

THE FATHER'S HEART

THE FATHER'S DAY CHALLENGE

- Honoring fathers
 1. God designed role
 2. Carries weight when done right or wrong
- For many who have experienced difficulty with fatherhood
 1. Some who have experienced absent, abusive, broken relationships
 2. For fathers looking back
- God's design God's heart (**Luke 1:17 NKJV**)
 1. Look for what you can do moving forward
 2. Look for God's Father's heart toward you
 3. Look for ways to be a father to this current generation

THE IDEAL FATHER'S HEART (Luke 15:11-24 CSB)

- Created a great environment
 1. The younger son was not afraid to ask / leave, or return
 2. An environment marked by generosity and fairness
- The son was given freedom
 1. The father did not stop him from leaving
 2. He did not make him return - and did not rescue him
- He never stopped loving his son
 1. Was looking for him - you are not looking if you don't care
 2. Had compassion on the son and ran
- The restored relationship was celebrated, not the failure
 1. The relationship was more important than performance
 2. Allowed the son to apologize, but did not remove him from being a son

THE IDEAL FATHER'S HEART - PRINCIPLES TO SHOOT FOR

- Create a great environment
 1. More faith than fear motivated
 2. Where correction is done with love (**Colossians 3:21 CSB**)
- Freedom is progressive
 1. Teaching them to make choices
 2. With age and maturity comes more freedom
- Love is never withheld
 1. The cry of children from the beginning (**Genesis 27:34 NKJV**)
 2. Expressions of love make it easier for them to connect with God's love
 3. Compassion when they miss it
- The person is celebrated above their performance
 1. Their value is in who they are, not what they do (**Romans 5:8 CSB**)
 2. Love them when they don't make A's
 3. Call them up without putting them down