

D W I G H T S A U L



Daddy

WHERE ARE YOU

Daddy, Where are You?

By

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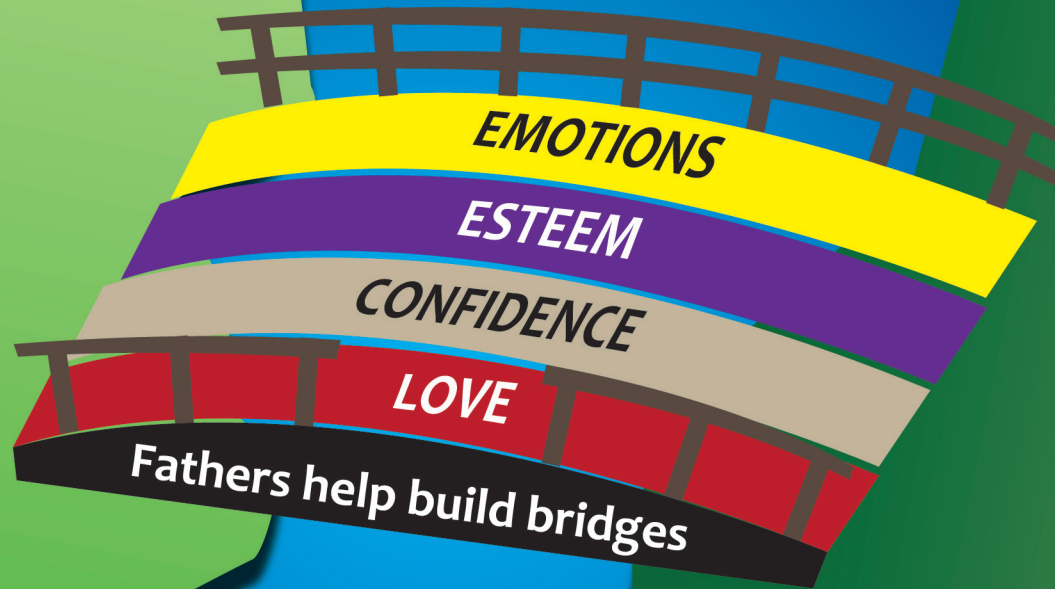
contents

Role of a Father	6 - 7
Ways To Cope	8 - 9
Interviews	10 - 11
Things To Remember	12 - 13
Author's Note	14

ROLE OF THE FATHER

- **NURTURE:** To Train and teach their children (Proverbs 22:6)
- **LEAD:** To be a compass of direction for the family (Genesis 18:19)
- **EXEMPLIFY:** To reflect good principles of manhood and fatherhood (Proverbs 4:1)

Childhood



Waves of life

Adulthood

WAYS TO COPE

For those who have struggled with the absence of their fathers, here is a tip:

The pain of a missing father can be extremely hurtful at times. Regardless of if his absence was a result of neglect, divorce or death, many adults still miss their fathers. Three things that should be done to assist in overcoming the pain are:

- 1) Loving Yourself
 - 2) Focusing on your future and not your past
 - 3) Forgiving your father
- God has proven to be a successful aid in helping individuals free themselves of the pain that they feel.



Believe in
God's Love

Love
Yourself



Refuse to
be guided
by the past



Forgive
your father

INTERVIEWS

Kamilah - (24yrs)

(Her father left when she was 9 months)

According to Kamilah, the presence of a father is needed in the home and it is very important for a father to be there for his children. She does not miss him that much because she never really knew him, but she does believe that her life might have been different if he was an active participant.

Message she sends to him: “Hi, I’m alive! I have a degree and I’m successful and I did it without you. I lived my life without you.”

Gerard - (32yrs)

(Met his father for the first time when he was 19 yrs, sadly his father died soon after)

Gerard believes that it is vital for a man to be there for his children. He said that he missed his father because fathers teach their sons how to be men, and the best way to learn is to see it. Additionally, he also believes that his father’s presence would have aided him in understanding relationships between males and females, and what it means to have a healthy marriage. Finally, Gerard stated that fathers teach sons how to be true and Godly men.

