

Short Review

Review the main points of the morning message.

Focus on: How do parents forsake their children, and how does the Lord take them up?

Some Questions for Discussion:

1. Begin by asking
 - a. Did you write down any ideas or topics you want to talk about, questions you have?
 - b. Is there something which the Lord applied to your life this morning which you'd be willing to share?
2. What does a child who is "forsaken" by his or her parents feel? How does it affect that child's life?
3. Read (parts of) the account in I Samuel 16:1-11.
 - a. How might David have felt being the only one left out of the line-up?
 - b. Were there favorites in your family as you grew up? (How did that affect things?)
4. Read about David's response to the rape of his daughter in II Samuel 13:21-22. (The whole story in this chapter might bear repeating.) What was wrong with his response? What affect, do you suppose, this had on Tamar? [We know it led to rebellion from Absalom, Tamar's brother, as subsequent chapters point out.]
5. Is what is happening in our nation, in terms of abuse of children, worse than before? What do you think:
 - a. Is child abuse of various kinds worse? Why?
 - b. Is sexual abuse in the church (various kinds of church – Roman Catholic, Southern Baptist ++) something new, or is it worse now? Why? What should we do?
 - c. Have changes in our culture affected this? In what way? [Or is this part of human nature and has always been with us?]
6. Talk about the challenges and possibilities for healing presented by the following for men and women who have been abused: [How does Scripture guide you in your evaluation?]
 - a. Revisit the past, face the evil, feel the pain and loss
 - b. Forgive the abuser
 - c. Ignore what has happened – focus on pleasant memories
7. How would you advise a brother and sister in this situation to "wait on the Lord" (27:14) in practical ways?
8. There might be some here who, for various reasons, feel 'forsaken' by their mother or father. How can we pray for them – or for you?
9. How can we pray for one another in response to the word today?

