

# SMALL CHURCH SAMPLE PLAN

## • Create Value event:

- Host the *Dads That Make a Difference* seminar, Man in the Mirror (six-hour 2-day format).
- Host a movie night at the church and show the movie *Courageous*; be sure to obtain an Authorized Public Exhibition License. (Link to purchase license can be found on the website.)
- Host *The Six Basics of Being a Great Dad* seminar, Great Dads (four-hour format).
- Host a cookout for fathers/grandfathers and their children. Incorporate a funny skit. (Visit [www.skitguys.com](http://www.skitguys.com) for scripts and search "fathers.") If fatherless youth with mentors, include them as well.
- Host/Attend a *Better Dads* workshop or seminar by Rick Johnson, Better Dads (options at [www.betterdads.net](http://www.betterdads.net)).

## • Capture Momentum

- *Dads That Make a Difference Life Plan* workbook, Man in the Mirror (4 weeks)
- *Family and the Man in the Mirror* CD series by Patrick Morley, Man in the Mirror (3 sessions)
- *The 21-Day Dad's Challenge* by Carey Casey, Tyndale House (3 weeks of daily readings and questions)
- *The 7 Secrets of Effective Fathers* book/CD series by Ken R. Canfield, Tyndale House (10 sessions)

## • Sustain Change

- curriculum for Fathers' groups:
  - *Dad in the Mirror* book by David Delk, Man in the Mirror (12 chapters)
  - *Championship Fathering* book by Carey Casey, Focus (11 chapters)
  - *Raising a Modern Day Knight* book by Robert Lewis, Tyndale House (14 chapters; pertains specifically to raising boys/young men)
  - *12 Tasks of Effective Fathers* CD series by Patrick Morley, Man in the Mirror (12 sessions)
  - *Family Driven Faith* book by Voddie Baucham Jr., Crossway (10 chapters)
  - *How to Really Love Your Child* book by D. Ross Campbell, David C. Cook (13 chapters)
  - *The Smart Stepdad* book by Ron L. Deal, Bethany House (15 chapters, pertains to stepfathers)
- curriculum for Grandfathers' groups:
  - *The Power of a Godly Grandparent* book by Stephen and Janet Bly, Beacon Hill (14 chapters)
  - *Leaving a Lasting Legacy: For Grandfathers* book by Ken Canfield, National Center for Fathering (12 short chapters)
- curriculum for Mentoring groups:
  - *As Iron Sharpens Iron* book by Howard Hendricks, Moody (8 chapters for mentors/10 chapters for mentees)
  - *Mentor Like Jesus* book by Regi Campbell, B&H Books (11 chapters)
  - *The Mentor Leader* book by Tony Dungy, Tyndale House (9 chapters)

## DISCIPLE EVERY MAN

- ✓ Give guys who aren't participating in group studies the chance to be involved through individual study. Post a link on the church website or email a link to the online Man in the Mirror 12-part video series, *Twelve Tasks of an Effective Father*. You may also choose to send out one or two videos from the series on their own. Another video option is *Children: How to Avoid Regrets from the Man in the Mirror REMIX* series. Either of the studies can be watched for FREE by streaming or downloading from the website.
- ✓ Challenge men who would like to be mentored—or to mentor—to enter into one-on-one mentoring relationships. Consider holding an information session at the church, or a casual lunch, where you help men pair up at the end, as desired. You may want to show clips from the Bible Study video series, *What Happens When Men Mentor Men*. In preparation for this meeting, send out the article by email, "Do You Want a Mentor?" and/or "Mentoring Younger Men." Focus on the call to action at the end of each article.

