

FATHER daughter SUMMIT

✧ A Turning of Hearts ✧

The Plan

To help fathers and daughters strengthen, or in many cases initiate or rediscover, the uniquely beneficial relationship needed to produce strong Christian women, the National Center for Fathering has conceived a one-day event called the *Father-Daughter Summit*. The event will be open to father-daughter pairs including stepfathers, uncles and father figures.

The primary goal of the *Father-Daughter Summit* is to engage fathers and daughters in a deeply spiritual heart-to-heart relationship characterized by openness, acceptance and affirmation. Specific outcomes expected for each of the participants, who attend as a father-daughter pair, include the following:

- Participants will gain an understanding and appreciation for the common needs of fathers and daughters and the unique personal issues relevant to their own father-daughter relationship.
- Each father-daughter pair will open a dialogue that provides a foundation for ongoing communication of issues, concerns, affirmations and celebrations.
- Each father-daughter pair will establish goals for the continuing development of their relationship and make commitments to specific short-term and long-term action steps.

To achieve the outcomes of the *Summit* experience, attendees will participate in a highly interactive seven-session program, interspersed with worship and assigned activities. Each session is planned to guide fathers and daughters through a series of exercises and learning experiences that teach basic principles about the relationships between dads and daughters while also helping each participant to explore deeply personal issues that must be addressed in order to successfully reach the relational *summit*.

"The most beneficial insight I received today was how important I am to my daughter, surprisingly I didn't think I mattered much."

Dad -- age 34

"My eyes have opened up to a whole new world that I have been missing all this time. Thank you."

Dad - age 40



“We have become closer and I feel with my whole heart the intimacy is going to be furthered as time goes on.”

Daughter – age 24

The seven sessions of the *Father-Daughter Summit* are planned as follows:

Session 1 - The Value of a Dad & the Value of a Daughter

All participants join in this introductory session where the importance of the father-daughter relationship is established, outlining the value of dads and the value of daughters. The diversity in father-daughter relationships will be acknowledged and worship will be introduced as a unifying theme.

Session 2 - Personal Profiling

In this session, fathers and daughters are separated into two groups. After focusing the dads on their personal family history and reviewing its impact on their view of women and children, the men are asked to profile their daughters' character, attributes and qualities. At the same time, the girls are led through exercises to develop a profile of their relationship with their father and identify areas/issues they would like to discuss with their dad.

Session 3 - The Daddy-Daughter Dialogue

In this combined group setting, father-daughter pairs are asked to establish a dialogue using the profiles completed in the prior session. The dialogue occurs over a shared meal, a daddy-daughter picnic. It is during this time that the foundation of sharing through honest dialogue is established. The dialogue is reinforced in a later exercise as practice for ongoing sharing and relationship building.

Session 4 - The Heart of the Father-Daughter Bond

In this session, the entire group will be assembled and the speaking team will affirm the sharing that has occurred in the previous session. All participants will be encouraged to begin shaping a plan for mutual growth and support. This effort is supported by a presentation of the expressions and emotions of the unique bond between fathers and daughters.

Session 5 - Probing the Inner Places

The purpose of this session is to draw forth the issues that create barriers to a fulfilling relationship and highlight the power and desire of the heavenly Father to “reconcile all things to Him.” A call for a personal commitment to Christ and rededication will be made. Each father-daughter pair will write a note that expresses their relationship to God and hopes for each other.

Session 6 - Commitment to New Goals

The entire group will be reassembled for another Daddy-Daughter Dialogue. This dialogue will focus on solidifying their relationship using spiritual resources. Each father-daughter pair will read Scripture together and conclude by reading the note they have written in the prior session.

Session 7 - Public Declaration and Celebration

Our concluding session gives fathers and daughters the opportunity to celebrate the commitments to their relationship that have been made over the course of the Father-Daughter Summit. A special time of affirmation and blessing concludes the event and leaves the lasting seal of hope that what every dad and daughter wishes for in their relationship is within their reach.