

Experiencing the  
*Father's love*



Experiencing the  
*Father's heart*



1. What's your most memorable memory of your father?
2. How has he influenced your faith?
3. What do you wish for him today?



Experiencing the  
*Father's heart*



## Malachi 4:5-6

<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.”





## Luke 1:16

<sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.

<sup>17</sup> It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”





## John 1:21

They asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he \*said, “I am not.”  
“Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

The background of the slide features a warm, orange-toned sunset or sunrise over a range of dark, silhouetted mountains. The sky is a gradient of orange, and the mountains are layered, creating a sense of depth.

## The **Consequences** of Fatherlessness

Children from fatherless homes are more likely to be poor,  
become involved in drug and alcohol abuse, drop out of school,  
and suffer from health and emotional problems.

Boys are more likely to become involved in crime,  
and girls are more likely to become pregnant as teens.

*- National Centre for Fathering*

<http://www.fathers.com/statistics-and-research/the-consequences-of-fatherlessness/>



The background of the slide features a silhouette of a mountain range against a warm, orange-hued sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The mountains are layered, with some appearing more prominent than others, creating a sense of depth.

# The Consequences of Fatherlessness

## 1. INCREASED POVERTY RISK

Children in father-absent homes are almost **four times** more likely to be poor.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics: March 2011, Table C8. Washington D.C.: 2011.

# The Consequences of Fatherlessness

## 2. HIGHER LIKELIHOOD OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

There is **significantly more drug use** among children who do not live with their mother and father.

Source: Hoffmann, John P. "The Community Context of Family Structure and Adolescent Drug Use." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 64 (May 2002): 314-330.

# The Consequences of Fatherlessness

## 3. POORER PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

A study of 1,977 children aged 3 and older living with a residential father or father figure found that children living with married biological parents had significantly fewer **behavioural problems** than children living with at least one non-biological parent.

Source: Hofferth, S. L. (2006). Residential father family type and child well-being: investment versus selection. *Demography*, 43, 53-78.



# The Consequences of Fatherlessness

## 4. LOWER EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Children in Grade 7-12 who have lived with at least one biological parent reported **lower grade point** averages than those who have always lived with both biological parents.

Source: Tillman, K. H. (2007). Family structure pathways and academic disadvantage among adolescents in stepfamilies. Journal of Marriage and Family.

# The Consequences of Fatherlessness

## 4. LOWER EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

71% of high school **dropouts** are fatherless.

Source: Edward Kruk, Ph.D., “The Vital Importance of Paternal Presence in Children’s Lives.” May 23, 2012.

# The Consequences of Fatherlessness

## 5. HIGHER INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME

Compared to peers from intact families, adolescents in single-parent families and stepfamilies were **more likely to engage in delinquency.**

Source: Stephen Demuth and Susan L. Brown, "Family Structure, Family Processes, and Adolescent Delinquency: The Significance of Parental Absence Versus Parental Gender," *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 41, No. 1 (February 2004): 58-81.



# The Consequences of Fatherlessness

## 6. INCREASED RATE OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY & TEEN PREGNANCY

The results revealed that adolescents in father-absent homes were more likely to report being **sexually active**, compared to adolescents living with their fathers.

Source: Hendricks, C.S., Cesario, S.K., Murdaugh, C., Gibbons, M.E., Servonsky, E.J., Bobadilla, R.V., Hendricks, D.L., Spencer-Morgan, B., & Tavakoli, A. (2005).

Son loved by father: *Joseph*

Genesis 37:3

Now **Israel loved Joseph** more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic.

Son unloved by father: *David*

Psalms 27:10

For my father and my mother have **forsaken me**,  
But the Lord will take me up.

Son loved by father: *Joseph*

Genesis 39:8

But **he refused** (to sleep with Potiphar's wife) and said to his master's wife, "Behold, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put all that he owns in my charge.

Son unloved by father: *David*

2 Samuel 11:2, 4

... **saw a woman bathing** ... <sup>4</sup> David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, **he lay with her**; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house.



These reports highlight the reality of a *curse* when  
the hearts of the fathers are not restored to their children.



## What about a mother's influence?

2 Timothy 1:5

For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.



When the hearts of the fathers are restored to  
their children, *we see blessing!*



# The Impact of Father Involvement in Childhood

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT	SOCIO-EMOTIONAL GROWTH	AT-RISK BEHAVIOURS
Higher IQ	Better coping skills	Less truancy
Improved linguistic ability	Stable family environment	Lower rates of delinquency
Greater academic readiness	Stronger social competence	Reduced substance abuse and stealing
Increased academic achievement	Secure attachment	
	Moral maturity	

Fathers have important role to play in parenting

SINGAPORE

## A message to fathers: Get involved



Letter of the week #2: Actively engaged fathers a necessity in society



## Forum: Encourage more men to step up and be involved in their families

PUBLISHED MAR 27, 2020, 11:58 PM



The rising trend of fathers taking paternity leave and being stay-at-home dads is heartening. However, the national take-up rate of paternity leave is at 53 per cent.

