

# A Relational Husband and Father

## Introduction

The Problem/Need: Wives and children need husbands and fathers who are relational, emotionally and practically involved, with hearts turned toward them more than their work, ministry, and recreation. And we men need to be that way in order to have a clear conscience.

Why is this a problem?

1. It's not typically the strength of a man.
2. I think this occurs because of a lack of training and equipping of men in their childhood and teen years.
3. Most men don't realize that we have a different idea of "love" than our wives.
4. We might not understand how the gospel relates to family relationships.

What do I mean by relational?

1. Caring for their hearts
2. Sharing life.
3. Understanding their individual designs.
4. Applying the gospel to each relationship.

How can we men become relational fathers and husbands?

1. Caring for their hearts.
2. Sharing life.
3. Understanding their individual designs.

4. Applying the gospel to each relationship.

5. Practice, practice, practice looking to God as your source of strength, wisdom, and love.

A relational husband and father must be a man who relates to God, the Father.

“Father, will you make me a relational husband and father? Please prepare the next generation through me.”

#### Application and Discussion Questions

1. How do your sons define relational? How do they want you to relate to them?
2. Getting to know someone as the son of their fathers helps you understand the man. Share how your father related to you and his wife? How has this influenced you?
3. What relational qualities about Jesus Christ do you appreciate most?
4. How can/will you show those to your wives and children? Any ideas?
5. What is your favorite love language? Your wife's? Your sons? (acts of service, words, quality time, gifts, touch)
6. Sons: What is the hardest thing about relating or sharing your life (your thoughts, dreams, wishes, struggles) with you dad? What could he do to make that easier?