

Welcome to

MEN'S FRATERNITY!

Week 5

Remembering Dad

A boy's story – Jeffrey Dahmer

- Young man from Milwaukee
- Convicted in 1992 of murdering and dismembering 17 people, cannibalized them
- Sentenced to 975 years prison, murdered by fellow inmates 2 years later
- Dad, Lionel Dahmer, university professor, tortured with questions about his son, began to examine his own life

A boy's story – Jeffrey Dahmer

- Wrote a book, *A Father's Story*, about Jeffrey's home/youth life
- Dad reports he was too involved with work/graduate studies and he raised a boy "devoid of direction and affection"

“And so I wasn't there to see him as he began to sink into himself. I wasn't there to sense that he might be drifting toward that unimaginable realm of fantasy and isolation that it would take me nearly 30 years to recognize.”

Lionel Dahmer
A Father's Story

When a dad is not there...

- A son sinks, he cannot support himself in his growth and development into manhood
- A son drifts, he can't stay still to he floats from one influence to another, most not healthy

	1960	1970	1980	1990
Children living with biological father	82.5	77.6	67.8	61.7
Children living apart from biological father	17.5	22.4	32.2	38.3

This does not even take into account the dad who...

- Is physically present in the home but.....
- Disconnected
- Distant
- Engaged but visionless



The glory of sons
is their fathers.

Proverbs 17:6

Every dad gets complete, unmerited, sometimes irrational admiration from his son, regardless of the man dad is. Sons naturally emulate their dads. Dads will either build on this advantage, or squander it. Sons are wired to give these credits, and when they are not merited, one day, a son wakes up to discover he has not been **blessed**, but **wounded**. The son will not be able to process this, and confusion results.

A **Manhood wound** is any **unresolved issue** where lack of closure adversely impacts and shapes the **direction** and **dynamics** of a man's life now

ABSENT FATHER WOUND

An on-going emotional, social or spiritual deficit ordinarily met in a healthy relationship with Dad that must now be overcome by other means.

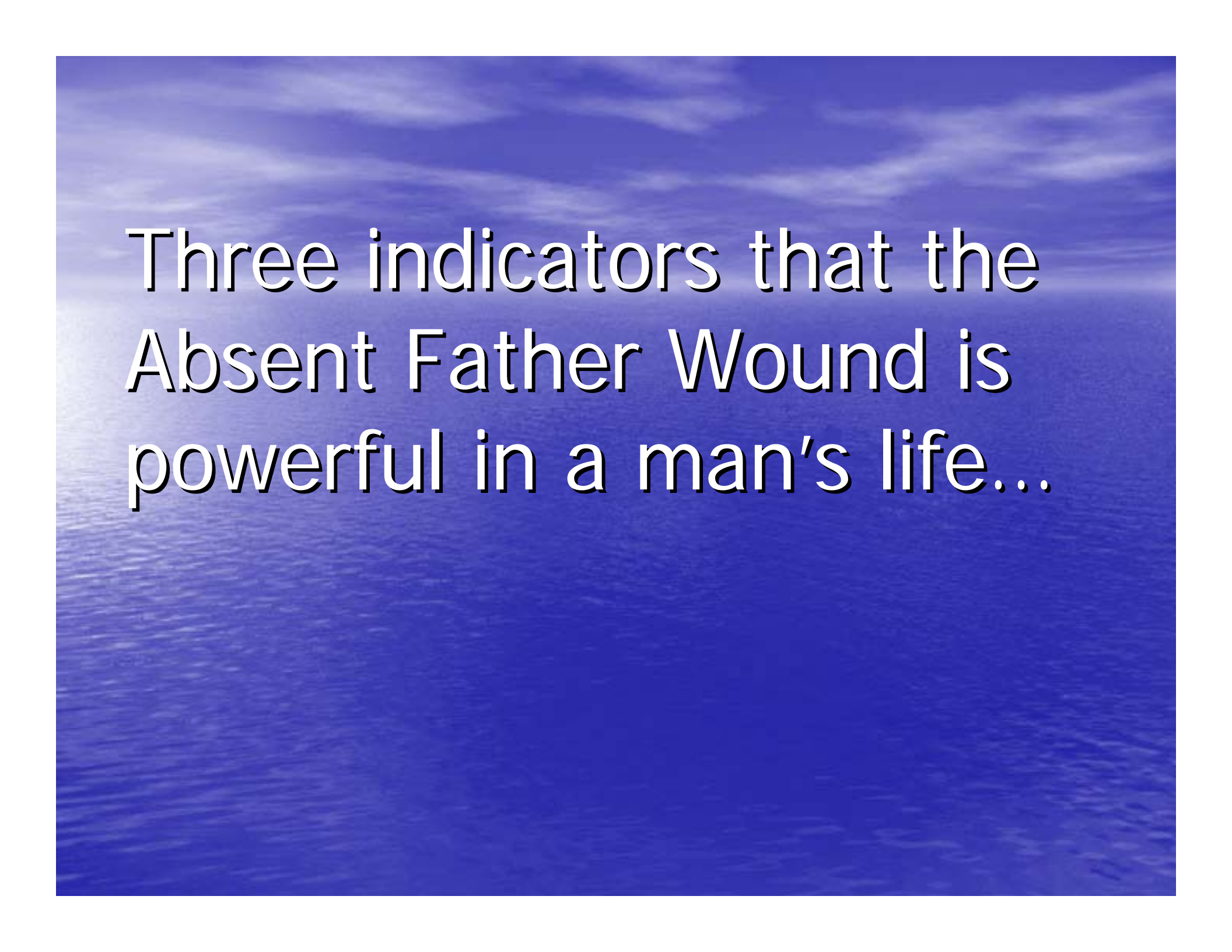
If I asked you to tell me your memories of your dad, what would you say?

