

SATURDAY & SUNDAY Discipleship Guide

Message Title: *"That Voice"*

Series: *"Family Matters"* | Week of June 18-24, 2017

Main Thought:

We so need to hear the voices of fathers whose hearts have been turned first to Father God, then to their families. History shows us that a country or civilization's health and longevity depends on the health of its families. The father is the head of the family. So goes the father, so goes the family. So goes the family, so goes the country. In the passages below, God's chosen people had experienced restored prosperity but forgot Him and drifted into selfishness and sin.

It therefore comes to light that beyond biological fathers; we also need those who function as "fathers" to those who've had no relationship with their fathers or who have lost their fathers. This is where the family of God can rise to the occasion providing that heartfelt voice of love and guidance.

Main Passages:

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings.'... ⁵Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction." (Malachi 4:1-2, 5-6 ESV)

"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." (Isaiah 1:17)

Reflection:

- What especially stands out to you from the main thought and the Bible passages above?

Application:

- Share about a time when you were able to apply today's discussion to a real life situation. What happened, what did you learn, and how has it shaped you?
- What is one take away from today's discussion that you can improve on the most?

Group Prayer:

- Pray for fathers to take their place, turn their hearts to God, and let their voice be heard. Pray for the heart of our Heavenly Father to be expressed through the family of God to those who have no father.
- Pray for God to touch a specific friend or loved one to respond to your invitation to group or church. Pray that they would come to know Christ personally.
- Pray for any serious needs a group member may have.