



## CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Experiencing the Father's Heart	SPEAKER	SP Chua Seng Lee
THEME	Experiencing the Father	DATE	15 & 16 March

# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## Introduction

A father's heart and love is one that is often described as unconditional and sacrificial. It seeks to protect and provide. It wishes for nothing but the best for his child. And as wonderful as this sounds, this is but a glimpse of the heart of God for us, his children.

God takes Fatherhood seriously, so much so that failure would warrant judgment. It is only because of His mercy and grace that we would not suffer His judgement for this failure.

*<sup>5</sup> "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. <sup>6</sup> He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."*  
- Malachi 4:5-6

Before His return, God promises to send Elijah to restore the heart of the fathers and children to each other *so that* He would not smite the land with a curse.

While this is good news, this doesn't mean that fatherlessness today is without consequence.

## Why are Fathers important?

### 1. The consequences of Fatherlessness

Studies have shown that Fatherlessness have very close correlation to:

- Increased poverty risk
- Drugs and substance abuse
- Poor physical and emotional well-being
- Lower educational achievements
- Higher involvement in crime
- Increased teenage sexual activity & pregnancy

These reports highlight the reality of a curse when the hearts of fathers (and mothers) are not restored to their children.

## 2. The Impact of a Father's influence.

Conversely, studies have shown the positive impact of a present father in children's lives in the areas of:

1. Cognitive & educational development
2. Emotional & mental well-being
3. Behavioural & social growth
4. Spiritual & moral formation

The impact of the father in a child's life cannot be disputed; it's importance cannot be overstated.

### What can the church do?

In light of these worrying statistics, SP challenged the church to become part of the solution – **be a father to someone.**

He calls upon the church to Repent, Relate and to Release:

- Repent - a collective repentance for our indifference to the fatherless children around us.
- Relate - to relate to our children and connect with them, and feel for them.
- Release - to release *blessing* over our children.

### Conclusion

However, we can only be a father when we first experience the Father's love for ourselves. We, as the church, need to know and experience the Father's heart for us so that we might represent that same heart to the fatherless in the world.

# QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing that a spiritual parent taught you that you still practise till today?

2. What societal consequences are most alarming to you from the list associated with fatherlessness? How have you seen that to be true in yours or the lives of those around you?

3. Reflect on Malachi 4:5-6. How can we, as the church, partner with God in restoring the hearts of fathers and children? Who is someone you can relate to and release blessing over?