



FUTURE FAMILY, Part 4: All the Fixin's

INTRODUCTION

All children—that's you and me—long for the approval of their parents . . . especially their fathers. It's a longing that never goes away. It gets buried or transferred to other relationships, but it's there. And we underestimate its power. Every parent wants to be approved by his or her child—to be a hero, to hear, *"when I grow up I want to be just like you."* As that desire grows, so does a parent's insecurity.

Buried beneath the hurt, disappointment, distance, or silence is a desire to be connected to our children and our fathers. It lasts a lifetime.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you received affirmation from your parent or your child. How did it make you feel?
2. How has your relationship with your father made a relationship with God easier or more difficult?
3. About who in your family do you say, *"I don't care"*? What makes your relationship with that person challenging?
4. What can you do this week to open a door, extend a hand, or lean in the direction of that person? What can this group do to support you?

MOVING FORWARD

The goal of reconciliation is a relationship characterized by acceptance, despite past offenses and current differences. Reconciliation keeps you honest emotionally and prevents old dysfunction from invading your new relationships.

You can't make reconciliation happen, but you can take the first step. It's your best bet for wholeness and health.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15