

Children of Divorce: Meeting the Needs of the Fatherless

Mobilizing the Faith Community to Action

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50% of all the children born to married parents today will experience the divorce of their parents before they are 18 years old.

Fagan, Fitzgerald, Rector
“The Effects of Divorce On America”

40% of all divorced children haven't
seen their fathers in the last year

Wade, Horn and Busy. Fathers, Marriage and Welfare Reform,
Hudson Institute Executive Briefing, 1997

1. **Four times more likely to have problems with peers**
2. **Three times more likely to need counseling**
3. **Two times more likely to drop out of school**
4. **As adults, two times more likely to be suicidal**

1. More problems with school performance
2. More emotional and psychological problems
3. More likely to be overly aggressive (boys)
4. More likely to be lonely, unhappy, anxious, insecure more than 5 years after the divorce

1. Four times more likely to be poor
2. More likely to have behavior problems
3. Mother is more likely to be depressed
4. More likely to experience asthma/respiratory illnesses

1. More likely to be victim of abuse
2. More likely to be sexually active as a teen
3. More likely to abuse drugs/alcohol
4. More likely to end up in jail

Risks to the Church

1. 62% of divorced kids reject the faith of their parents
2. 37% of these children will not worship regularly, and 60% will leave the church
3. People under 30 are 20% of the US population but 31% of people “unaffiliated with any church”
4. Only 1 in 5 Christians understand that “salvation is by faith alone”



**One Solution:
Engage the Faith Community in Mentoring**

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Train up a child in the way he
should go, and when he is old he
will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22: 6

Mentoring Works

Research shows that kids who spend time regularly with a caring adult mentor for at least one year are:

- 1. 46% less likely to start using illegal drugs**
- 2. 27% less likely to start drinking**
- 3. 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school**
- 4. 37% less likely to skip a class**
- 5. 33% less likely to hit someone**
- 6. More trusting of their parents or guardians**
- 7. Five times more likely to graduate from high school**

Does it last?

**Adults who had a mentor through Big Brothers
Big Sisters compared to non-participant peers:**

1.75% more likely to have college degree

**2.39% more likely to have household incomes of \$75,000
or more.**

**3. More likely than non-alumni to be engaged in their
community**

This changed my life. No one ever
took the time to do this for me
before...

Participant in Blockbuster mentoring program

What Makes Mentoring Work?

- 1. Mature, committed mentors**
- 2. Regular, informal contact**
- 3. Time to build a relationship**
 - Frequency: 2-4 times per month**
 - Duration: at least a year**
- 4. Mutual trust**
- 5. Orientation/training/coaching**



Mentoring the Fatherless The Ministry Strategy

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⁵ God in His holy house is a father
to those who have no father...
⁶ God makes a home for those who
are alone.

Psalms 68:5-6 NLV

Mentoring the Fatherless

The Ministry Strategy

Phase 1

- *Get Gateway buy-in*
- *Recruit /screen potential mentors*
- *Identify potential mentees*
- *Hold mentor training workshop (8-10 hours)*
- *Match mentors to mentees*

Mentoring the Fatherless

Phase 2

- *Develop strategic plan for Mentoring/Leadership event at Cowboys Stadium*
- *Engage other DFW mega-churches*
- *Engage business partners*
- *Develop detailed business/marketing plan for the event*

Mentoring the Fatherless: The Ministry Strategy

Phase 3

- *Execute Cowboys Stadium event*
- *Plan media coverage*
- *Repeat in top 10 US cities*
- *Plan for world-wide expansion*