's love as a Father that sets the example for us, and as the Holy Spirit changes us more and more into His image, we should live out that love as an example to those following us in this God-journey.

Q . Who in your life best exemplifies God's love put into practice?

Q . What are some actions - visible in your life - that reflect God's love to others?



3. CHALLENGE:

2 Timothy 2:1-2 [NLT]

"Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others."

Spiritual fathers are responsible for instructing and even disciplining, those who follow them along the way. It's not just a job for pastors, it's a job for every believer.

Q . Have you been through the NEXT discipleship process, either as a student or a mentor? If not, why not?

Q . What would our church look like if every mature believer invested in one person to mentor spiritually? How might that change the spiritual strength of Abundant Life? How might that impact our community?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family: thank God for the spiritual father(s) who helped you to the point where you are now in your relationship with God. Ask the Holy Spirit to connect you with people you can look up to, and with people who can learn from your example.



THE GOD-FATHER

Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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1. POWER VERSE: Joshua 1:5 *"For I will not leave you. . . I will not fail you or abandon you."* What's Up: **"God The Father Will Never Fail!"**

As a family, write down a list of things that the "perfect" father would be or do. Write everything down, even if you know that what your child suggests may not really be what a perfect father would do (for example, "A perfect father would give me everything I want").

2. DISCUSSION:



for his children." Some things, though, should be removed.

Once the list is completed, go back through it and discuss each item. Ask your children if the item really is something a perfect father should do. Some of the things they include should definitely stay on the list, such "a perfect father will always provide

- Q. Why did you include these items?
- Q. Is there such thing as a "perfect" father?

God, as our Father in Heaven, is all of the things a perfect father should be and even more. Earthly dads have limitations, but God doesn't.

Read the following scriptures that describe some of the characteristics of our Heavenly Father.

Matthew 28:20 *"Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."*

Jeremiah 29:11

"I know the plans I have for you," announces the Lord. "I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come."

Psalm 121:3-4 *"He won't let your foot slip. He who watches over you won't get tired. In fact, he who watches over Israel won't get tired or go to sleep."*

Psalm 24:1 *"The earth belongs to the Lord. And so does everything in it. The world belongs to him. And so do all those who live in it."*

Job 42:2 *"I know that you can do anything. No one can keep you from doing what you plan to do."*



Matthew 19:26 *"Jesus looked at them and said, 'With people, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible.'"*

3. CHALLENGE:

Even though earthly dads aren't perfect and may sometimes fail us, God will always do what's best and right for us, and He will never fail us.



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that God will surround your family with godly people who will reflect the characteristics of our Heavenly Father to your children.