

Kick it Off

To kick off this session, give each student a piece of paper and pen and have students think of someone they admire greatly—their role model. Ask students to share why they chose this person as their role model.

Today, we will meet Marcus and Joey through the eyes of Pastor Smith. Marcus and Joey's story is not one we haven't heard, but one we continue to hear every day. These two young men were raised without someone who could have been their first male role model—their father. Read and see how not having a father impacted the lives of these two young men.

Key Verse

“Think how much the Father has loved us. He loves us so much that he lets us be called his children, as we truly are.” 1 John 3:1a, CEV

Keep it Real

Small Group Study Pass out the magazine or article to the entire group along with the study sheets. Divide the students into small groups and have students read the article and answer the questions as a group. Let each group know that they have 10 minutes to complete the task. After the ten minutes are up, have one group member from each group share out.

or

Whole Group Study Pass out the magazine or article to the entire group along with the study sheets. Have students volunteer to read a specific portion or paragraph aloud to the rest of the group. **Suggestion:** Assign three students to be the Readers--one student to read the opening and closing paragraphs and the other two students to read Marcus and Joey's story. When the article is completed, give the entire group ten minutes to record their answers to the study sheet questions. Have volunteers share their answers with the group.

Keep the Faith

As an extension to the opening role model activity, instruct the student to write about the following: 1) A special time they spent with their role model, 2) a meaningful gift they received, 3) two words that describe the best qualities of that person. Assure students that they don't have to share their responses. After a few minutes, ask the students if they have ever been disappointed or hurt by this person and if so, tear the paper in half. If the person ever spoke to them harshly, instruct students to tear the paper in half again.

Ask some students how it felt when they tore the paper? Let students know that many people in our lives may mean well, but sometimes hurt us for good and bad reasons. In the case of Marcus and Joey, the Pastor stood in as a substitute role model/father figure. Let students realize that God has different ways of mending broken relationships. He can heal any situation if we would only trust him.

***K*ee*p* it Movin'**

Remind yourself that you always have a “*father*” in God.

Realize that you have been adopted into a royal family.

Ask God to help you, your friends, and your family members deal with any pain or scars caused by fathers missing in the home.

***Close in Prayer** - Pray for young people who are hurt because a father may be missing in the home. Pray for those fathers who are in the homes and outside of the homes doing the right thing.*