- Good memories
- No memories
- Hard feelings
- Most men fall into one of two camps about dad memories...
- Great memories – if so, consider acknowledging it, write a tribute/document

If you are in the other camp about dad memories.....

Some boys might have some questions for their dads...

Remembering dad is a jumping off place to understanding Manhood.




Three indicators that the
Absent Father Wound is
powerful in a man's life...

Absent Father Wound Indicators

- Anger and pain

And fathers, do not provoke
your children to anger,
but bring them up in the
discipline and instruction
of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4



Fathers, do not exasperate
your children, that they
may lose heart.

Colossians 3:21

James Toney, boxer

Interviewed in SI: why was he such a tenacious boxer:

"I fight with anger. My dad, he did my mom wrong. He made my mom work two jobs, and he left his responsibilities behind, and I can never forgive that. I hope my father reads this article, because if he decides to come out of the woodwork, I'll be ready for him. Everything I do in the ring is about that. I look at my opponent and I see my dad, so I have to take him out."

1. Anger and pain

Men with this wound go out into the world angry and in pain, and often don't know why it is or where it comes from, but the pain results in him hurting a lot of people around him.

1. Anger and pain

2. Extreme behavior and addictions
or obsessions

Extreme behavior – express pain

Addictions – suppress pain

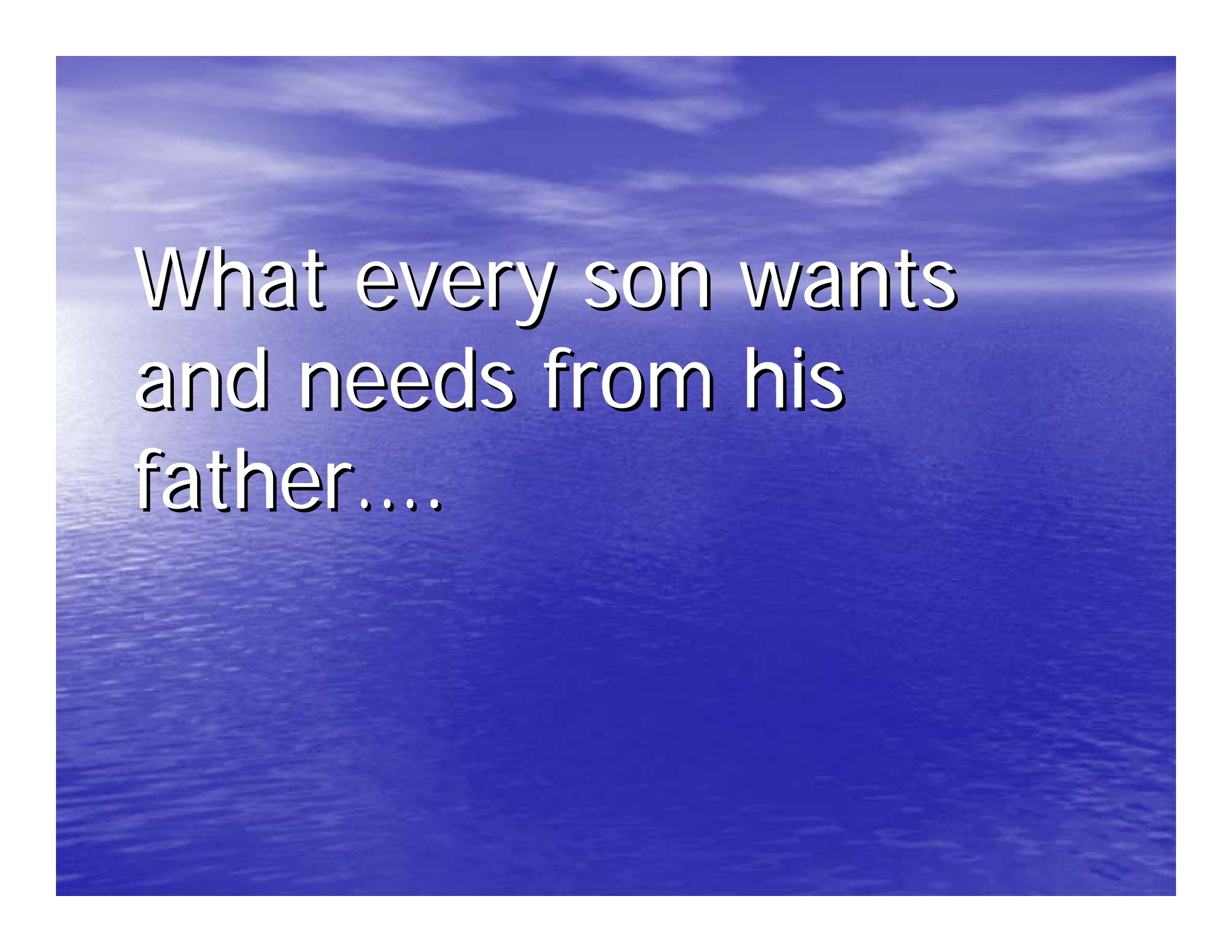
Drugs, alcohol, pornography, sex
numb pains a man doesn't
understand