How can we encourage more men to step up their involvement in their families?





# The Impact of Father Involvement in Childhood

## 1. COGNITIVE & EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**UK:** Father involvement from the age of 7 was found to be significantly associated with **educational attainment** at age 20.  
*(Flouri, 2005)*

**US:** Children are 43% more likely to earn mostly As and 33% less likely to repeat a grade. *(Nord & West, 2001)*



# The Impact of Father Involvement in Childhood

## 1. COGNITIVE & EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Singapore:** Dr Ong Ai Choo (2000) found that good fathering was associated with adolescents' **positive school engagement and higher academic achievement.**

Children of divorced parents tend to fare worse than peers from intact families: MSF study





# The Impact of Father Involvement in Childhood

## 2. EMOTIONAL & MENTAL WELL-BEING

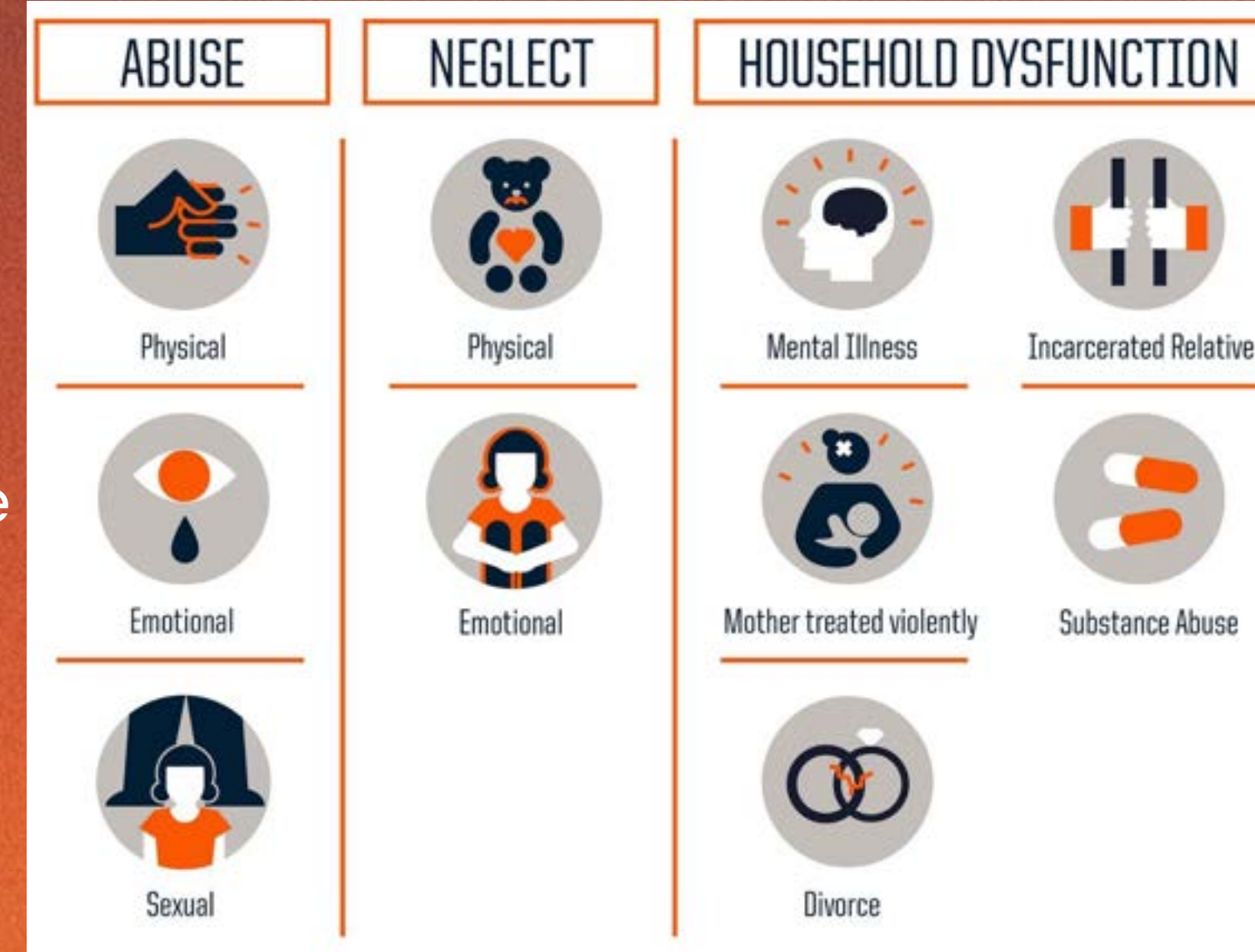
Father involvement was significantly related to **self-reported happiness and life satisfaction**. *(Flouri, 2005)*

Fathers had a buffering effect in protecting boys from extreme victimisation and daughters have less psychological distress at age 33. *(Flouri 2005)*



Adverse childhood experiences (ACE), such as being abused or the death of a parent or parental divorce, significantly increase the risk of one developing a **mental illness later in life**, a landmark study here has found.

