



## BREAKING THE ICE

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What is one of the best memories you have of your father or a father figure in your life?

Who has made the most impact as a father or father figure in your life?

## MAIN CONTENT

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This week Pastor Kevin talked about the father heart of God as the foundation of our lives. He started the message talking about some foundation problems at his house; the cracks in the walls were his first clue. The foundation of our lives should be strong so we can build on our lives.

1. When you think about the foundation of your life, maybe what your family has poured in to you, what are the key attributes you've started your life with?

When we think about the cracks that have developed in our foundations of life, we are defining reality of our life. Sometimes we can let those things go for too long but as Max Deprea said, "the first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between to become a servant."

Jesus came to define our reality, tell us who we are, who God is and how we were made to live. He gives us a way to live, a way to build a solid foundation with attributes and practices to live by. He talks about the importance of a good foundation (Matthew 7:24-29).

2. What is the reality of your life? How can you define the cracks that have started over time?

If we have the love of God and Jesus as our foundation, we can start to build a life with that as the base.

Jesus loves us so much and wants to be our friend. He defined the relationship with God by showing us the love God has for us as a father. We may not have an earthly father our earthly father may not be the kind of dad we hoped for but God wants to redeem that relationship and be that father to us.

3. How do you see God as a father in your life? Does He help fill the void of your earthly father?

God wants to heal the wounds of our earthly fathers with His love and care for us.

God has many attributes, Pastor Kevin talked about 3 specific attributes and practices of God that can help us feel the love of our heavenly father. The first attribute is God is always PRESENT.

We can't see God physically but He is still present with us. Maybe your dad is not present in your life. It's believed Jesus's earthly father passed while He was young, He can share in the pain of not having a father physically in his life. Because Jesus didn't have His earthly father or heavenly father where He could physically see them, He developed a practice of having a secret place to seek God, His father. (Matthew 6:6)

4. Do you have a practice of seeking God in a secret place? What does your prayer life and secret place look like?

God wants to be present in all parts of our lives. We seek Him and ask Him to join us to be a part of everything we do. When He is present with us, we make better choices and we see things more clearly of what He is doing so that we can join Him.

The second attribute of God is that He is ACTIVE. He is always moving. We can be a part of what He is doing if we practice asking Him where we can join Him. That looks like asking God, what are you doing here? How can I be a part of what you are doing?

5. Where do you see God actively moving in your life or in someone else's life? Have you asked God where you can join Him?

6. Describe a time where you have seen God actively move in a situation. What part did you play in the situation?

The last attribute of God is that He is always LOVING. In Matthew 11:28, we are urged to come to the loving arms of the father to receive rest. When we follow the practice of "Come to me" from our loving, heavenly father we receive rest, peace, joy, mercy, forgiveness, strength; whatever we need from Him. We just need to ask.

7. How have you experienced God's love? Do you find it difficult or easy to practice "come to me" to experience His love?

God wants us to experience Him in our lives as a present, active and loving father. He will never leave us or forsake us. His love for us is stronger than any earthly love we will ever know. We get to receive it when we ask Him.

When we experience God as a present, active and loving father we can continue to build our lives on a strong foundation, a foundation built on Him.

## CLOSING PRAYER

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Father God, thank you for being present, active and loving. Will you show us where we have let the wounds of earthly fathers affect our lives. Will you fill the void of pain and hurt from earthly fathers. Will you help us practice coming to you in a secret place, remind us to take part of what you are doing and join us in everything we do. Thank-you for loving us, thank-you for being our father and sending Jesus for us. Amen.

## ACTION STEP

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- \* Take time this week to practice:
  - + Spending time with God in a secret place (prayer)
  - + Asking God to be a part of what He is doing
  - + “Come to Him” to experience His love

Journal about your experience from these practices.