

The Hard Truth

Week 2: Fathers – Looking Back to Move Forward

The Study

"Imitate God in everything you do, because you are His dear children."

Ephesians 5:1 NLT

Looking back is not always healthy, but in the process of gauging improvement it can be a real asset.

As fathers, by reflecting on the past years of fatherhood, we find mistakes can be numerous – missed opportunities, celebrations, and important dates; misguided advice, bad decisions, saying the wrong thing... just having some "out-of-character" moments. This is the "Hard Truth". As scripture teaches we don't have to let our past dictate our future (**Ps. 103:12**).

1. Realizing the sins of the past can result in repentance, how do we repent (see **2 Chronicles 7:14**)?
2. What response does the Lord promise from Him when we repent?
3. After repentance of the failures of our past attempts, what must we do (**Matthew 18:23-6**)?
4. **Proverbs 10:1** speaks of the wisdom of our actions as children of God. How does God feel when we are wise?

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5. **Ephesians 5:1** says we are children who should imitate our Father, God, in everything we do. How does God act toward us? How do we use these actions as imitators of God in parenting/leading others?
 - a. **Romans 5:8** –

 - b. **1 John 1:9** –

 - c. **John 3:17** –

 - d. **1 Corinthians 1:7** –

 - e. **Hebrews 10:21-22** –