**2. Extreme behavior and addictions
or obsessions**

**Compulsive, obsessive life choices, to try to win dad's approval/attention.
Often not understood**

3. An inner sense of
lostness or
incompleteness

Burt Reynolds: My dad was the Chief of Police, and when he came into a room, all the light and the air went out of it. There is a saying in the south that no man is a man until his father tells him he is. It means that some day when you are 30 or 40, all grown up, that this man, whom you respect and love, and you want to love, you hope he will put his arms around you, and say "I know, you are a man now, and you don't have to do crazy things you use to do, fist fights and all that you did to defend your honor. You don't have to prove anything to me, you're a man, and I love you." But with my dad and me, we never hugged, or kissed, or cried together, or said "I love you." He paused for a moment, then said, what happened was that I was desperately looking for someone who would say, Burt, you are grown up now, and I approve of you, and I love you, and you don't have to do these things anymore. But that didn't happen, and I was lost inside. For most of my life, I couldn't connect, I was incomplete, and I didn't know then what I need to know now.



What every son wants
and needs from his
father....

1. Time together – not just engaged,
but connecting, just being *A DAD*.

Undivided attention

Creating noble memories

He doesn't want things, he wants *YOU*

2. Life Skills

Failure to attain these skills leaves a young man embarrassed and weakened.

Maintain a check book

Tie a tie

Change out a battery

Shake a hand


Set his alarm

Make and keep appointments

How to kiss a girl goodnight, open a door,
offer a chair

Share his heart without feeling foolish

Recognize your son's "bent" and honor it



Train up a child in the
way he should go;
even when he is old
he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

3. Direction with solid “why” answers

How do you define Manhood?

How do you relate to a woman?

What happens when you die?

Dealing with these questions adds
“weight” to a son’s life, an anchor to
hold on to.

And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

4. Convictions through modeling

You will leave in your son what you have lived out in your home. Not what you say, but what you do, how you react. It builds confidence in a son.

CONVICTION + MODELING = CHARACTER

You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children.

I Thessalonians 2:10-11

5. Dad's heart

Every son must hear from his
dad his father's blessing...


“I love you”

“I am proud of you”

“You are good at.....”

A model for all dads.....

- Multiple times, Jesus (who was a man who had a Father)..... at critical moments in his ministry, the heavens opened up and these words were heard:



**“This is my beloved Son,
in whom I am well-pleased;
listen to Him!”
Matthew 17:5**

Failure to hear the words..

- Leaves every son wondering
- Causes him to question his Manhood
- Requires him to fill the void with something else....

Addressing the Father Wound

- Can be a “white water” experience
- But it is good to go there, not stay there, but go and see it and speak its name

See You Next Week!

Week 5

Remembering Dad

Outline Next Slides

Remembering Dad

When Dad is not there

A son sinks

A son drifts

The Absent Father Wound: An ongoing emotional, social, or spiritual deficit ordinarily met in a healthy relationship with Dad that must now be overcome by other means.

If asked to remember their dads some men recall:

Good memories No memories Hard feelings

Remembering Dad

Three indicators that the Absent Father Wound is powerful in a man's life:

1. Anger and Pain

Men don't usually know where it comes from
Results in hurt for people around him

2. Extreme behavior and addictions or obsessions

Extreme behavior expresses pain
Addictions suppress pain

3. An inner sense of lostness or completeness

Remembering Dad

What every Son needs from his father

1. Time together

Not just engaged, but connected
Undivided attention
Creating noble memories

2. Life skills

Failure to attain these skills leaves a young man
embarrassed and weakened

3. Direction with solid "why" answers

Manhood
Relating to women
What happens when you die
These answers add "weight" to a son

Remembering Dad

What every Son needs from his father

4. Learning convictions through modeling

Convictions + modeling = character

5. Dad's heart

Every man must receive from his father, and give to his son, the

Father's Blessing

“I love you”

“I am proud of you”

“You are good at...”

Remembering Dad

Questions for discussion:

- 1. What kind of memories of your dad do you have?**
- 2. Ever known men struggling with the results of the Father Wound?**
- 3. Shared any noble memories with your dad?**
- 4. Did you fail to receive any Life Skill training? What resulted?**
- 5. Talk about the “Father’s Blessing.” Did you get it? Give it?**