

## What Kids Need Most from Their Dad – Especially if He is in Ministry

As fathers we know that our kids need us to be present and engaged. But many times the demands of ministry seem to compete with those of our family. Is it possible to be effective in both at the same time? What are the most important things that our kids need from from dad and how can we make sure they are getting them? Drawing from over 10 years of study into this important subject, Dave will unpack four central needs only fathers can fill, and share practical insights on how to meet those needs in the midst of the pressing demands of ministry.

**Dave Patty** has been involved in training youth leaders and leading national and international youth movements in Europe for over 30 years and serves as the president of Josiah Venture. He is also a founding member of Global Youth Initiative, which mobilises and equips youth ministry trainers in over 40 countries of the world. Dave is an ordained pastor with a BA in Theology and a MA in Education. He has also done graduate work in Leadership Development at Harvard University. For the past 21 years he has lived in the Czech Republic, and spent the 10 years before that in Germany. Dave is married to Connie, and has three children, Tyler, Caleb and Claire.

### 1. Facing the danger

"I've made an agreement with God, that I'll take care of his helpless little lambs overseas if he'll take care of mine at home."

Bob Pierce – Founder of World Vision and Samaritan's Purse

### 2. Rejecting the false dichotomy

### 3. Following the best example

What do we see in Christ's relationship with his father?

John 14:6-30

Matt 3:17

Matt 17:5

## **Streaming the Father Heart of God – Eph 3:14-15**

### **1. Identity – John 5:16-19**

Who am I? Am I valuable? Do I have to be just like you to be significant? Am I competent, capable?

Without clear internal sense of identity, your kids will be defined by the people and circumstances around them. This will be constantly changing, and unstable. This lack of clarity makes them very vulnerable to their environment, and without a clear sense of self. They may constantly need to prove themselves, or defend themselves.

How do you stream identity from the Father to your kids?

### **2. Love – John 5:20**

Am I loved unconditionally? Am I precious and treasured to someone? Do I matter to anyone? Does someone care deeply about me? Do I feel and hear your love and affection?

If your children are not secure in their father's love, they will have a constant need to gain love from those near them. This love will often not be enough and they may be chronically disappointed. On the other hand, they may cope by turning off their emotions and becoming distant and cold.

How do you stream love from the Father to your kids?

### **3. Pleasure - John 5:30, 41-44**

Are you proud of me, do you delight in me? Are you pleased with who I am, do you enjoy my presence? Do you like being with me? Do I bring you joy?

Without this sense that Dad is pleased with them, your children could become addicted to pleasing people, and vulnerable to hedonism. On the other hand, they may cope by avoiding all possibility of failure or rejection, or create distance from Dad as a form of self-protection.

How do you stream pleasure from the Father to your kids?

**4. Place - John 5:21-27**

Do I have purpose, does my life matter? Is there some place that is uniquely mine, do I fit? Do I belong, am I a part of something bigger than myself? Do I have something to give, would you notice if I was gone?

Without “father place” your children may start fighting to make a place for themselves. They may fear that their life has no significance, and be easily threatened by others. They may cope by scaling back their expectations and making a place that is small, but defensible - like when people curl up in a ball, hide behind something, or retreat to a corner.

How do you stream place from the Father to your kids?