

# Discussion Questions



## Introduction

This sermon explores four essential areas every father should focus on: Discipleship, Integrity, Love, and Vulnerability. While specifically addressing fathers on Father's Day, these principles apply to all of us in how we influence others and live out our faith authentically.

## Key Scripture References

- **Proverbs 22:6** - "Start your children on a way that they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it."
- **Matthew 4:19** - "Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people."
- **Matthew 3:17** - "This is my Son, whom I love. With him, I am well pleased."
- **Galatians 2:20** - "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live. But Christ lives in me."

## Discussion Questions

### Part 1: Discipleship - Walking Ahead So They Can Follow

1. **Observation:** What does "parental discipleship" mean according to this sermon? How is it different from traditional classroom discipleship?
2. **Reflection:** The sermon states, "You are always discipling someone, whether you mean to or not." What are some

ways—both positive and negative—that you've seen this play out in your own life or family?

3. **Application:** Jesus said "follow me" rather than "complete this course." What are some practical ways you can invite others (children, friends, coworkers) to "follow" rather than just listen to you?
4. **Challenge:** What is one area of your walk with Jesus that you need to strengthen so that it's worth following? (Examples: prayer life, Bible reading, how you treat others, integrity in business)

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## Part 2: Integrity - Being the Same Person Everywhere

5. **Observation:** The sermon describes integrity as "who we are when no one's watching." Why is consistency between our public and private lives so important, especially for parents?
6. **Reflection:** Can you think of a time when you witnessed someone (perhaps your own parent) demonstrate true integrity? How did that impact you?
7. **Personal Assessment:** On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your consistency between who you are at church versus who you are at home or work? What's one area where there's a gap?
8. **Discussion:** The sermon says, "Integrity doesn't mean you will never fail. It means that when you fail, you will own up to it and you will reconcile." Why is it so powerful for children to hear their father say "I was wrong"?

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## Part 3: Love - Saying the Words

9. **Observation:** Why is it not enough to just "show up, provide financially, and not leave"? What's missing from that equation?

10. **Reflection:** For some people, saying "I love you" comes naturally. For others, it's extremely difficult. What makes it hard for some people to verbalize their love?
11. **Application:** God affirmed Jesus publicly *before* any accomplishments. How can we apply this principle of affirming people before they "prove themselves"?
12. **Challenge:** The sermon mentions three ways to show love: giving undistracted time, showing up even when inconvenient, and verbal affirmation. Which of these is easiest for you? Which is most difficult? What's one practical step you can take this week?

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## Part 4: Vulnerability - Letting People See You're Human

13. **Observation:** How does the sermon define vulnerability? What's the difference between vulnerability and self-deprecation?
14. **Reflection:** Paul was incredibly vulnerable in his letters (Romans 7:15, 19, 24). Why is it important for our children (or those we influence) to see our struggles and not just our victories?
15. **Discussion:** Pastor Ike shared how his child asked, "What percent of your past do I know?" How do we balance age-appropriate honesty with oversharing? Where's the line?
16. **Application:** "It's okay to say 'I don't know, but let's work on this together.'" How does admitting we don't have all the answers actually strengthen our witness rather than weaken it?

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### Key Takeaways

**Discipleship happens in everyday moments** - at dinner, in the car, when we put our phones down - not just in formal teaching settings.

**Integrity is sustainable; performing is exhausting** - Being the same person everywhere gives us peace and builds trust.

**Love must be spoken, not just demonstrated** - Our children (and others) need to hear "I love you" and "I'm proud of you."

**Vulnerability creates safety** - When we share our struggles appropriately, we give others permission to bring theirs to us.

**Grace is the fuel, not the reward** - We don't have to be perfect fathers; we need to be present and authentic ones.

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## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge (Choose 1-2):

#### For Parents:

- Tell each of your children "I love you" and one specific thing you're proud of them for
- Put your phone away for 30 minutes of undistracted time with your family
- If you need to, apologize to your child for something specific where you failed
- Share an age-appropriate struggle or question you're wrestling with

#### For Everyone:

- Identify one person who is "following" you (watching your life) and evaluate: What are they learning?
- Confess one area where your public and private life don't match up, and take a step toward integrity
- Reach out to your own father (or father figure) to thank him or reconcile if needed

[ ] Practice vulnerability by sharing a genuine struggle with someone you trust

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## Reflection Questions for Personal Journaling

1. Which of the four areas (Discipleship, Integrity, Love, Vulnerability) is your greatest strength? Your greatest weakness?
  2. If someone were to follow your example for a week, what would they learn about following Jesus?
  3. What fear holds you back from being more vulnerable with those closest to you?
  4. Complete this sentence: "One thing I want to change about my fathering/influence this week is..."
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## Closing Prayer Prompts

- Pray for fathers in the group who are struggling or feel inadequate
- Pray for healing in broken father-child relationships
- Pray for grace to see failures as opportunities for growth, not final verdicts
- Thank God that He claims us as His children, not because we've earned it, but because we are His
- Ask for courage to be vulnerable and authentic in our relationships