**CS2 Prayer Meeting**

**February 12, 2019**

**Honor Thy Father - By Anthony Papili**

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**Leader:** Let us pray. Thank you, Father, for all that you’ve been so kind to give each of us here in this room. Thank You, as always, for giving us the opportunity to get together once again as a group. On this particular night, we want to thank you for our father’s both here on earth and those up in heaven. It’s important for us to take the time to say “I Love You” and “Thank You” to those that provided us with that paternal upbringing. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in unity with the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.

(Observe a period of silence, allowing our minds to become clear and our hearts to become open)

**Opening Prayer**

**Leader**: With the cold blast of winter really taking hold, please watch over each of us. Provide us the warmth not only from winter’s bitter hold, but also the warmth shown to us by our father’s as they taught us right from wrong, as they taught us how to be gentlemen and let us know what it means to be responsible parents. Dad’s often are relegated to the low man on the totem pole, as that person that works well with mom. Tonight, let us bring dad to the forefront and honor him even though Father’s Day is still month’s away. As you Oh Lord are Father to us all, please shine your light down on us as we gather in your name, We ask you this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Topic Introduction**

**Our Reflective Song**

Leader of the Band – by John Fogelberg

An only child alone and wild, a cabinet maker's son
His hands were meant for different work
And his heart was known to none
He left his home and went his lone and solitary way
And he gave to me a gift I know I never can repay

A quiet man of music denied a simpler fate
He tried to be a soldier once, but his music wouldn't wait
He earned his love through discipline, a thundering velvet hand
His gentle means of sculpting souls took me years to understand

The leader of the band is tired and his eyes are growing old
But his blood runs through my instrument and his song is in my soul
My life has been a poor attempt to imitate the man
I'm just a living legacy to the leader of the band

My brother's lives were different for they heard another call
One went to Chicago and the other to St Paul
And I'm in Colorado when I'm not in some hotel
Living out this life I've chose and come to know so well

I thank you for the music and your stories of the road
I thank you for the freedom when it came my time to go
I thank you for the kindness and the times when you got tough
And papa, I don't think I said I love you near enough

The leader of the band is tired and his eyes are growing old
But his blood runs through my instrument and his song is in my soul
My life has been a poor attempt to imitate the man
I'm just a living legacy to the leader of the band
I am a living legacy to the leader of the band

**READINGS/PASSAGES ABOUT BEING A FATHER**

Bible Verses About A Father's Role

*A father's role in the family is a pivotal one. He is called upon to be a leader and protector for the family, and to give an example of Christ's love by being loving towards the children's mother. He is also to be strong in the faith, and to bring the children up knowing right from wrong.*

**Ephesians 5:25-37** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body.“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

## Fathers Give Direction And Discipline To Their Children

*A father is implored to bring their children up in the ways of the Lord, to discipline them and to encourage, comfort and instruct them,*

**Ephesians 6:4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

**Hebrews 12:7** Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

**Proverbs 22:6** Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

**1 Thessalonians 2:11-12** For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

## Being A Father Like God The Father

*God our father in heaven is the perfect example of what a father should be. Strong, courageous, compassionate and even-tempered. We would do well to follow His example in all that we do.*

**1 Corinthians 13**  And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**Luke 15:20-24**  So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

## Children, Listen To Your Father

*As a child it can be hard at times to listen to, and honor your father. But if your father is following a Godly example it's important to heed what he has to say. God has made him your father for a reason, and you will be blessed for honoring him.*

**Exodus 20:12** Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

**Proverbs 23:22** Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

**Luke 18:20** You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, **honor your father and mother**.’

**REFLECTION**

**Shared Reflection:** *Share with the group a reflection on the above, or any question below.*

1. Is your relationship with your father a good one? If your father is still alive, how often do you talk to your father and how often have you said “Thank You” or “I Love You”.
2. Do you think about what your kids think about you as a father?
3. How have things changed between your relationship with your father and your relationship with your kids?
4. What if anything was different between your father’s approach to God and religion and the one you are taking with your kids.
5. As a Father, what is the one thing you hope your kids learn from you? What things do you hope they don’t learn from you?
6. Is there anything you want to say about your relationship with your father (things that are great, things you wish were better).

**CONVERSATIONAL PRAYER**

**Offer up your petitions to the group/**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**Leader:** Thank you Lord for allowing us to come together again and to pray together. Help us to be more aware of the sacrifices our earthly father has made for us. Make us to be more aware of the sacrifices our heavenly Father has done for us. And finally, give us the strength and guidance to be a good father to our own kids, We ask you this through Christ our Lord,

**All: Amen**

**All:** Our Father ……

All: Amen.

 **A Letter from Heaven**

When tomorrow starts without me, and I’m not here to see,

If the sun should rise and find your eyes, filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn’t cry, the way you did today,

While thinking of the many things we didn’t get to say.

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you,

And each time you think of me, I know you’ll miss me too.

When tomorrow starts without me, don’t think we’re far apart,

for every time you think of me, I’m right there in your heart.