

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a wide river valley. In the foreground, a small blue inflatable raft with three people is on the water. The riverbanks are covered with green and yellow vegetation. In the background, a large, rugged mountain rises steeply, its slopes covered in sparse vegetation and rocky outcrops. The sky is clear and blue.

MENDING LINES

A SIX WEEK JOURNEY TO ENGAGE RESTORATION
IN YOUR FAMILY LINE

A PERSONAL JOURNEY

WWW.FAMILYLINES.ORG

THE PROCESS

OVERVIEW

A 6 week journey through the **MENDING LINES SERIES ONE** video stories (located at familylines.org or RightNow Media) to discover and act upon one vital question:

What is an area of unfinished healing in my family line that God is inviting towards restoration?

WEEKLY RHYTHM

Each week of the journey consists of one larger foundational session (one video chapter) on the first day followed by a weekly assignment on that topic for the six remaining days.

The once-a-week foundational session consists of the following:

1. **READ** the opening thought and accompanying scriptures. 5 minutes.
2. **WATCH & OBSERVE** the Mending Lines Series One videos. 7-14 minutes.
3. **PROCESS** by engaging the questions. 20-25 minutes.
4. **PRAY** over the relationship you are targeting. 5 minutes.

BEFORE YOU START

IDENTIFY THE TARGET RELATIONSHIP you want to focus on during this 6 week journey. There will be questions in the guide that refer to your “target relationship.”

Whether it’s your father, son or daughter, write down their name here:

YOUR NAME:

TARGET RELATIONSHIP’S NAME:

DATE STARTED:

DATE COMPLETED:

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

SILENCE IS OKAY.

It's the sound of processing, and this journey requires it.

SIMMER DOWN.

Let the story sit. Don't rush on to the next question or the next chapter. Story takes time to process – commit to spending time with it. Give each chapter a week to simmer.

NO PRESSURE TO GET TO THE POINT. (FREEDOM TO PROCESS)

You are free to be inefficient here. It's okay to not be sure why you write what you do. Feel free to explore, even if it's awkward. Often times the real fruit lies just on the other side.

BE HERE FOR YOU.

It's vital that this journey get personal for *you*. If you're here hoping for change in someone else, do them a favor and focus on you. Your life in-process speaks loudly.

DON'T SETTLE FOR A YES/NO ANSWER.

You will barely scrape the surface if you stop at "yes" or "no."
Consider the next layer and push into it.

LEVERAGE THE SPRINGBOARD OF OTHER'S STORY.

You are not alone on this journey. May the stories shared on the video and in Scripture reveal new layers of opportunity in your story.

SHOW UP.

See the journey through from beginning to end.
6 weeks that can impact the trajectory of your family line.

TAKE IT HOME, EVENTUALLY.

If it only stays in written form, this journey's impact will fade. Don't rush it, but when it's time, take the action step God reveals. One step leads to the next.

INTRODUCTION

THE PUT-IN

Adventurer,

Welcome to the Grande Ronde River...almost. Over the next few weeks we invite you away to an intentional space to look deeper into something priceless but easily neglected in the perpetual pace of life: your relationship with your children (or father). Entering this space won't necessarily be easy, or even always fun, but can be extremely worthwhile.

The Mending Lines series will arguably be unlike any personal journey you've ever experienced. Instead of an author/speaker laying out a clear, outlined path forward, we offer you the stories of six men. Three dads. Three sons. Raw. Unscripted. Broken. Messy. Six episodes where we encounter fathers and sons looking back into their past to write a new chapter for their story ahead.

We challenge you to engage with the story. Step into the minds and shoes of the guys you're watching on the screen. You may or may not feel it fits with your story, but whatever your initial impression, keep persevering. If you stay engaged through this six-episode journey, we firmly believe their story will dramatically impact your own.

The stories don't necessarily resolve: you only get a bit of context from each one. This is intentional. We want their story to serve as a precursor for yours.

You don't need to study, read or be familiar with any previous content to be involved in this series. There is one choice you will need to make as you experience Mending Lines, and that is at what level you choose to engage. We call it "challenge by choice," and that decision lies solely in your hands. Like a fitness workout you will get out what you put in. Are you ready to do some heavy lifting?

May the picture of restoration in your family line inspire you throughout this journey. There is more to be written in your story, both now and in your lineage ahead. Our prayer is that the Mending Lines stories you engage with will invite a new level of healing and hope.

