

# Father's Day

1 Corinthians 4:14-16

Week of June 18, 2023

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## BELONG

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**Ask this Ice Breaker Question:** What is your strongest memory of fatherhood? Either as a father, in relationship to your father, step-dad, or grandfather, or from watching a father of one of your friends?

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## BELIEVE

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**Have someone in your group read aloud: 1 Corinthians 4:14-16**

Leader Context (not to be read aloud):

*Today we will focus on four inter-related terms: Beloved, Imitate, Admonish, and Father.*

**Ask these questions to prompt group discussion:**

**1. "Guide" is a popular designation in our post-modern culture with its emphasis on the influencer-economy. In his own time, Paul draws a sharp distinction between a "guide" and a "father." Why do you suppose that Paul prefers spiritual fathers over spiritual guides?**

Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):

- *Guides are hirelings. They work set hours for some type of reward.*
- *Guides do not love their clients/students.*
- *Fathers are shepherds and they work around the clock.*
- *Fathers love and care for their children.*

**2. Paul values imitation in his approach to spiritual formation. He first argues for it in chapter 4 and again argues for it at the beginning of chapter 11. Why do you think that imitation acts an important component of spiritual formation? Do you have any personal examples?**

Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):

- *Imitation helps bring ideal and real together in a tangible way.*
- *You can teach the ideal. You can experience the real. You can model the overlap.*

- 3. One specific way Paul wants the Corinthian church to model after him is in the way of admonishment. Paul is clear that admonishment differs from shame. What have you experienced is the difference between the two? And what do you think healthy admonishment looks like?**

Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):

- *The opposite of admonish is “flatter” - To heap lavish praise on someone from a place of self-interest.*
- *Admonishment means “to give appropriate feedback to someone motivated by their well-being.”*
- *Admonishment is something like this: pursuing health in relationships by providing feedback from within a safe and supportive environment.*

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## **BECOME:**

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- 4. Paul grounds his teaching in an important term for his audience - BELOVED. How might imitation, admonishment, and spiritual parenting look different if not motivated by love?**

**Close by praying together.**