



SERIES  
**03**

# DADS & DAUGHTERS



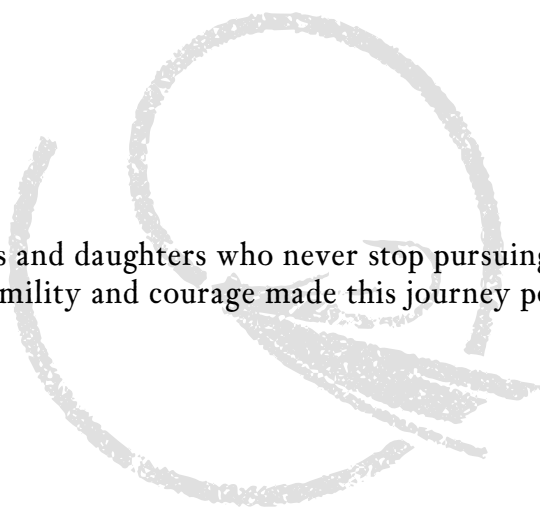
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FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

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[WWW.FAMILYLINES.ORG](http://WWW.FAMILYLINES.ORG)





Dedicated to the dads and daughters who never stop pursuing each other's heart.  
Your humility and courage made this journey possible.

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## PAY IT FORWARD

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YOUR CHOICE TO PAY IT FORWARD FUNDS FUTURE SERIES

### JOIN US IN PRODUCING MENDING LINES!

As you dive into this third series of Mending Lines, we want to invite you to help produce future story-based resources. Know that your financial gift will directly impact the creation of these absence-fighting resources and bring the fight against absence in fatherhood to families around the world. Below are the next three series planned that you can help make reality:

**Mending Lines 04 - Fathers & Teens** - Exploring the unique tension and reward of fathering teens as they journey the confluence of dependence on parents and launching into independence. Filming in Montana.

**Mending Lines 05 - Military & Police Dads** -Diving into the unique pressure of frontline work, deployments and balancing responsibility between home and work - in partnership with Cross the Divide Ministries. Filming in New Mexico.

**Mending Lines 06 - Redefining Macho** (in Spanish). This series will be filmed in Belize with 3 father/child Belizean pairs. We'll be taking on the "Macho" father mentality that has destroyed countless families throughout the globe, but especially in Central and South America. This will all be shot, edited, and delivered in Spanish (with English subtitles).

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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A NOTE TO FACILITATORS	1
THE PROCESS	2
RULES OF ENGAGEMENT	3
INTRODUCTION	4
CHAPTER 01 Facilitator Prep	6
Small Group Journey	7
Take Home Challenge	8
CHAPTER 02 Facilitator Prep	9
Swedish Fly Casting Game	10
Small Group Journey	11
Take Home Challenge	12
CHAPTER 03 Facilitator Prep	13
Small Group Journey	14
Take Home Challenge	15
CHAPTER 04 Facilitator Prep	16
Bull Ring Activity	17
Small Group Journey	18
Take Home Challenge	19
CHAPTER 05 Facilitator Prep	20
Small Group Journey	21
Take Home Challenge	22
CHAPTER 06 Facilitator Prep	23
Small Group Journey	24
Take Home Challenge	25
CHAPTER 07 Facilitator Prep	26
Small Group Journey	27
Take Home Challenge	28
CHAPTER 08 Facilitator Prep	29
Small Group Journey	30
Take Home Challenge	31
CHAPTER 09 Facilitator Prep	32
Small Group Journey	33
Final Assignment	34
PAY IT FORWARD	35



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## A NOTE TO FACILITATORS

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### THANK YOU FOR STEPPING UP TO FIGHT ABSENCE IN FATHERHOOD

as you serve as facilitator for this MENDING LINES journey in your community.

Enabler, Mentor, Trailblazer are just a few of the roles you'll step into on this journey.

The generational significance of your role in this nine chapter adventure for fathers and their daughters ahead cannot be overstated. We've been praying for leaders to step up and are thrilled that you have answered the call.

Remember, there is a providential reason that God selected you for this position. It's not about your resumé or pedigree. It's about your willingness to trust God and enter the messiness of human story. That is where cycles will be broken and deep connections forged. You have what it takes.

To assist you in your journey, for each chapter we've provided a **FACILITATOR PREP PAGE** to give you insight on potential themes that will arise along with a starter sequence and bonus questions. Each chapter will also have a **SMALL GROUP JOURNEY PAGE** along with a weekly **TAKE HOME CHALLENGE**. There is a separate Participant Workbook that can be downloaded from the [familylines.org](http://familylines.org) website.

We have designed this journey as a progressive experience to encourage transparent story sharing. We firmly believe that despite public opinion men do desire to share what's really going on in their heart. At the same time to expect the average man or daughter to walk into a small group and dump out their feelings at the first session is naive. It's critical that we build relational equity and establish rapport to invite deeper sharing.

Lastly, from our experience as expedition guides we've seen day three of most trips as the time when participants start to hit their stride in opening up. Expect the first three sessions to be "lighter" as the group is building trust. Once that foundation of trust is established the table is now set for deeper sharing in the remaining sessions. So keep persevering!

We pray that God will do in your groups *"immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."* (Ephesians 3:20, NIV) Here's to the next level of connection through the healing power of Jesus Christ!

For Restoration,  
The Family Lines Team

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## THE PROCESS

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### OVERVIEW

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A 9 week journey through the **MENDING LINES SERIES THREE** video stories (located at [familylines.org](http://familylines.org) or RightNow Media) to discover and act upon one vital question:

What is the next level of connection God is inviting for my dad-daughter relationship?

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### WEEKLY RHYTHM

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Each week of the journey consists of one small group session followed by an individual take-home assignment.

