



PART 3: *The Blessing* (Jeff Henderson)

Introduction

There is something in all of us that desires a blessing and affirmation from our dads. If we don't receive it, we can often go looking for it, sometimes in all the wrong places. Some of us received this blessing. Some of us didn't. For some of us, the voice of our fathers is gone. The good news is all of us can receive a blessing from our Father today, no matter who we are or what our past experience may be. This blessing becomes one of the ways we can bless the next generation. And when we receive this blessing and pass it along, it most certainly becomes a Next Gen Win.

Changing Your Mind

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

- Matthew 3:13-17

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think of when you hear the term "proud father"? What are some characteristics that come to mind?
2. Why do we seek the approval of our fathers?
3. What do you wish you had heard from your dad?
Leader Tip: Tailor this question to the group depending on their relationships with their dads. If they have personally received affirmation from their dads, ask how they've seen the lack of fatherly encouragement affect the lives of friends, people they know, etc.
4. Regardless of your relationship with your earthly father, you can receive a blessing from your Heavenly Father. What does it look like to "stop striving for the blessing" and to "start living from the blessing?"
5. How can you pass this affirmation and encouragement onto the next generation?

Moving Forward

When a father proudly identifies you as his son or daughter, there is a feeling as if you've found your home, your bearings. It provides a centering in your life. Regardless of whether or not your earthly father has been able to do that for you, your Heavenly Father wants to give you His blessing. You are His son. You are His daughter. He loves you and is well pleased.