

Date: 4.10.2016

# Walking Dusty

Teacher: Dan Crist

For those of you who weren't at the gathering, Dan really brought the house down when he talked about parenting during the last 10-15 minutes. He basically told all of the parents to stop letting their kids wear the pants in the family (just kidding, for those of you who weren't there). What he really did was 1) reinforce the common theme that we've been hearing these past few weeks- that busyness is a heart issue and our solution is to treasure God and seek his direction; 2) encourage us to remember that God's design for family, rooted in the chain of authority God → parents → kids, is healthiest for all involved! As God fills and molds us, we fill and mold our kids (because they see a healthy mom and dad instead of a stressed out mom and dad)!

I don't have kids yet, but it's helpful to get a taste of these things now to help prepare for the future and I can see where they carry over into all areas of life.

For this week's "Walking Dusty," a simple illustration has come to mind that incorporates many of the things we've been talking about these past several weeks. Picture a pyramid. A standard, plain old pyramid with a wide base leading to a point at the top. Now pretend that this pyramid represents Jesus' life and priorities, etc.

I believe that the base of his pyramid, the backbone of his life, was his dependency on his Father. He treasured his father and gave him the top priority. He knew that he needed to hear his Father's voice in order to follow him and fulfill his mission. Just like the top of the pyramid is built on that wide base, everything in Jesus' life was filtered through his father's voice. Because that foundation was there, he was able to properly prioritize everything else. As we talked about on Sunday, he can relate to us and help us in every way, and busyness (even as parents) is no exception (Hebrews 4:15)! He had all kinds of things commanding his attention and had more difficult decisions to make than we do, but he was able to set the right priorities because he knew his Father's voice.

Father, help us to treasure you and prioritize you and listen for your voice. Thank you for sending your Son, who is not only our Savior and the Lord, but our perfect role model and friend. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Help us to trust you and carry each other's burdens. Guard us from setting unbalanced priorities. Fill us up to do your will. In the name of your precious Son, So Be It.

**Challenge: Married men, help your wife get undivided alone time with her Father regularly.**

## Things to Consider

- The base of the pyramid doesn't catch our attention and it doesn't "fancy our eyes," but it holds the pyramid up!
- God's chain of authority is a beautiful thing. We lead by following. Jesus submitted to His Father and Paul said "Follow me as I follow Christ."
- Remember the power of letting your kids "catch you" seeking God.
  - "Dad/Mom, why are you in the closet in the dark?" "Son, it's simple. The same way that you need me, I need my Dad too."
  - "Mommy/Daddy, why did you adopt me when I was younger?" "Sweetie, it's simple. Because when I was younger, I was all alone and God took me in."
  - "Dad/Mom, why don't you ever yell at Mom/Dad when she yells at you?" "Son, it's simple. When I yell at Jesus, he never yells back."
  - "Dad, why do you keep that shotgun in the garage?" "Darlin', it's simple. Just like God obliterated Sodom and Gomorrah, I'm going to obliterate your boyfriend if he breaks your heart." ☺ Just kidding!