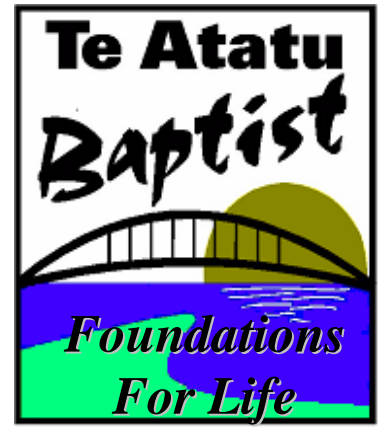


Into The Blender!



7 weeks of practical, down to earth tools and resources for families, step-families, divorce and remarriage!

Week Seven

It's time to come home to the Father

www.TeAtatuBaptist.com

Start with – 'Why I love my Daddy' video

Video Clip # 1 – I love my
Daddy because...

I love my Daddy with all my
heart!

I love my Dad because he gives
us PS games, and like Star Wars
the Original Trilogy.

My Daddy's belly???

He is nice and plays the games
with us.

We have this game called 'get
you!'

This is how I play with my Dad (Scrunches up a Teenage Mutant
Ninja Turtle doll)

He plays basket ball with me and we play catch in the front yard
sometimes.

Sometimes I make him coffee!

When my Dad comes home, he gives me a big hug.

He lets us watch Star Wars!

We watch the ABC, mummy doesn't like it, but I do.

I like my Daddy because he pushes me on the swings.

He's a real funny person, I like the video stuff, and doing stuff – like
right now! (Dad is videoing!)

He sometimes says thing that are like 'off colour' but they are just
brilliant!

My Dad makes me laugh. When he says, 'Does a cow say Meow?'

We play together – the roads, and we make a line of toy cars, and
traffic, and we wrestle.

It's fun when he bounces me up and tries to crack me (on the
trampoline) and we play Crack the Egg.

He'll hide, hide behind doors, and like – jump out at you!

He takes me camping and he buys me things.

My Dad bought me this rocket for Christmas, and then we went out to
shoot it. It was so much fun!



My Daddy teaches me to be obedient.

My Dad prays with me.

Sometimes when we miss church, my Dad teaches me a verse.

He taught me about the Passover, and he also taught about Christmas once.

I'd like to give my Dad a new car.

A new hockey puck!

A million dollars.

I'd probably give him a card, and probably draw him Godzilla!!!

Video Available to view from www.TeAtatuBaptist.com

I love my Daddy because...!

Why do *you* love *your* daddy?

And if there was one thing you could say to him – no matter how young or old you are today – if there was one thing you could say to your Dad – I wonder what would it be?

In fact, I've been very busy over the last couple of weeks, and I've been around to many of our children, *who are at this church and beyond*, some of whom are Christian, and some who are not - and I've asked them that exact question!

If there was one thing you could say to your parents, to your Mum or Dad, what would it be?

The safe thing about this written survey that I have done, is that it was completely anonymous, I have no idea who the people are who completed it, in fact, I asked some of my own children to complete the questionnaire as well – so like you, I don't know what answer applies to my life or to yours.

Would you like to know how our children responded?

Really?

I hope you're ready :-)

Let me share a small selection that summarise the entirety of responses.

If there was one thing you could say to your Dad, your Father – what would it be?

- ❖ Dad – I love you despite all we have been through. I forgive you for not being perfect. I want to honour you, but I don't really know how.
- ❖ Dad – I love you and forgive you. Life has been hard for me, but still I am blessed. Thank you.
- ❖ Dad – why are you so busy? I could never say this to your face. But I still love you – and need you more and more as I grow older. (Written by a teenager)
- ❖ Mum and Dad – thank you for taking me to Sunday School – see, it was worth it! (Written by person in their eighties!)
- ❖ Dad, sorry I didn't say 'sorry' more often.
- ❖ Dad – I really want to get to know you better. Please?

I think this one describes the majority of response to the question – 'If there was one thing you could say to your parents – what would it be?'

- ❖ Daddy – do you love me??? (Written by a teenage daughter)

Daddy – do you love me?

I think this is the number one question that resides within the heart of every little boy and girl.

