Pastor Dave Patterson
Under Cover

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group’s goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

**Psalm 91**

*Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection.*

**Romans 13:1-2**

*Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted ….authorities are God’s servants, sent for your good.*
“Our experiences with the false and the fallen do not negate God’s truth and plan for the authentic”

Hebrews 13:17 (AMP)
Obey your spiritual leaders and submit to them [recognizing their authority over the you], for they are keeping watch over your souls and continually guarding your spiritual welfare as those who will give an account of their stewardship of you.

Ephesians 5:21
Submit to (come under the authority of) one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 6:1-3 (AMP)
Children, obey your parents in the Lord [that is, accept their guidance and discipline as His representatives], for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Ephesians 5:22-25
Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head (spiritual covering) of the wife as Christ is the head (spiritual covering) of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

Psalm 68:5-6
His name is the Lord—
  rejoice in his presence!
A Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—
  this is God, whose dwelling is holy.
God places the lonely (solitary) in families;
  and sets the prisoners free
Fatherless Household Statistics:

• 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes – 5 times the average. (US Dept. Of Health/Census)

• 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes – 32 times the average.

• 85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes – 20 times the average. (Center for Disease Control)

• 80% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes – 14 times the average. (Justice & Behavior, Vol 14, p. 403-26)

• 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes – 9 times the average. (National Principals Association Report)

-Single mothers respond to three questions-

1. What is one of your greatest fears or concerns in raising your children alone?
   • “not being a good enough role model, that I would fail in this, I wish I had a partner to help raise her and be the role model with me”
   • “that I wouldn’t know how to raise my son to be a man, especially a man of God”
   • “that a continuous financial battle would be our lot in life”

2. What role has the church community played in your journey?
   • “I have always been surrounded by great people who have given me prayer support and counsel. People to listen and help us through the valleys”
   • “This community has provided young men who have mentored and loved and became the Godly influence that my son needed and still needs”
   • “There has been financial help through friends and community, especially through the small groups I have been a part of. This goes both ways a am now able to invest in other single moms and families that are going through a tough time”
   • “I ask the question ‘how is God a father to the fatherless?’ and then I saw that happen through dads in the church who have made a place for my sons and included them in their lives”
3. What advice would you give to single moms?
• “always remind yourself you’re not alone, so never try to do it alone! Humble yourself, ask for help and stay connected to friends and family “
• “allow God to fill the void and don’t be isolated… Let people reach out and love you… position yourself to be loved and strengthened by the body of Christ”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define "Spiritual Covering"? How would you define "Spiritual Submission"?
2. What are the challenges we face when it comes to submission to spiritual covering?
3. How can we submit to a position of authority when the person holding that position is not someone we might choose to submit to? What are the benefits of submitting to God given authority?
4. Can you name some of the God given authorities in your life?
5. How can the church be more effective in being a father to the fatherless?
6. Pray over the moms in your group, pray for protection, provision and that the fruit of Gods promises would come into a season of harvest.