

HARPETH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SESSION 4

A Journey Into Authentic Manhood

Facing the Absent Father Wound

I. A BRIEF REVIEW

A. We are in the process of seeking to make sense of _____
we are the _____ we are.

1) We are, to some degree, a _____ of our
past.

2) We are, in some ways, _____ by our past until
we consciously and willfully choose to break that _____.

B. Past _____ often have a powerful controlling effect
over our lives. Unfortunately, many men are not in touch with them.

1) We have been exploring the first of five major wounds in life:

*The Absent Father Wound: an ongoing psychological, social or spiritual deficit ordinarily met
in a healthy relationship with dad that must now be overcome by other means.*

2) This wound is being inflicted upon sons at _____
today.

II. SIX PROACTIVE REMEDIES FOR THE ABSENT FATHER WOUND

A. Choose to deal with this wound _____.

*It's ultimately not the wound that shapes our lives, it's the choice we make as adults
between embracing our wounds (coming to grips with them) or raging against them the
rest of our lives.*

1) Choosing to forgive _____.

Hebrews 12:9-10, Hebrews 12:1

2) Choosing to believe in _____.

Romans 12:19

B. Courageously seek _____ with your father.

C. Risk asking for your father's _____.

D. Risk asking for your father's _____.

E. Be one who finds the _____ of a father that no
earthly father can give.

F. Become a responsible father; _____ the relationship you
missed, _____ the ground that was lost.

The Living Years —Mike & The Mechanics

Every generation
Blames the one before
And all of their frustrations
Come beating on your door.

I know that I'm a prisoner
To all my father held so dear
I know that I'm a hostage
To all his hopes and fears
I just wish I could have told him
In the living years.

Crumpled bits of paper
Filled with imperfect thought
Stilted conversations
I'm afraid that's all we've got.
You say you just don't see it
He says it's perfect sense
You just can't get agreement
In this present tense
We all talk a different language
Talking in defense.

Say it loud, say it clear
You can listen as well as you hear
It's too late when we die
To admit we don't see eye to eye.

So we open up a quarrel
Between the present and the past
We only sacrifice the future
It's the bitterness that lasts.

So don't yield to the fortunes
You sometimes see as fate
It may have a new perspective
On a different day
And if you don't give up
And don't give in
You may just be OK

Say it loud, say it clear
You can listen as well as you can hear
It's too late when we die
To admit we don't see eye to eye.

I wasn't there that morning
When my father passed away
I didn't get to tell him
All the things I had to say
I think I caught his spirit
Later that same year
I'm sure I heard his echo
In my babies new born tears
I just wish I could have told him
In the living years.

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QUESTIONS FOR YOUR T-GROUP DISCUSSION

Check In by circling what you are feeling:

FEAR ANGER HURT SAD LONELY SHAME GUILT GLAD

1. *What is your attitude now towards your father? If you could sit down and "bare your soul" to your father, what would you say to him?*
2. *If you could ask your Dad for one thing and you knew he would/could give it to you, what would you ask for?*
3. *If you are a dad, how do these past two sessions change how you feel about your role as a dad? Are there any changes you need to ask God to make in your life in light of this?*