The once-a-week small group session consists of the following:

1. **WARM-UP** with an opening question or two. 5-10 minutes.
2. **WATCH & OBSERVE** the Mending Lines video. average 11 minutes in length
3. **PROCESS** by engaging the group questions. 30-45 minutes.
4. **PRAY** and invite God's restoration into your story. 5 minutes.
5. **TAKE IT HOME** by sharing the weekly take-home challenge. 1 minute.





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## RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

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### **SILENCE IS OKAY.**

It's the sound of processing, and this journey requires it.

### **SIMMER DOWN.**

Let the story sit. Don't rush on to the next question or the next chapter. Story takes time to process – commit to spending time with it. Give each chapter a week to simmer.

### **NO PRESSURE TO GET TO THE POINT. (FREEDOM TO PROCESS)**

You are free to be inefficient here. It's okay to not be sure why you share what you do. Feel free to explore, even if it's awkward. Often times the real fruit lies just on the other side.

### **BE HERE FOR YOU.**

It's vital that this journey get personal for *you*. If you're here hoping for change in someone else, do them a favor and focus on you. Your life in-process speaks loudly.

### **DON'T SETTLE FOR A YES/NO ANSWER.**

You will barely scrape the surface if you stop at "yes" or "no".  
Consider the next layer and push into it.

### **LEVERAGE THE SPRINGBOARD OF OTHER PEOPLE'S STORIES.**

You are not alone on this journey. May the stories shared on the video and in the group reveal new layers of opportunity in your story.

### **SHOW UP.**

See the journey through from beginning to end. It's a 9 week relational workout that will impact the trajectory of your family line. Commit to the full process.

### **TAKE IT HOME, EVENTUALLY.**

If it only stays in small group, this journey's impact will fade. Don't rush it, but when it's time, take the action step God reveals. One step leads to the next.

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INTRODUCTION

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## THE PUT-IN

### *Adventurer,*

Welcome to the Stehekin Wilderness. Over the next nine weeks we invite you away to an intentional space to focus on your relationship with your daughter or dad. Entering this space won't necessarily be easy, or even always fun, but it can be extremely worthwhile.

The Mending Lines series will arguably be unlike any small group you've ever experienced. Instead of an author or speaker laying out a clear, outlined path forward, we offer you the stories of 3 dads and 3 daughters. Raw. Unscripted. Messy. Nine episodes where we encounter fathers and daughters looking into their past to write a new chapter for their story ahead.

We challenge you to engage with the story. Step into the minds and shoes of the people you're watching on the screen. You may or may not feel it fits with your story, but whatever your initial impression, keep persevering. If you stay engaged through this nine-episode journey, we firmly believe their stories will dramatically impact your own.

The stories don't necessarily resolve: you only get a bit of context from each one. This is intentional. We want their story to serve as a precursor for yours.

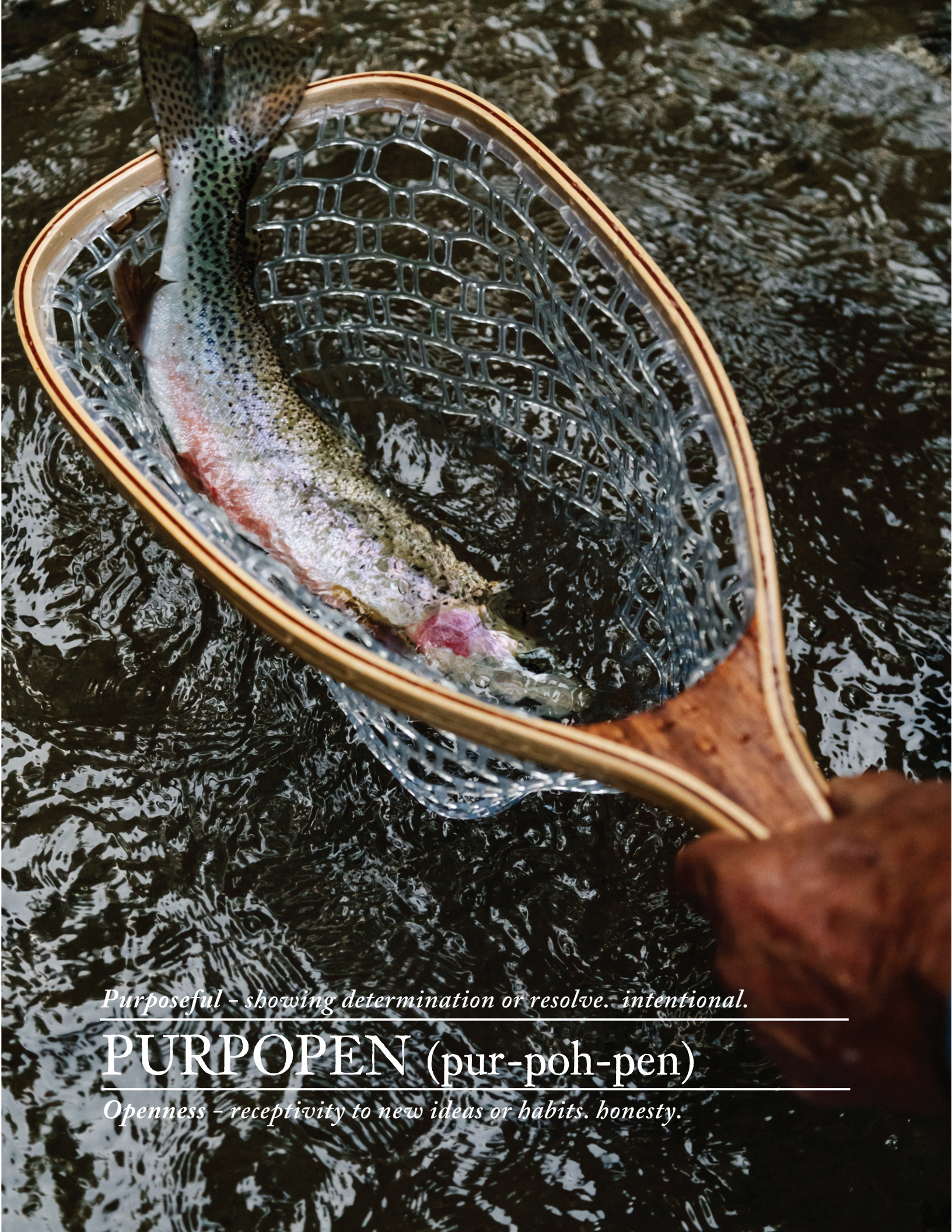
You don't need to study, read or be familiar with any previous content to be involved in this series. There is one choice you will need to make as you experience Mending Lines Series Three, and that is at what level you choose to engage. We call it "challenge by choice", and that decision lies solely in your hands. Like a fitness workout you will get out what you put in. Are you ready to do some heavy lifting? Are you ready to level up your connection with your dad or daughter?