I think it is the number one question that resides within the heart of every of every grown man and woman.

Daddy – do you really love me?

Because Fathers have the ability to make or break our lives.

Daddy – do you love me?

Well, here's another question I asked.

If there was one thing you needed to hear from your Father – what would it be?

Do you want to know the answers?

Well, the most common response from teenage sons, was:

- ❖ Sure son, you can borrow the car – it has a full tank of gas, and you don't need to refill it either!

But apart from this response, what do you think the most common phrase is that all children – from childhood to their twilight years - *need to hear* from their father?

You guessed it!

- ❖ I love you! You are mine – and I love you!

Nothing more, nothing less!

❖ I – Love – you!!!

Video Clip # 2 – Jami, *finding God the Father*.

My relationship with my mum was always pretty good. Me and my mum were always praying me and my Dad, we were when I was younger, we were pretty good friends. I really love me Dad and I thought very highly of him and I always wanted to be with him, but as I grew older it



seems like we just stopped communicating or we didn't know how to communicate with each other. He could only relate to me when I was really little and also as I got older I saw that he had a problem with alcohol.

My parents eventually got a divorce. I went a long time without talking to my Dad. There were times when I thought I'd never see him again. And when he would come and visit me or I'd go see him – it always seemed like he would take that time to go out with his friends or go to a party or whatever. He didn't care, I didn't mean anything to him. He just did his own thing anyway.

Eventually I turned and looked for that security in other things. I thought, if I can't find it in my Dad, I'm going to have to find it somewhere else. So I turned to guys, drugs and alcohol and friends who ended up not being friends, but just giving me what I wanted right then and that's what I was looking for, I was looking for that love at that moment. As I got older, I ended up dropping out of High School. I just didn't care about anything anymore. Whatever happened – happened, you know. It was just life.

My friend was telling me about this girl's group that her mum was seeing because of problems that she had. And I was at the breaking point where I had hit rock bottom and I was so sick of my life that I wanted to fix things. So, I decided to get help. I had counselling through all of it, and found out really why I had the problems that I had and where they all came from and why my Dad was the way he was. Because I always grew up thinking that he just didn't love me and that's why he couldn't straighten up his life. I came to find out that it (alcoholism) is just really a disease. I mean, they call it that. It was an issue that was bigger than him. And he *wanted* to love me, and he wanted to be a good Dad, but he just didn't know how.

While I was there, God really started revealing Himself to me. At first I was lost, they only let me have a little bit of time to talk with my Mum, and I was there with a bunch of strangers that I didn't really know. I really had no choice but to depend on God because He was the only person there that I'd known forever, or that I'd been familiar with.

So I began to open up more and began to ask my counsellors about it, and they started helping me understand things, and during that time of growth the Lord really helped me see that He was my Dad and that He was there when my Dad wasn't – but I just didn't know! And if I had known at that time that my Dad wasn't there that I had someone to turn to, then I might not have gone to those other things.

I know there are people out there that say 'Well, she hasn't been through nearly as much as I've been through. Or, I've been through so much that God couldn't forgive me, or there's nothing that I can do to change it.

But there's always going to be someone else whose been through even more than you. But God is bigger than all of that.

You just really need to put your prayers into action, do all that you can about the situation, and when there's no more that you can do, then quit stressing yourself out to try and fix it – God will handle it, that's His job!

You know, He's out Dad!

And even if our real Dad isn't there, we have someone else that we can go to, or if our mum isn't there or we have no friends, or whatever it is – there's always God.

Video Available to view from www.TeAtatuBaptist.com

It's been said that there is a 'God shaped hole' within each of our hearts and lives.

While this is true, I think it is actually a bit more personal than this.

I suggest that there is a 'Father shaped hole' within each of us, that only the love of a Father can fill.

Try as hard as we might, as earthly fathers, we can only fill a *part* of the hole, *and poorly at that*.

Today, some of us need to forgive our fathers for not being perfect, and realise that the expectations we have placed upon them *have been impossible for them to fill*.

We are but a poor reflection of the perfection of our Heavenly Father!

As fathers – we have all had to struggle with the imperfections of our own earthly fathers.