## USE YOUR "HANDS"

- ✓ Challenge every man with children to start a family devotion—at least once per week. Print out or email the article "How to Lead a Family Devotion." Or create your own how-to!
- Ask every father/grandfather to write a letter about the faith lessons he's learned, and it to his children/grandchildren. Ask men without children to write a letter to someone impacted his life as a mentor and thank him.
- Throw a field day for all the children in the church without dads in their lives; encourage to invite others from outside the church, too. Ask the men in the church to be team referees, activity planners, etc. You may also want to do or give something special to moms dropping their children off.
- Consider starting a mentor program for youth in your church without a father figure. Much goes into starting a program like this, but it is often life-changing for both youth. There are several resources that can help you start a mentoring program; Association of Youth Mentoring ([www.caym.org](http://www.caym.org)). If you don't want to start a program, help plug interested men and teenagers into a local YMCA or Big Brothers/Big Sisters.
- Hold a father/daughter dance at the church. Make it a fancy evening and have formal invitations to their daughters/stepdaughters. Include dinner and fun activities.
- Hold a father/son campout or adventure trip and plan games and team-building exercises.
- ✓ Include the women in the church! Have a church-wide competition, where wives/husbands for "Favorite Dad" or "Favorite Grandpa" by submitting funny pictures, showing silly pictures on the screen before weekend services or print special issue of the bulletin.
- Challenge the grandparents to throw a "Spoil You Rotten" weekend with grandchildren. It works like this: invite each grandchild over individually for a weekend or overnight visit. Give them special attention that includes their favorite activities, favorite foods, etc. This special time can be used to pass on spiritual lessons, too.

**Father the Hearts of Our Children/Grandchildren Survey**

All the men of our church are on a journey to biblical manhood. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your responses will help us understand where you are right now.

Name (if desired): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. I have a good understanding of what the Scriptures have to say about fatherhood, and how they relate to my personality.

	Not at all	1	2	3	4	5	Absolutely
Encouragement							
Mentoring							
Fathering/Grandfathering							

2. At this point in my life, I feel like I am \_\_\_\_\_ as a father, mentor or grandfather.

Not interested at all: 1 2 3 4 5 It's already happened

3. Thinking about the last few months, my influence on the children, grandchildren, and/or mentees in my life has mostly been focused on \_\_\_\_\_.

Truly inspired: 1 2 3 4 5 It's already happened

4. Thinking about the last few months, what place has fathering, grandfathering, and/or mentoring had in your life?

Not a priority at all: 1 2 3 4 5

5. What are you most interested in for this challenge regarding fathering, grandfathering, mentoring, and/or discipling?

Fathering: \_\_\_\_\_ Grandfathering: \_\_\_\_\_ Mentoring: \_\_\_\_\_ Discipling: \_\_\_\_\_

## Faith & Life Objectives

We won't allow the responsibilities of fathering/mentoring to be defined by our culture. Rather, at the end of this leg of the journey:

- I will understand how to **disciple children/grandchildren to love God and others**, rather than fathering for performance. (Head)
- I will have made discipling my children, grandchildren, or mentoree a top priority in my life. (Heart)
- I will **encourage and pray** for my children, grandchildren, or mentoree daily. (Hands)



## • Celebrate gathering:

- Hold a cookout and have men bring their children and grandchildren (and fatherless youth doing a youth mentoring program). Provide activities for the young kids and team-building exercises for the older boys/adolescents. Ask a few men to share their testimonies, representing the mentoring and fathering groups.
- Host a churchwide afternoon picnic; include families (and fatherless youth, if doing a youth mentoring program). Ask a few men to share their testimonies, representing the mentoring and fathering groups.
- Have an evening celebration service at the church—either with just the men or with families. Include worship and ask a few men to share their testimonies, representing the mentoring and fathering groups.

-Men in my church = 12-23 (varies)  
 -Note: Get everyone's email address  
 -Print out F&LO cards on business card paper and the Assessment forms at church  
 -Cookout - buy the meat (\$20) and do a sign-up sheet for the sides/condiments  
 -Family & the MIM CD set - \$18+shipping  
 -Dad in the Mirror books - 12-pack for \$22+shipping (Books! by the Box)  
 -Disciple Every Man/Hands options - free  
 -Evening Celebration Service  
 \*Total for Challenge 4: \$65-\$85