May the picture of restoration in your family line inspire you throughout this journey. There is more to be written in your story, both now and in your lineage ahead. Our prayer is that the Mending Lines stories you engage with will invite a new level of healing and hope.

May God bless your journey today and for generations to come.

For Restoration,  
*the Family Lines team*





*Purposeful - showing determination or resolve. intentional.*

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# PURPOPEN (pur-poh-pen)

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*Openness - receptivity to new ideas or habits. honesty.*



# HERE & NOW

## FACILITATOR PREP

### OVERVIEW

This first small group session should provide space for group member introductions along with establishing some rules of engagement for the journey ahead.

The video will introduce the first of three father/daughter pairs, John and Molly. Their stepping out of their comfort zones will serve as an invite for each pair in your group to take similar steps. Here's to a journey of intentionality together.

### WARM UP SEQUENCE

- **Opening Icebreaker:** Play *Two Truths and a Wish* - Dad/Daughter pairs work together to come up with two true statements (true about both of them) along with one common wish they both have (although it's not a reality yet). Once they've had a few minutes to think, each father/daughter pair will share their three statements in any order with the group who then votes on which items they think is the wish. (10 min)
- Read **RULES OF ENGAGEMENT** p.3 to group (5 min)
- Read **THE PUT-IN LETTER** p.4 to the group (2 min)

### ACTIVE LISTENING

After your group has had time to break the ice, it's time to watch the first chapter. Before you push play, a critical part of the experience for this chapter as well as for all the episodes is to **have the participants write down any key words, phrases, and images that resonate with them while watching**, in the space provided in the handouts each week.

For those wondering how many to write down - the more the merrier. This may be unnatural for some of your group members at first, but this active listening technique will get stronger as they practice it in the weeks to come. It will also serve as the bedrock of your group conversations.

*Play Chapter ONE - HERE & NOW (video length - 9:07)*

### KEY THEMES

- Awkward beginnings
- The power & challenge of intentionality



## HERE &amp; NOW

## SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

## WATCH &amp; OBSERVE

While you watch chapter one, write down any words, phrases, and images that resonate with you.

**Question 1:** From the list of words, phrases, and images you wrote down, choose the top three that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

**Question 2:**

Daughters - How would you describe your father to someone who's never met them?

Dads - How would you describe your daughter to someone who's never met them?

**Question 3:**

How are you two alike? How are you different?

**Question 4:**

What are your expectations and fears for this 9-week journey with your dad or daughter?

## PRAY

*Father, thank you for leading us to be together here and now for this journey. Please lead us both to the greater depths and freedom of Your love as we trust in Your love for us and release our fears to You, so that we can discover new heights and depths of love for each other.*

## TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

Your challenge for the week is on the next page!

*“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”*

**1 John 4:18 (NIV)**

# HERE & NOW

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## TAKE HOME CHALLENGE

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Find a photo of you and your dad or daughter that is significant to you (for whatever reasons you determine).  
Bring it with you to share at the beginning of our next session!

If you don't have any photos, you can draw a picture of a significant moment together that you remember.





## FACE THE PAST

## FACILITATOR PREP

## OVERVIEW

In this second chapter you will meet our second father/daughter pair, Kady and her dad Rod. With less relational equity built up in their past you'll notice a regret for what's been missed as well as a pursuit for what could be.

The majority of your **WARM UP** time for this session and future sessions will start with a check-in on last week's **Take-Home Challenge**.

Finally, after you watch the video there is a **Group Activity**, modeled in the video, we highly recommend. Playing together opens doors that would otherwise stay closed. Some times we just need an invitation to do it. Note that the activity will require some supplies. You can find that list of items along with activity directions on the next page.

## WARM UP SEQUENCE

- **Take-Home Challenge Check-In From Week One:** Invite people to share their dad/daughter picture and why it is significant to them. (5-10 min)

## ACTIVE LISTENING

Before watching Chapter TWO, remind your group to **write down any key words, phrases, and images that resonate with them while watching** in the space provided on the handouts.

*Play Chapter TWO - Face the Past(video length - 8:21)*

## KEY THEMES

- Fearless but afraid
- Interpreting memories in childhood vs adulthood
- Making new space for relationship

## FACE THE PAST

## MORE FACILITATOR PREP

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUP INITIATIVE FOR CHAPTER TWO

## SWEDISH FLY CASTING GAME

**What is it**

A game where father/daughter pairs cast (a fly rod), eat (candy), yell (a compliment) and make a memory, essentially priming the water for deeper sharing ahead.

**Set-Up**

- 1 - Arrange hoops at a challenging but doable distance, approximately 25', from the casting line.
- 2 - Place fishing rod on the casting line.
- 3 - Place a bowl with 2-4 swedish fish and jello mixed together near each loop.

**Game Play**

On the starting whistle, the 1st partner will attempt to cast the yarn into the loop. Once they've landed it inside the loop the 2nd partner will then pluck a swedish fish out of the bowl using only their mouth (no hands). Once successful, that partner will then yell out one thing they appreciate about the other person. They will then switch roles and repeat the above process. The first team to complete the mission are the winners!

