Father Matters: Why Dads are Important for Their Children

Chuck Smith, Family Studies Specialist

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)
• Has being a father changed over the last generation? If so, how has it changed? (10 minutes)
  (Ignore this question if you have an adolescent audience.)
• 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.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to express his appreciation to Andy Hutchinson and Rebecca McFarland for their reviews of the Father Matters lesson and leader’s guide.

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:

Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

Publications from Kansas State University are available on the World Wide Web at: www.ksre.ksu.edu

Publications are reviewed or revised annually by appropriate faculty to reflect current research and practice. Date shown is that of publication or last revision.

Contents of this publication may be freely reproduced for educational purposes. All other rights reserved.

In each case, credit Chuck Smith, Father Matters: Why Dads are Important to Their Children, Leader's Guide, Kansas State University, July 2010.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Outdated Publication, for historical use.
CAUTION: Recommendations in this publication may be obsolete.