Message he would have sent to him: “I love you, but I never got to tell you”

Romaine - (26yrs)

(Her father was never a part of her life)

Romaine does not miss her father because she posited that one cannot miss what one never had. Even though she believes his absence has affected her she is not sure how it has, and the wound is always made deep since her father lives in her neighbourhood. Romaine believes that a father’s presence in the home is very important, and as a single mother she tries to promote the relationship with her son and his father. However, she states that she will not force her son’s father to tend to his son, as it is all up to him.

Message she sends to him: “Kill yourself! You are a loser!”

Richard - (29yrs)

(His father left when he was about 2yrs, sadly he died a few years ago)

Richard believes that his father’s absence resulted in him not having a fatherly example to build on. While he is not sure about if his father’s presence would have changed his view on relationships, he believes that if he was present, active, and a good man, he would have learnt a lot from him. Thankfully, other males in his family assisted in his development, and his relationship with God has fostered much of his growth.

Message he would have sent to him: “Get over yourself. Let us get over it and call it a day. I understand you made mistakes, let me forgive you and let us get along”

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

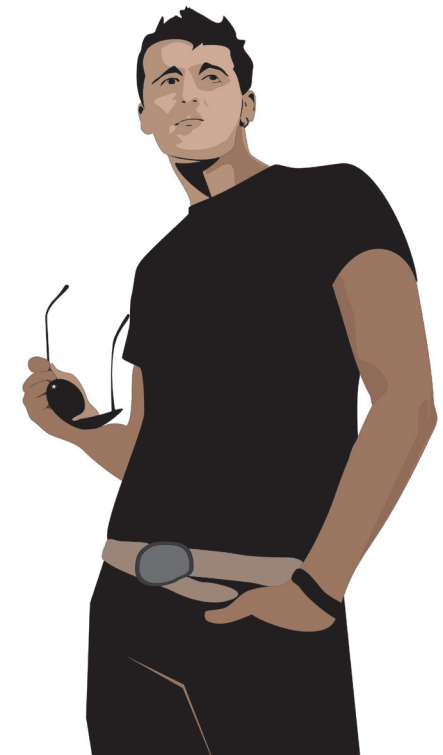
Pointers to Women:

- Your existence is not a mistake
- You are worthy of being loved
- Your childhood does not determine your destiny
- Allow God to help you trust others
- If you are reading this, it means that a gem was created
- Love God (Live for God)
- Live Life
- Leave a Legacy
 - Of a good mother
 - Of a good home
 - Of a good woman



Pointers to Men:

- You can be a better man than your father
- Remember that angry sons produce angry fathers
- You are loved in spite of what happened in childhood
- You do not have to fear relationships
- Be the man that God created you to be
- Love God (Live for God)
- Live Life
- Leave a Legacy
 - Of a great father
 - Of a strong husband
 - Of a good man



AUTHOR'S NOTE

“ My parents were separated when I was thirteen years old. The separation not only severed the relationship between my parents, but affected my relationship with my father. It seemed that everything that I did was never good enough, and for some reason I was treated as the one who gave him the walking papers. My attitude towards life, school and people changed a lot because of the separation and also because of the hostility between my father and I. I had vowed that I would never need him, or would never talk to him, because it was not worth it.

However, this hatred for him affected my demeanour and also my relationships. For I said to myself that if my parents could not sustain a relationship after seventeen years that marriage was a waste of time, commitment was a sham, and the best thing to do is to keep your options open. This train of thought ran through my veins for many years, until I met a man called Jesus. God showed me that I was worthy of loving, and that He

also loved me in spite of what happened with my father.

It must be noted that it did not all change when I accepted Christ, but as years passed, I learnt that I had to release the hatred for my father if I was to be successful in this life. I learnt about forgiveness, and its power and also the power of God's love.

To all those who have suffered because your father was absent, or not active in your life; I want you to know that you can overcome the pain and be a positive man or woman. I have learnt personally that counseling helps, so do not be afraid to talk to someone about it. View your past as your past, forgive those who have hurt you, believe in yourself, and live the life that God created you to live.

May the Blessings and the Peace of God be upon you.

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