*The Straits Times*  
(Jun 25, 2020)



## Adverse childhood experiences raise risk of mental illness later

2 in 3 adult residents in S'pore have faced at least one such experience: Study

*“Children who have to deal with adverse experiences may have poor coping skills to deal with the multiple stresses and may take to undesirable behaviours that increase their risk of developing a mental or physical illness,”* says Institute of Mental Health director of research division, Mythily Subramaniam.





## The Impact of Father Involvement in Childhood

### 3. BEHAVIOURAL & SOCIAL GROWTH

Children have less behavioural problems such as stealing, truancy, running away, defiance. *(Aldous & Mulligan, 2002)*

In a longitudinal study looking at boys age 7-16, boys with involved fathers were **less likely to get into trouble with the police**. *(Flouri & Buchanan, 2002)*



# The Impact of Father Involvement in Childhood

## 4. SPIRITUAL & MORAL FORMATION

The image of God children have at 6 years old is derived from the image they carry of their own father:


- **The** *absent* **father** **portrays** *an absent* God
- **The** *disconnected* **father** **portrays** *a disconnected* God
- **The** *permissive* **father** **portrays** *a permissive* God
- **The** *negligent* **father** **portrays** *a negligent* God
- **The** *emotional* **father** **portrays** *an emotional* God



*“I find it helpful to think about fathering as our greatest contribution on earth. While most of our endeavours in life don't last, fathering is one that impacts not only our children's generation, but also their children.”*


Edwin Choy, co-founder and director for Centre for Fathering






Don't contribute to this problem/curse.  
Be a *father* to someone today.





These statistics highlight the reality of a *curse*  
if we don't turn our hearts to our children.





We need to *repent*.

Malachi 4:6

*NASB* He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children  
*ESV/NKJV* And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children





We need to stand together as a spiritual family  
and repent for our failure.



Read the full article here on salt&light.



SINGAPORE

Couple abused 4-year-old girl for more than a year, burned her body after she died

salt&light

SHOP NEWS FAITH DEVOTIONAL LEADERSHIP SERVICE FAMILY WORK PROFILES VIDEOS DONATE MORE

FAMILY

We mourn for Megan Khung. But what now?

TRIGGER WARNING: This article mentions child abuse. Reader discretion is advised.

by Gracia Chiang // March 3, 2025, 9:13 pm

Read the full article here on salt&light.







How do we turn our hearts to our children?

***Repent. Relate. Release.***

Interested? Email Children's Pastor Samuel Goh • [samuelgoh@bbtc.com.sg](mailto:samuelgoh@bbtc.com.sg)  
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Credit: SHOW ME THE FATHER, 2021, Kendrick Brothers Productions

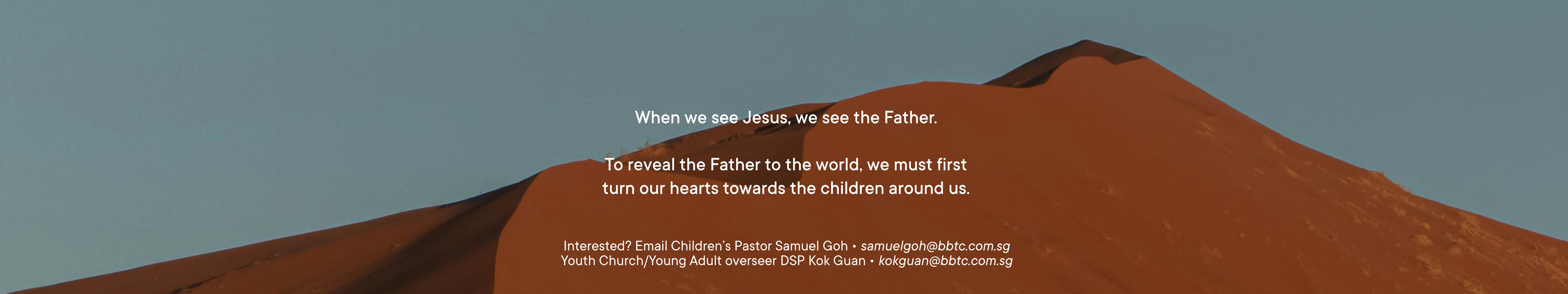




John 14:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to Him, “Lord, **show us the Father**, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”





When we see Jesus, we see the Father.

To reveal the Father to the world, we must first  
turn our hearts towards the children around us.

Interested? Email Children's Pastor Samuel Goh • [samuelgoh@bbtc.com.sg](mailto:samuelgoh@bbtc.com.sg)  
Youth Church/Young Adult overseer DSP Kok Guan • [kokguan@bbtc.com.sg](mailto:kokguan@bbtc.com.sg)





But before we become a father to the fatherless,  
*first come to the Father.*