

Father Matters: Why Dads are Important for Their Children



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Objectives

- Understand the importance of fathers and the consequences of fatherlessness.
- Become an advocate for responsible fathering.

Intended Audiences

- Fathers and mothers
- High school students
- Civic clubs
- FCE groups
- Church groups
- PTAs

Preparation

- Familiarize yourself with the *Father Matters* (MF2923) lesson.
- If you want to learn more about the significance of fathers visit the following websites:
 - www.fathers.com (especially the “research” section)
 - www.fathering.org
 - www.ksfatherhood.org
 - www.aboutdadsradio.com,
 - www.maybebaby.us.com
 - www.fatherhood.org
 - www.fatherhood.gov
- Bring copies of the lesson for each participant.

Small Group Discussion

If you have a small group, lead a 60-minute discussion about fathers. Hand out the lesson to participants and give them time to read it.

Consider the following discussion sequence:

- *If you had a relationship with your father (and/or grandfather or another important father figure), what do you recall about him?* (10 minutes)
- *What did you learn from your father (and/or grandfather)?* (10 minutes) (Ignore this question if you have an adolescent audience.)
- *Has being a father changed over the last generation? If so, how has it changed?* (10 minutes)
- *Has the value of having a father decreased significantly due to cultural shifts and advances in reproductive technology? A woman can have a child without being involved with the father. If so, how has it changed and will it continue to change?* (15 minutes)
- *Other than sharing the mother’s workload and financial support, what makes fathers special to children?* (15 minutes)

Community Awareness Activities

Consider implementing one or more of these activities:

- Contact middle school and high school principals in your county and provide them with copies of the lesson and this leader's guide.
- In cooperation with interested organizations and agencies, hold *Parents University* events for both fathers and daughters and fathers and sons.
- Work with your local zoo or library to offer a special day for fathers and their children.

Evaluation

I learned something new about fathers.

Yes No

I will do something different related to what I have learned about fathers.

Yes No

Comments:



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