**Options if you don't have fishing rods**

- Use spinning rods with a weight on the end to cast.
- Roll tennis balls into a hoop.
- Throw playing cards into a box.
- Shoot nerf darts into a target.
- Use your imagination and have fun!

**ITEMS NEEDED:**

- 1 Fishing Rod & Reel per pair. Tie yarn onto each line in place of hook(no sharp tips).
- 1 hula hoop per pair. You can use a loop of rope instead.
- 1 small bowl per pair filled.
- Jello or yogurt to put in bowls.
- A pack of swedish fish candy.
- A prize for the winning pair.
- Open space for casting.

## FACE THE PAST

## SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

## WATCH &amp; OBSERVE

While you watch chapter two, write down any words, phrases, and images that resonate with you.

**Question 1:** From the list of words, phrases, and images you wrote down, choose the top three that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

## GROUP ACTIVITY:

Play the **Swedish Fly Casting Game** - see instructions on previous page

**Question 2:** In the story Kady shared how special it was to work on bikes with her dad. How have you two (dad and daughter) expressed your love to each other in the past in a way that's brought connection?

**Question 3:** Where have you all as dad and daughter missed each other?

**Question 4:** What fears do you carry in your life as result of watching your own parent's lives?

## PRAY

*Lord, since You have the extraordinary ability to take the usual & expected and miraculously accomplish the unusual & unexpected, we ask that You show us how to take the “usual & expected” ways we have used in or father/daughter relationship and miraculously achieve the unusual & unexpected. We believe that You will give us a “water-to-wine” miracle as we allow You to take the “usual & expected” ways of our hearts and fill them with Your miracle-working love for You and for each other.*

## TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

Your challenge for the week is on the next page!

*“Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.”*

**John 2:6-9 (NIV)**

# FACE THE PAST

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## TAKE HOME CHALLENGE

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This week we challenge you to follow Kady's (the daughter in the video) lead and accept the invitation from Scripture to fill the water jars and see what happens. Here's what you can do:

**Step 1** - Read John 2:1-10

**Step 2** - Commit time this week to answering the question in your journal:

**What do you hope (wish or long) for in your father/daughter relationship?**





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CHAPTER 3

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# THERE WILL BE CONFLICT

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## FACILITATOR PREP

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### START WELL

In this third chapter we meet our third and final pair, Sean and his daughter Devan. Amidst a history of closeness in their relationship they process through a significant period of conflict and its current impact on them both.

### WARM UP SEQUENCE

**Take-Home Challenge Check-In From Week Two:** Invite the group to share their responses to the question: **What do you hope for in your father/daughter relationship?** (5-10 min)

### ACTIVE LISTENING

Before watching Chapter THREE, remind your group to write down any key words, phrases, and images that resonate with them while watching in the space provided on the handouts.

*Play Chapter THREE - There Will Be Conflict (video length - 13:37)*

### KEY THEMES

- Messiness of disagreement
- Intentional conversations amidst the busyness of life
- Providing direction vs over-protecting
- Fear of hard stuff coming out

## THERE WILL BE CONFLICT

## SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

## WATCH &amp; OBSERVE

While you watch chapter three, write down any words, phrases, and images that resonate with you.

**Question 1:** From the list of words, phrases, and images you wrote down, choose the top three that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

**Question 2: Dads,** in the video the father, Sean, lists “*safety, security, stability, and a marriage that would stay together*” as high priorities in how he fathered his kids. What did (or does) your list consist of when your daughter was in the home?

**Question 3:** How has conflict been dealt with in your family (dads feel free to share from your younger years)?

**Question 4:** What positives and negatives do you carry with you today as result of those conflicts?

**Question 5: Daughters,** how can you both honor your parents AND make an important decision they disagree with?  
**Dads,** how do you honor your daughter when she makes an important decision you disagree with?

## PRAY

*Jesus, You love my daughter with Your perfect love—a love far greater than mine—and I love her fiercely. So I now bring You my fears that so quickly steal my wisdom and magnify my words into messages that can easily feel so dishonoring to my precious daughter. I ask You to calm my heart and show me how to offer her the protection my father-heart longs to give, and do it according to Your wisdom and in a way that honors her and trust ultimately in You.*

## TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

Your challenge for the week is on the next page!

*“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us.”*

I John 4:18, 19 (NIV)

# THERE WILL BE CONFLICT

## TAKE HOME CHALLENGE

Commit time this week to answering the following question:

**What is a potential past or present conflict between my dad/daughter and I that needs to come out of hiding and experience God's healing?**



## PURPOPEN

## FACILITATOR PREP

## OVERVIEW

Chapter four is a pivot point in the journey. Now that we've met all three father/daughter pairs, we are now going to pause and create a personalized **Group Contract** to intentionally push into the next layers of connection. You'll see the activity done on the screen and then have an opportunity to create your group's own one-of-a-kind **Group Contract**.

A couple helpful notes: In the first part of this activity the group will brainstorm and ultimately decide upon a one word goal for the group. It can be fun to use 3x5 cards if you wish, similar to the video, which can help promote group interaction. In the second part of this activity you will definitely need some supplies. You can find a supply list along with directions to make a **BULL RING** on the next page.

Along with stepping up the intentionality of your time with this group, this exercise will create another special memory together. These memory makers will play a much larger role in the long run than you might realize. Have fun!

## WARM UP SEQUENCE

**Take-Home Challenge Check-In From Week Three:** Provide space for the group to share their responses to the question: **What is a potential past or present conflict between you all that needs to come out of hiding and experience God's healing?** (5-10 min)

## ACTIVE LISTENING

Before watching Chapter FOUR remind your group to write down any key words, phrases, and images that resonate with them while watching in the space provided on the handouts.

