

Warm-up Question or Activity

Choose one and discuss as a group.

1. Activity 1 – Josiah was great-grandson to King Hezekiah. Only three U.S. Presidents have had a child or grandchild who became President. Can the group identify the pairs?

John _____ and son, _____
_____ Henry _____ and grandson _____
_____ Herbert _____ and son, _____ Walker _____

2. Question 1 – If this group **had** to binge watch the best movies of a single actor, actress, or director, who would you pick and why? Some ideas to get the negotiation going:

<i>Tom Hanks</i>	<i>Meryl Streep</i>	<i>Denzel Washington</i>	<i>Julia Roberts</i>
<i>John Wayne</i>	<i>Emma Thompson</i>	<i>Alfred Hitchcock</i>	<i>Sandra Bullock</i>
<i>Cicely Tyson</i>	<i>Nicole Kidman</i>	<i>Morgan Freeman</i>	<i>Anthony Hopkins</i>
<i>Angelina Jolie</i>	<i>Dustin Hoffman</i>	<i>Jack Nicholson</i>	<i>Robin Williams</i>
<i>Steve Martin</i>	<i>Clint Eastwood</i>	<i>Matthew McConaughey</i>	<i>Leonardo DiCaprio</i>
<i>Tom Cruise</i>	<i>Mel Gibson</i>	<i>Evangeline Lilly</i>	<i>Alex Kendrick</i>

Can You Relate?

In this week's Scripture, God the Father launches an ominous warning and calls the children of God to penitent prayer (Zeph 2:3). In God's initiative to reach out to His children and in His ultimate promise to the faithful remnant that will survive (Zeph 3:12-20), we find the voice of a Father who yearns for His children to live in joyful communion with Him.

1. Thinking of your own experience as a child, what was a bad choice you made that caused your parent(s) or guardian(s) h?
 - a. How did that play out in your relationship with that parent/guardian?
 - b. From what you learned, what biblical guidance can you share with a young person in similar circumstances today?

2. Conversely, thinking of your own experience as a parent/grandparent/aunt/uncle, what example can you identify of your heart aching over the poor choices of those coming behind you in your family?
 - a. How has that experience played out in your relationship with that person?
 - b. What biblical guidance can you share with another person in similar circumstances today?

3. At age 8, Josiah lost his wicked father, King Amon, in a royal assassination facilitated by Amon's own servants. For people with troubled relationships with their earthly fathers or mothers, the grace-filled love of the heavenly Father is deeply restorative.
 - a. How does your relationship with your earthly father or mother aid or impair your relationship with your heavenly Father?
 - b. Conversely (if you have children), what do you think your son or daughter would or will say when asked about how their relationship with their earthly father or mother aided or impaired their ability to relate to their heavenly Father?

4. King Josiah (great-grandson of Hezekiah) and the prophet Zephaniah (great-great-grandson of Hezekiah) appear to be second cousins, once removed, within the royal family. It is impossible to say whether Zephaniah influenced Josiah's coming to faith, his initiative to repair the temple, and Josiah's faithful response to the discovery of the long-ignored Book of the Law during those repairs. Nor can we know whether those events in Josiah's life influenced Zephaniah's faith. But, as rare faith-filled royals in a relatively small country, their influence one on the other seems probable.
 - a. Pause and think: Who has been the most significant faith influence in your life? Tell us about that.
 - b. Pause and think: Tell us about a moment when God used you in a way that seemed to positively encourage or grow the faith of another person?

Live It Out

Let's go into this week with a sharpened eye for the parent-child relationships in our lives with our hearts and minds tuned to how we can pour into them.

- What do you want to take away from this discussion? How can you apply or build upon it in the week or months ahead. Write it down on the paper provided.
- SOAP quiet time journaling is a good starting point for living with more intentionality. This week, consider pledging with one of us to each doing SOAP quiet time for seven days in a row, lifting one another up in prayer, and texting one another for accountability and support as we go through it.
- Try this experiment in making every day count a little bit more.
 - **How?** At least one day this week, before you get out of bed, pick up your phone or tablet and play *Good, Good Father* by Chris Tomlin. Absorb the lyrics. Play them back in your head throughout the day. If you do not have that song on your phone, you can find it easily on YouTube:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLA4D9UFgr8>
 - **Report back** – next week on how that went.

Encourage one another to commit time to praying for one another, encouraging and meeting one another's needs, fellowshiping together, interceding for one another. Encourage group members to continue to meet and to return together at the next scheduled gathering.

LEGEND

John Adams and son, John Quincy Adams

William Henry Harrison and grandson, Benjamin Harrison

George Herbert Walker Bush and son, George Walker Bush