

WARM UP

"I went to the Christchurch [Promise Keepers 08] Event with a bunch of guys from the West Coast... The first speaker on Saturday morning spoke about our relationship with our fathers, and how that impacted how we saw God. He suggested writing a letter to our fathers - something which I didn't have a chance to do. The following week, however, back in Greymouth and attending our mid-week prayer/home group meeting, those gathered asked me how Promise Keepers went. I started to tell them about this speaker, then stopped mid-way, acutely aware of the fact that my relationship with Dad hadn't been too flash. They prayed for me, and I decided that I needed to go and see him in Auckland. His health had been in decline, and that night when I got home I mentioned to my wife that I'd like to go and see him. Funny thing, while I was out, her heart was also touched about this, and she'd already been checking out the best fares in case I decided to go!

The first flight I could get was the following Thursday. I went straight to the hospital to spend some time alone with him. We spent some precious time, and although he was unable to respond I was able to hold his hand, tell him I loved him, and make peace in my heart with him. Later that same day, after a gathering of the clan, Dad died. I'm so grateful for the seed planted at Promise Keepers, for the powerful God-prompting to go when I did and for the opportunity to say goodbye to my Dad with a right heart."

Evan



BACKGROUND

In this story we see how two sons need to learn the importance of respect towards their father. The younger son needed to respect the inheritance of his father. The older son needed to learn to respect his father's judgment towards his younger brother.

READ Luke 15:11-31

QUESTIONS

1. In today's world, the trust of fathers has taken a battering. How can we change this?
2. Share with the group about your father.

3. How does your relationship with your Father in heaven affect your relationship with your earthly father?

4. What is the greatest gift a father can give his children?

IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

1. If my father is still alive I will put in my diary a time to do something special for him.
2. If I have children I will share with them how important it is to me to be their father.

CONSIDER THIS

Each year around Father's Day, the US Census Bureau updates its statistics about fathers in the US. For example, did you know that only 50% of all Father's Day cards are bought by people who give them to their fathers? The rest are given to husbands, grandfathers, sons, etc.



WRAP UP

Share with your fellow brothers what life was like when you were growing up and the impact your father had on your life.