*Play Chapter FOUR - Purpopen (video length - 9:00)*

## KEY THEMES

- Guidelines for intentionality
- Owning it
- Creativity



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## CHAPTER 4

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# PURPOSEN

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### MORE FACILITATOR PREP

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#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUP INITIATIVE FOR CHAPTER FOUR

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## BULL RING ACTIVITY

### What is it

An activity where the group must collectively write a word using a Bull Ring Marker Device. See below for instructions to build one.

### Set-Up

- 1 - Tie 10' sections of cord to bull ring making sure there is enough for all participants to have one. In groups of six or less, you can have two sections per participant.
- 2 - Wrap duct tape around sharpie until it fits snug into the middle of the bull ring.
- 3 - Tape a piece of paper or canvas to a table or platform surface. It's a good idea to put scrap paper underneath in case marker bleeds through
- 4 - With the bull ring on the paper, spread out the sections of cord equally around the full ring.

### Instructions

Have each participant grab onto the cord strand, letting them know their hands can only hold the final 12" of cord (it gets significantly easier if people their hands in too close).

Now their team goal is to write the pre-chosen ONE WORD on the paper. Mission is complete when the word is written.

### Facilitation Tip

Providing clear guidelines is solid, but don't over instruct.

There are a myriad of decisions (writing direction, letter size, who leads, etc...) that will be stretching for the group to figure out on their own.

### ITEMS NEEDED:

- 1 inch and a half ring (from hardware store.
- Spool of string or paracord. Cut into 10' lengths, one section for each participant.
- A thick paper or canvas.
- 1 sharpie or paint brush.
- If using a paint brush, you'll need a small jar of paint along with some rags for clean up.
- Duct tape.

## PURPOSE

## SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

## WATCH &amp; OBSERVE

While you watch chapter four, write down any words, phrases, and images that resonate with you.

**Question 1:** From the list of words, phrases, and images you wrote down, choose the top three that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

## GROUP ACTIVITY: Create a Group Contract with a Bull Ring

**Step 1:** Start by each person writing down possible answers to this question:

**What is a one word goal that will challenge you to engage the next half of this journey fully?**

**Step 2:** Go around and share your possibilities with the group. Feel free to ask questions and gain clarity. The better you understand the word, the more impact it will have.

**Step 3:** As a group decide on ONE word that is most motivating to all.

**Step 4:** As a group write that one word on a piece of paper or canvas using a Bull Ring.

**Step 5:** When finished, answer these questions:

**On a scale of 1(bad) to 10(great) how well did the group do in accomplishing the goal?**

**How does accomplishing this activity connect to your journey with your dad or daughter?**

**Step 6:** On the page where the word is written have each group member sign their name. The Group Contract is now established. If possible, post this at your meeting location as a reminder for the journey ahead.

**Final Step:** Pray and invite God’s leading to engage these next steps of restoration in your relationship?

## PRAY

*Father God, we acknowledge that you alone hold fullness and freedom in abundance for our lives. We ask for courage to release our hold on our comfort, so we can receive Your restoration growth in our relationship.*

## TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

Your challenge for the week is on the next page!

*“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”*

# PURPOEN

## TAKE HOME CHALLENGE

**Make a list of 10 favorite things about your dad or daughter.**

THEIR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.



# FEAR & LOVE

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## FACILITATOR PREP

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### OVERVIEW

In this fifth chapter we move another layer deeper into John and Molly's father/daughter relationship as they talk about the challenge of loving and trusting in the midst of change.

They wrestle with the idea of openness in their relationship versus the reality of openness playing out in the messiness of life.

### WARM UP SEQUENCE

**Take-Home Challenge Check-In From Week Four:** Invite people to share their list of 10 favorite things about their dad or daughter. (5-10 min)

### ACTIVE LISTENING

Before watching Chapter FIVE, remind your group to write down any key words, phrases, and images that resonate with them while watching in the space provided on the handouts.

*Play Chapter FIVE - Fear & Love (video length - 9:45)*

### KEY THEMES

- Trust
- Loving without expectations
- Changing influence



## FEAR &amp; LOVE

## SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

## WATCH &amp; OBSERVE

While you watch chapter five, write down any words, phrases, and images that resonate with you.

**Question 1:** From the list of words, phrases, and images you wrote down, choose the top three that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

**Question 2:** Share a moment in your life where your trust was broken? How does that experience impact you today?

**Question 3:** How has your dad/daughter communication changed over the years?

**Question 4:** Daughters, how would you describe your dad’s influence in your life currently?  
Dads, how would you describe your influence in your daughter’s life?

*“We love because he first loved us.”*

**1 John 4:19 (NIV)**

## PRAY

*Thank You, God, that You know how to listen to our hearts. It’s easier to trust our pain to You since You always listen with a loving, caring and forgiving heart. Please help us to have that kind of heart for each other so that we can establish a place of safety in our relationship where we can really listen to each other, dispelling the hurts and sharing the joys.*

## TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

Your challenge for the week is on the next page!

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

**Philippian 4:6 (NIV)**

# FEAR & LOVE

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## TAKE HOME CHALLENGE

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This week's challenge is to **write a "love letter" to your dad or daughter.** We realize that can mean a lot of different things to each person. For some of you there may not be much you love about your dad/daughter amidst the hurt. For others, there's so much you want to say that you don't know where to start.

The goal is not to force something that is not real. Instead, it's to start or cultivate a habit of putting love into practice. So write a "love letter" to your dad or daughter this week and get it into their hands somehow. It doesn't have to be fancy or long. The main goal is to simply do it.

## P R O V I D E

## FACILITATOR PREP

## OVERVIEW

In this sixth chapter we find Rod (dad) lamenting his attempts to provide for his family. Together with his daughter Kady they are also able to think through some factors that will help them be more purposeful (purposeful and open) in their relationship.

