

Hot Topics

Growing Up without a Dad

Leader Guide

Theme: In your loss and pain of not having a dad in the home, nothing can heal you except God the Father. He will heal you and show you how to live a full life with a love for your earthly dad no matter what has happened.

Note to Leader: *This could be a very sensitive subject for many of the girls in your group. Growing up without a dad can make girls feel insecure, seek out unhealthy dating relationships, and have a difficult time accepting God as a father figure. Focus on the importance of their relationship with Jesus, the Son, their Brother and Friend, if they can't trust God the Father right now.*

Today, over ten million families in the United States don't have dads living in the home. So, if you're growing up without your dad living with you, you're definitely not alone. Growing up with just one parent can be hard, but God has a plan for helping you get through the tough times.

Have a girl read Psalm 68:5–6.

- What are some characteristics of good fathers?
- What does it mean to have God as your Father? How can God father you if He's in heaven?
- What does "God sets the lonely in families" mean? How can God provide families for people who are lonely?
- Who has God provided to be your family?

Have a girl read Luke 15:11–24.

- What do you think about the father in this story? How do you think his son felt?
- What can we learn about God the Father from this story? Have you ever felt like the son?
- Have you ever experienced God the Father this way?

Have a girl read Hebrews 2:10–13.

- What does it mean to be part of God's family?
- Why is Jesus not ashamed to call us His brothers? What does it mean to have Jesus as your brother?



Growing Up without a Dad

Prayer: Father, thank You for being the ultimate dad in my life. Your word and Your ways provide and protect me. May I be full of you and not focus on the losses in my life. You complete me.

For more information, see:

A Dad-Shaped Hole in My Heart by H. Norman Wright, Bethany House, 2005.

Stupid Parents: Why They Just Don't Understand and How You Can Help by Hayley DiMarco, Baker, 2006.

Not-So-Stupid Parents: Why Your Kids Think You're Weird and How to Prove Otherwise by Hayley DiMarco, Baker, 2007.

Five Conversations You Must Have with Your Daughter by Vicki Courtney, B&H Publishing, 2008.

For more topical Bible studies for teen girls, visit www.myhealthychurch.com/teengirls

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For Student

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