



Strategy – *PASS the BATON*

Who – Church, fathers & spiritual-fathers

What – Encourage & equip dads to be faithful fathers

How – Strategy implementation through meeting, speaking and building relationships

Why – Engage fathers & spiritual fathers in raising a godly generation

FAITHFUL FATHERS:

*Prioritize physical presence,
Are engaged emotionally, and
Lead spiritually by example.*

Initiative is to energize a mission for dads through a core group of men in the church armed with a strategy that encourages and equips dads to **be faithful fathers** and reinvigorates the church on the fathering front.

PASS the BATON

- Strategy/framework

Purpose-filled fathering & spiritual fathering

- Start the movement; Core team development – **BATON**

Activities for dads & kids

- Keep influence & impact visible; Easy-to-engage-in activities

Studies for dads

- Encourage & equip through routine studies, forums

Stay connected through the transitions

- Mature in relationships, retreats & adventures

Church Strategy - *To Engage Dads*

Core Group Development – *Encouraging & equipping dads to be **faithful fathers** ... dads that prioritize physical presence, are engaged emotionally and lead spiritually by example:*

- **Begin** – *See the need to encourage & equip dads specifically in the role as a father.*
 - Convey the connection between the Father and fathers
 - Create a buzz around fathering
 - Opportunity & responsibility to reflect the triune nature of God
 - Importance, influence and impact of a dad's physical presence, emotional engagement and spiritual leadership.
 - Identify core group candidates
 - **2-points**

- **Assimilate like minds** – *Get the vision to encourage dads on their journey as a father.*
 - Create core group & initiate regular meetings
 - Eight to ten men, lay leaders with one or two staff that have a cross-section of gifts & demographics that match church/community
 - Establish regularly scheduled meetings – 1 or 1½ hour meeting per month suggested.
 - Build relationships & schedule kickoff event
 - **2-points** (*May take 3 – 6 months*)

- **Transition** – *Initiate the process to engage dads in raising a godly generation*
 - Be contagious as a core group of dads that are accountable to each other
 - Develop unique mission/vision that complements church mission/vision
 - Conduct kick-off event and survey the dads for interests/activity ideas
 - Popular talk – Rick's presentation of 'A Father's Legacy is the Sum of His Choices'
 - **2-points** (*Typically within 6 months to 1 year*)

- **Ongoing management** – *Drive the process to engage dads in raising a godly generation*
 - Review kickoff event and build on the strategy in response to interests conveyed;
 - Schedule & execute next steps – Activities, Studies, Staying connected
 - Example of annual framework
 - Two fun, easy-to-plug-into events or service opportunities for dads & kids per year
 - One or two studies for dads – Sunday school series or stand-alone study for dads
 - One weekend retreat per year – for dads, father & daughter or father & son
 - Reinforce core group, strengthen/rotate add new dads to sustain ongoing management
 - **2-points** (*Typically within 1 to 2 years*)

- **Next step** – *Extend the strategy, broaden network as contagious Christians in community.*
 - Network of "point dads" & tangential groups of dads within the Body
 - Point dads take responsibility to represent the core group by connecting with other dads that have kids in a specific age range or demographic
 - Develop a network of 'spiritual fathers' for young men without dads in their lives
 - Coordinate events that nurture cross-generational relationships among dads
 - Community outreach
 - Core group engages with broader group of dads for opportunities in the community
 - **2-points** (*18 months to 5-years*)

Move from where you are **to a rating of 10** within five years. *Faithful Fathering* is typically engaged the first 18 months and available as needed beyond that.