Take note that for the Take-Home Challenge this week each father/daughter pair present will be creating a **Connection Road Map**. Directions for this activity are on the page after the small group questions.

## WARM UP SEQUENCE

**Take-Home Challenge Check-In From Week Five:** Invite people to share their experience with writing and/or receiving a love letter from their dad or daughter. (5-10 min)

## ACTIVE LISTENING

Before watching Chapter SIX, remind your group to **write down any key words, phrases, and images that resonate with them while watching** in the space provided on the handouts.

*Play Chapter SIX - Provide (video length - 12:47)*

## KEY THEMES

- Providing well
- Translating our misses into opportunities vs failures
- Surviving vs making memories

CHAPTER 6

# PROVIDE

## SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

### WATCH & OBSERVE

While you watch chapter six, write down any words, phrases, and images that resonate with you.

**Question 1:** From the list of words, phrases, and images you wrote down, choose the top three that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

**Question 2:** Dads, share the moment when you first felt the weight of being a father to a daughter?  
Daughters, share a memory when you felt especially provided for by your dad?

**Question 3:** Dads, what does it mean to provide well?  
Daughters, what does it mean to be provided for well?

**Question 4:** Dads, often times when our kids share something they missed from their past, dads hear failure instead of opportunity. With that in mind, what opportunity is God inviting for your “providing” moving forward?

### PRAY

*Father God, when I feel trapped in my circumstances and see no way out, may I remember the depth of Your love for me. You have provided everything for me and my family. You are my shepherd and in You I lack nothing. We lack nothing. You guide us along the right paths. In the thick of our fears, our conflicts, the many life questions demanding answers we are unsure how to give, You are with us. We lean into Your provision today and trust the steps You invite us to take.*

### TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

Your challenge for the week is on the next page!

*“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing”*

**Psalms 23:1 (NIV)**

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CHAPTER 6

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# PROVIDE

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## TAKE HOME CHALLENGE

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### TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

**This week, similar to Kady and Rod in the video, we invite each father/daughter pair to make their own CONNECTION ROAD MAP.**

**Supplies you will need:**

*1 sheet of 8.5x11 paper (or a piece of canvas, a bandana, feel free to be creative...)*

*Sharpies or Markers to write with*

**Step 1:** Write your group goal word (from chapter 4) in the middle of your paper in large letters.

**Step 2:** This is a bit different than the video, but next, both dad and daughter trace one of your hands on the paper, on the same side as the goal word.

**Step 3:** Inside the space of your traced hands write down as many answers to this question as needed:

**What will help us be more \_\_\_\_\_ (insert goal word)?**

*Take some time to reflect on the question and let the answers slowly come.*

**Step 4:** Outside the space of your traced hands write down as many answers to this question as needed:

**What will hinder us from being more \_\_\_\_\_ (insert goal word)?**

**Step 5:** Bring your completed CONNECTION ROAD MAP to the next small group. You will have the chance to share it with the group if you choose.

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CHAPTER 7

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# HEARING THE HEART

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## FACILITATOR PREP

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### OVERVIEW

In this seventh chapter Sean (dad) and Devan (daughter) realize that their conflict, while painful, invites each of them to grow spiritually in ways they otherwise would not have. The wrestling opened new doors for trust and hearing the hearts of their family.

### WARM UP SEQUENCE

**Take-Home Challenge Check-In From Week Six:** Give people an opportunity to share their CONNECTION ROAD MAP they made the past week. (5-10 min)

### ACTIVE LISTENING

Before watching Chapter SEVEN, remind your group to write down any key words, phrases, and images that resonate with them while watching in the space provided on the handouts.

*Play Chapter SEVEN - Hearing the Heart (video length - 12:04)*

### KEY THEMES

- Trust
- Rooted to outcomes over love
- Demanding vs listening

CHAPTER 7

# HEARING THE HEART

## SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

### WATCH & OBSERVE

While you watch chapter seven, write down any words, phrases, and images that resonate with you.

**Question 1:** From the list of words, phrases, and images you wrote down, choose the top three that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

**Question 2:** Daughters, when was a time in your life when your dad served to anchor you and provide direction?

**Question 3:** Share a memory of separation (dad & daughter did not see eye to eye) in your relationship? What impact did that separation have or does it still have?

**Question 4:** What do you need to either surrender (let go of) or start doing, to better hear your daughter’s/dad’s heart?

**(BONUS) Question 5:** How has conflict between the two of you played a role in your own spiritual journey?

### PRAY

*Father, in the difficult times of our relationship, You know how hard it has been for me to put into words what I’m really thinking and feeling without allowing my hurt to talk louder than my love. Please help me to find in You the healing my heart needs so that I can find the strength to listen with an open heart to my dad/daughter.*

### TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

Your challenge for the week is on the next page!

*“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

**Psalms 73:26 (NIV)**



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CHAPTER 7

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# HEARING THE HEART

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## TAKE HOME CHALLENGE

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As we strive to hear the heart of our daughter or dad, it's critical we do so from a foundation of listening to God's heart.

This week's challenge is to study **Psalm 73:21-26** and answer this question:

**What is God reminding me about his role in my relationships with my daughter or dad?**



## LETTING GO

## FACILITATOR PREP

## OVERVIEW

In this eighth chapter the group of three dads and the three daughters split into groups to discuss some of the common struggles they share. As they process the challenges, they recognize the responsibility and faith required to move forward.

One note about the **Take-Home Challenge** at the end of this session. We encourage you to make special mention of it at the end of your group time and highlight the part about bringing the letter to next week's small group to read it out loud instead of passing it off beforehand. This will likely be uncomfortable and a step that some might dismiss. Let them know they obviously have a choice whether to participate and encourage them that it probably will be more important than they might imagine!

