



GOD, FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS with Payton Linder and Chase Tucker

▶ **FOCUS VERSES**

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun scorched land.
Psalm 68:5-6

▶ **DISCUSSION**

- 1. When you were young, were you envious of the relationships other children had with their fathers?**
 - a. What did you see in those relationships that was missing in your relationship with your own dad, and why was that important to you?

- 2. In one or two words, describe how your father's involvement in your life—or lack of it—made you feel.**
 - a. Has that carried over into your adulthood in any way?

- 3. Did your father's lack of involvement in your life make you feel shame or anger in any way?**
 - a. How did you express that to the world?

 - b. Did you act out in destructive ways or isolate yourself from other people?



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- 4. Do you feel like you got the approval or affirmation you needed from your father, and if not, where did you go seeking it instead?**
- a. Do you still find yourself searching for that approval as an adult, and does it make you do anything that you wouldn't do otherwise, or that, deep down, just doesn't feel right?
- 5. It's often said that our visions of what God is like are heavily influenced by what our own fathers were like.**
- a. With that in mind, how would you describe God—His appearance, His “personality,” what He wants for us as human beings?
- b. Do you feel like your relationship with God has been affected by your father's presence (or absence) in your life?
- 6. Other than your father, who were your male role models in your youth?**
- a. Did you ever see them make mistakes or fall short, and how did that make you feel?
- b. Did it change the way you saw them?
- 7. When you were young, did your father do anything that made you think, “I'm never going to do that to my kid” or “I'm never going to treat my own children that way”?**
- a. Have you been successful in avoiding that behavior as an adult?
- 8. Of the behaviors you've witnessed in your friends who are fathers themselves, what are some things they do that you admire, and what are some things they do that you don't really agree with?**
- a. How does that influence your actions in your own family or household?

