

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH



THE HEART OF THE FATHER

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The Hearts Of The Fathers

Interesting Times We Are Living In



- **In California, shoplifting becoming more legal**
- **Transgender and homosexual issues on rise**
 - **Last year, a family asked for help**
- **During COVID, divorce rate and broken relationships have skyrocketed**
 - **Sri Lanka's missing fathers**

Interesting Times We Are Living In



- **So much brokenness**
- **Even within the church in America**
 - **Over 80% of children who grew up in the church fall away after they go to college**
- **Why?**
 - **Example of family who woke up late**

Why?

- The Bible tells us that these things will take place in last days

- 2 Timothy 3:1-4

¹ But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,

⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God



Is There No Hope Then?



- **God has a solution**

- **Malachi 4:5-6 (NASB)**

⁵ “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the fathers back to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and strike the land with complete destruction.”

The Key Is The Turning Of Hearts



- **Hearts will turn to the things they treasure (ex. money, pleasure, self)**
 - **Matthew 6:21 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**
- **What do people treasure in Malaysia?**
- **What do men (i.e. fathers) treasure?**
- **What do people do with the things they treasure?**

Most Important Thing In Life

- Treasures are things we deem important to us
- Don't usually think about most important thing in life until...
 - Psalm 90:12 - Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
- What do people think about when they realize they don't have much time left?
 - After dad died
 - Don't understand funerals



Most Important Thing is Love



- **Most important thing is love & relationships (Great commandment)**
- **Four principles in Bible about how to raise amazing children for the Lord**
- **Principle #1 (Most important) is “Tying Heart Strings With Children”**
 - Remember cup or can phones
 - Same as turning our hearts towards children and vice versa
 - Heart strings connected through LOVE

Problem: Definition of Love

- **Most have wrong or incomplete definition of love**
 - Some fathers define love as 'providing' only
 - My aunts & uncles
- **A more complete definition can be described in 3 words, each has subcomponents**
 - Love
 - Care (including provide/sacrifice)
 - Relationship (ie. Friendship)



Set 1: Love

- 1. Love them the way they feel or receive love**
 - Been learning to apply Ephesians 5:25
- 2. Have good boundaries**
- 3. Can't force or demand**



Set 2: Care (Provide/Sacrifice)



1. Care for their physical needs
2. Care for their emotional/spiritual needs
 - Even when they are angry with us, or
 - When we're angry with them
3. Apply 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
 - Love is patient, kind,....



Set 3: Relationship (Friendship)



1. Enjoy time with them

- Played lots of board or card games

2. Enjoy talking & listening

- Decided that if they need something I'd be there

3. Enjoy their interests



Conclusion

- **The world is more broken**
- **Families are more broken**
- **But God plan is to use the ‘fathers’ to rescue, to save, to restore, to strengthen, to win back**
- **To do some amazing things in days ahead**
- **It begins with the turning of hearts**
- **Fathers! Are you ready?**