## WARM UP SEQUENCE

**Take-Home Challenge Check-In From Week Seven:** Give people an opportunity to share their responses to Psalm 73:21-26 and the question: **What is God reminding me about his role in my relationships with my daughter or dad?** (5-10 min)

## ACTIVE LISTENING

Before watching Chapter EIGHT, remind your group to **write down any key words, phrases, and images that resonate with them while watching** in the space provided on the handouts.

*Play Chapter EIGHT - Letting Go (video length - 13:31)*

## KEY THEMES

- Protecting what doesn't need or want protecting
- Control vs trust
- Launching well vs letting go

CHAPTER 8

# LETTING GO

## SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

### WATCH & OBSERVE

While you watch episode chapter write down any words, phrases, and images that resonate with

**Question 1:** From the list of words, phrases, and images you wrote down, choose the top three that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

**Question 2:** John (one of the dads) makes the following statement in the video: “*we were only doing well when we forgot we had kids.*” **Dads**, what do you think he meant and can you relate?

**Question 3:** Devan (one of the daughters) says, “*(my parents) wanted more control than what they truly could control, so that was hard because it was like, sorry, I know you’d like to control this, but in reality it’s just not possible with the stage of life I’m in.*”

**Daughters**, what do you think she meant and can you relate?

**Question 4:** Dads and daughters, from each of your unique perspectives what would be the ideal picture of “letting go well”?

**Question 5:** What can I change on my side of this relationship?

### PRAY

*Father, since a relationship with my dad/daughter will require me to become a part of something bigger than myself, please empower me to use every opportunity to hold more tightly to You and age-appropriately let go of a viewpoint that only considers my expectations. Please help me to see every miscommunication and challenge as an opportunity to get out of myself, into You, and be able to see my dad’s/daughter’s world through his/her eyes.*

### TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

Your challenge for this week is on the next page!

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”*

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)**

# LETTING GO

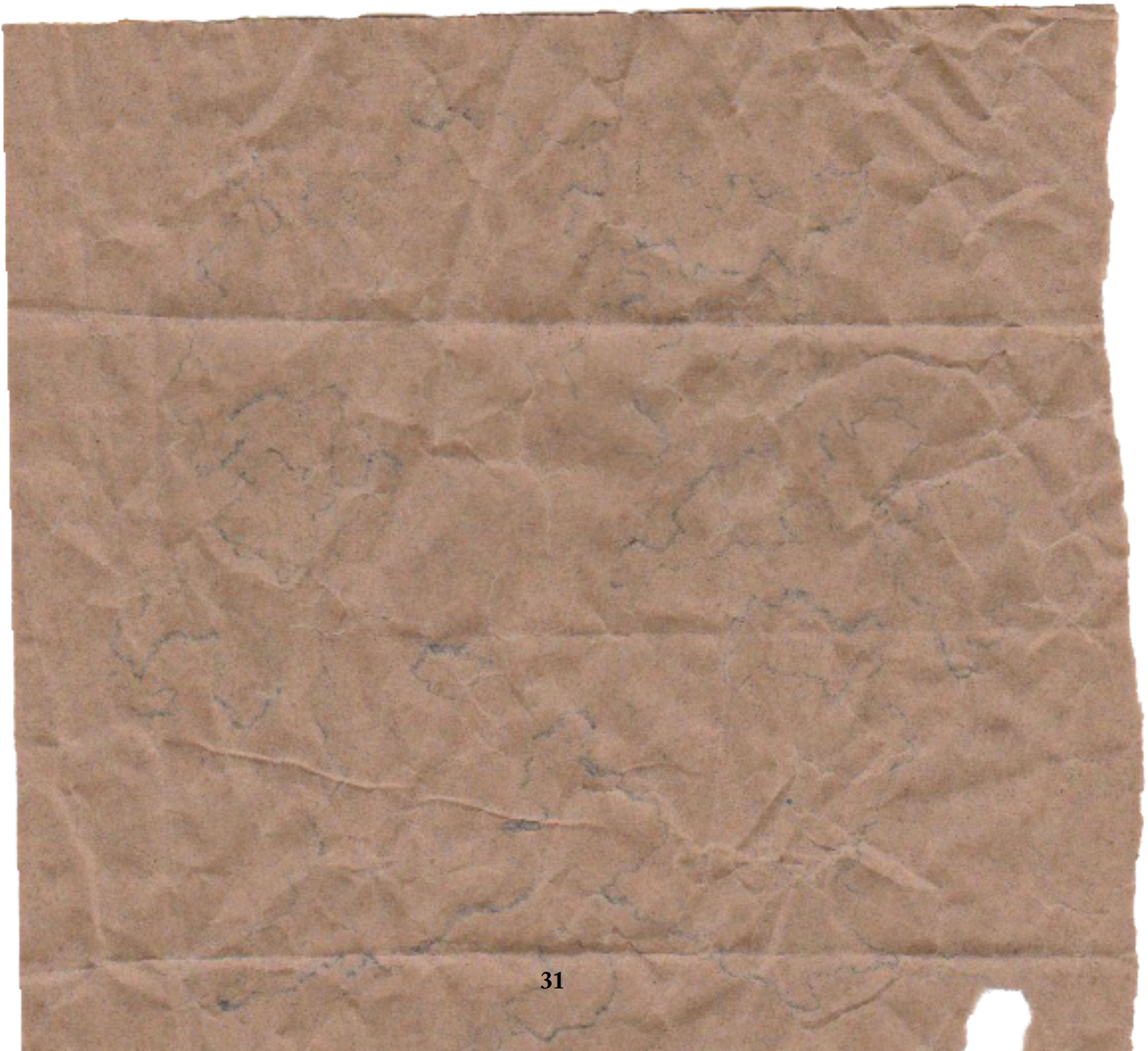
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## TAKE HOME CHALLENGE

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This week we invite you to write a second “love letter” to your dad or daughter. This one will build off the first one you wrote in your take-home challenge for chapter 5. Use the following prompt as you speak to the heart of the matter and write your letter: **If you could see YOU through my eyes, here’s what you would see.**

But this time instead of giving it to them before our next session, we want to invite you to bring it to the final session and read it to them out loud! It’s not about image, smoothness, or comfort. It is about seizing the moment and making a public proclamation to your daughter or dad in front of your peers that have walked this journey alongside you. Sieze the moment.