Our longing for a father – for all of us - can only, and *ultimately* only be filled by the beauty of our Heavenly Father who is perfect, and loves us perfectly!

Instead of experiencing lifelong pain due to an imperfect earthly father, allow this hurt to motivate you to find your Perfect *Heavenly* Father!

Your Heavenly Father will never let you down!

I was about to say ‘He will never disappoint you’, but if I did – I’d be setting you up for failure and disillusionment.

You need to know that God the Father loves you perfectly – more than you could ever dream or imagine!

But as an earthly Father of six wonderful children, I’ve learnt a thing or two.

I’ve been able to catch a glimpse of what God the Father must experience from His children.

And as a pastor to around 300 people over the last seven years – I’ve learnt a thing or two about being a ‘spiritual father’ as well.

Sometimes – as Fathers - we upset and disappoint our children – spiritual or biological – *and yet we haven’t done a thing wrong in the first place.*

The upset and disappointment comes because *unreal expectations* have been placed upon us – to be *something* or be *someone* that we are not, cannot – nor have ever wanted to be!

Many people have at times placed unreal expectations upon who I am as a sinful human being.

Many people place unreal expectations upon God the Father as well - even though He is perfect and sinless.

Many people get upset and disillusioned with God because He hasn't *lived up* to their expectations of what they think He should be - or how *they* think He should act or behave.

Now I know this sounds a strange thing to say – and puts a damper on the nice emotional time we are experiencing,

...but we need to hear this!

It has the power to set you free, if only you would believe it.

The number one reason that many people 'fall away' from God the Father or become disillusioned with Him and the church, is not because God has done anything wrong, but simply because He has not been able to live up to the *unreal* expectations we have placed upon Him.

Here's the thing.

If you ever feel disappointed in God or feel He has let you down.

If things don't turn out the way you expected them to, and God doesn't provide, protect or prosper you as you asked or expected...

...the problem isn't with God!

Do you get it!

Either we change our perception and expectations of God the Father, or forever remain bitter and resentful that God didn't turn out the way we expected Him to!

And here's the most amazing thing about what you just learnt!

Once you get your stuff sorted out with God the Father, it will all fall into place with your *earthly* father as well – whether he is still treading God's green earth *or not!*

Inner healing, spiritual and emotional healing are waiting for you to receive them.

So - let me tell you about my Father!

My Dad is never too busy for me, in fact – He would rather die than live without me – John 3:16!

My father never abandoned me or thought I was a mistake - or a nuisance, before I was born he knew me and formed my inner most being. Psalm 139:13

I never have to earn my father's love or acceptance – while I was yet a sinner, God died for me! Rom 5:8

I can talk about my innermost struggles and weaknesses with my Father, and never be embarrassed. 1 John 1:9

My Father gives me what I need, not what I want! James 4:3

I am important enough to my Father, that even though I am a grown man with children of my own, He still disciplines and corrects me – and keeps me on the straight and narrow! Hebrews 12:5

My Father always offers me comfort and compassion. 2nd Corinthians 1:3

My father doesn't lock the door to keep me out – he stands at the door of my heart and knocks – for me to let Him in! Rev 2:20

My Heavenly Father is perfect, and because of that fact, I can allow my earthly father *to be imperfect*. Matt 5:48

Video Clip # 3 – *Worshipping God the Father*

*I give all to You – everything
All my life, my hopes my dreams
Lord I lay them in your hands
Then Your mighty work begins
I give all to You*

Lord you are high and lifted up
Forever in Thee - I desire to be
Lord I long for Your higher ways
Help me rise above – rise above!

*I give all to You – everything
All my life, my hopes my dreams
Lord I lay them in your hands
Then Your mighty work begins
I give all to You*

Lord You are more than I can comprehend
More than this mind could ever take in
So move in my heart and move in my soul
Help me see your love, and be your love

*I give all to You – everything
All my life, my hopes my dreams
Lord I lay them in your hands
Then Your mighty work begins
I give all to You*

Take my life – I give it to You
Take my life – I give it to You
Take my life – I - I give it to You
Take my life – I give it to You

*I give all to You – everything
All my life, my hopes my dreams
Lord I lay them in your hands
Then Your mighty work begins
I give all to You*

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Let's pray.