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## CHAPTER 9

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# ONE NEXT STEP

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### FACILITATOR PREP

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#### OVERVIEW

The final chapter is here as the Stehekin Father/Daughter journey comes to an end. Yet as the trip ends the relationships continue forward. The challenge is to translate this journey into taking one next intentional step.

Today's group time should offer ample time after watching the video to allowing dads and daughters to read their 2nd love letter publicly to each other as well as to clarify and commit to an intentional step each pair purposes to take. We encourage you to consider shooting video of the pairs as they share these words of life. You can then give these videos to participants as a keepsake after the series is complete. We do this on our expeditions and many people have spoken to the "legacy treasure" that it is.

Finally, thank you for facilitating this journey for your community. We are grateful for you!

#### WARM UP SEQUENCE

**Take-Home Challenge Check-In Change Up:** We will be doing things different this final session. We will watch the chapter 9 video FIRST and then give time during the session to allow space for families to share their second love letter publicly with their dad or daughter that speaks to the prompt:

**If you could see YOU through my eyes, here's what you would see.**

#### ACTIVE LISTENING

Before watching Chapter NINE, remind your group to write down any key words, phrases, and images that resonate with them while watching in the space provided on the handouts.

*Play Chapter NINE- One Next Step (video length - 14:29)*

#### KEY THEMES

- Unplugged intentional moments invite growth
- Redemption opportunity today
- Fragility of life

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CHAPTER 9

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# ONE NEXT STEP

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## SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

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### WATCH & OBSERVE

While you watch chapter nine write down any words, phrases, and images that resonate with you.

**Question 1:** From the list of words, phrases, and images you wrote down, choose the top three that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

### GROUP ACTIVITY:

Provide space for people to publicly share their letter with their dad or daughter that speaks to “If you could see YOU through my eyes, here’s what you would see.”

**Question 2:** What is something new you saw in your dad/daughter through this nine chapter journey?

**Question 3:** What can’t wait any longer in your relationship with your dad or daughter?

**Question 4:** As result of this journey, what’s the one next intentional step God is inviting you two to take together?

### PRAY

*Father God, we love only because You have first loved us. Thank you! We want to love one another better than our past expressions. Let us not love with words or tongue alone but with actions and in Your truth. You have led us to this point in our journey as father and daughter together. We now ask that you would reveal one clear step of action for us to take that will increase our connection to You, and to one another. May our connection glorify You, and bless our family line!*

### TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

Complete THE ACTION PLAN on the next page. It’s now time to fulfill the final RULE OF ENGAGEMENT (p.3) from the start of the journey and take this home. Turn to the next page, and prioritize time this week to finish strong and complete this final step!

*“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”*

**Ephesians 3:20, 21(NIV)**

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## FINAL TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENT

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### CONCLUSION

## THE TAKE - OUT

You made it! The end of this journey has arrived. We have exited the Stehekin ferry and are de-rigging all the gear. Although this story is coming to a close, the next chapter of your story is has already begun.

Let me pause to say “well done” in persevering to the end. There is incredible significance in simply completing what you started.

Now it's time to follow through with the one step God is inviting you to take toward your dad or daughter's heart. Take note that you will most likely second guess your “one step”. The enemy will attempt to belittle it or overcomplicate it or distract you. Don't give in. Fight!

You are in the midst of a generational battle for your family line in which you currently hold the baton. May you be emboldened to lean into this next chapter of your story, and follow through.

Know that you are not alone. We join you in “Pressing on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of us...Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.” (Phil 3:12-13, NIV)

Now fill out the action plan below and follow through. The next chapter of the journey towards freedom and fullness in Jesus Christ awaits. The next of step of restoration in your family line is right before you.

### NEXT STEP

## THE ACTION PLAN

**What** is the next level of connection God is inviting for our dad/daughter relationship:

**What** tangible next step is God inviting us to do now:

**When** we will do it (deadline):

**How** we will do it:

**Where** it will take place:

**Who** will provide accountability for us to follow through:



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## PAY IT FORWARD

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YOUR CHOICE TO PAY IT FORWARD FUNDS FUTURE SERIES

### JOIN US IN PRODUCING MENDING LINES!

If this Mending Lines journey has helped strengthen your father/daughter connection, we want to invite you to extend this impact to other family lines around the globe. Join us in producing the next Mending Lines series! Know that your financial gift will directly impact the creation of these absence-fighting resources and bring the fight against absence in fatherhood to families around the world. Below are the next three series planned that you can help make reality:

**Mending Lines 04 - Fathers & Teens** - Exploring the unique tension and reward of fathering teens as they journey the confluence of dependence on parents and launching into independence. Filming in Montana.

**Mending Lines 05 - Military & Police Dads** -Diving into the unique pressure of frontline work, deployments and balancing responsibility between home and work - in partnership with Cross the Divide Ministries. Filming in New Mexico.

**Mending Lines 06 - Redefining Macho** (in Spanish). This series will be filmed in Belize with 3 father/child Belizean pairs. We'll be taking on the "Macho" father mentality that has destroyed countless families throughout the globe, but especially in Central and South America. This will all be shot, edited, and delivered in Spanish (with English subtitles).

Give now by taking a picture of the qr code or going to  
[www.familvlines.org/donate](http://www.familvlines.org/donate)



# NOTES



FIGHT ABSENCE. CHOOSE PRESENCE. ENGAGE RESTORATION.



Family Lines is a mission driven organization that is passionate about fighting absence in fatherhood with intentional presence for the restoration of the family line.

To partner with us in this battle through giving a financial gift click the code below



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