May God bless your journey today and for generations to come.



MENDING

In fishing, “mending” is moving your line before or during the drift to achieve a specific presentation of your fly to the fish. Learning why, when and how to mend greatly increases your success as a fisherman.

UNFINISHED

READ

Hunting for the elusive Steelhead, an ocean-going rainbow trout, on the Grande Ronde river is just that, a hunt. Often called “the fish of a thousand casts”, there are many a fisherman who have spent years targeting these beauties only to come up empty. To hook into one you have to maintain focus and keep your line in the water (and maybe get a little bit lucky) again & again & again... However, at this repetitive juncture it’s not uncommon to encounter a potential pitfall.

As you cast into the current and watch your fly float downstream you might be tempted to fixate downriver and miss the bigger picture. For upstream lies the secret to releasing the perfect drift. Your timing and line alignment there, mending the line, directly impacts your effectiveness in the target area downstream. You can’t overestimate the value of a good mend. Be faithful to look back, and you will positively affect change in your future.

EXODUS 3:9-10 (MSG)

“The Israelite cry for help has come to me, and I’ve seen for myself how cruelly they’re being treated by the Egyptians. It’s time for you to go back: I’m sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Can you imagine what Moses must have felt, standing on Mt. Horeb next to a burning bush, as God tells him he’s sending him back? Back to Egypt. Back to pain. Back to a situation beyond his control.

I picture it being a long terrifying what-the-heck moment for Moses with questions spinning internally: Back? Why not forward? Eventually he vocalizes a fair question: “Why me?” (MSG), “Who am I?” (NIV) Essentially he’s stating the elephant in the room - I am incapable of this thing you are asking me to do. God responds in kind: *“I will be with you.” (Exodus 3:12, MSG)*

Thus begins one of the greatest stories of deliverance in history. A courageous man full of doubt turns back to encounter his past. Are you ready to look back to move forward?

WATCH & OBSERVE

Play Chapter ONE (video length 9:13)

Directions: While you watch, write down below words & phrases that resonate with you.

UNFINISHED

PROCESS

Question 1: From the list of words & phrases you wrote down, choose the top 3 that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

“Vulnerability has always been something that I’ve struggled with, as far as just opening up and the complete transparency...so I’m a little bit nervous about that, but at the same time I’m very much looking forward to being nervous and confronting all that, and getting over it.”

- Micah Evans (son) on the Grande Ronde River

Question 2: What roadblocks currently limit your vulnerability with your target relationship? or Why is it so hard to be vulnerable with your target relationship?

Question 3: What three words would you use to describe your current relationship?

PRAY

God, as I look back on my past relationships with complete vulnerability and affirmations of trust in You so that I can move forward in my relationship with _____, please empower me by Your Holy Spirit to recognize whatever roadblocks of fear and pride that are keeping me from opening my heart to Your life-giving Presence.

Please help me to be still and know You are God and the Only One who can bring wholeness to the areas of “unfinished healing” in my heart. Thank You that You are God, and You will tell me great and hidden things that I could never figure out on my own.

WEEK I

UNFINISHED

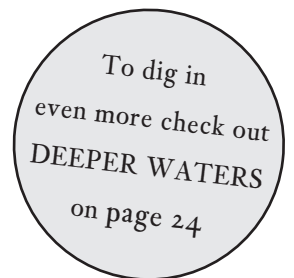
WEEK ONE ASSIGNMENT

Directions: This week commit to spending 10-15 minutes daily walking through the steps below.
Take the time to look back (mend your line), so you can eventually move forward.
This is where the heavy-lifting is at. Lean into it.

Step ONE: At the end of Mending Lines chapter 1, the father's descriptive words of his relationship with his son is "unfinished healing." What are some possible areas of unfinished healing in your relationship with your target relationship?

INDICATIONS OF UNFINISHED HEALING: regular irritability or anger, stuck on emotional rewind, behavioral overreaction, numbness, why-bother attitude

Step TWO: Purpose to pray over those areas of "unfinished healing" and ask this question: "God, what would you have me do in this unfinished area?"



James 1:4-5 (NIV)

"Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

DISQUALIFIED

READ

Ideally when you're fishing for Steelhead, you're looking for a consistent stretch of walking pace water. Once there cast your line, give it a quick mend and lock into the drift. If only it were that simple. While river flows may be steady and consistent in one run, just around the bend they can morph into a cacophony of swirling currents. Even when a flow looks consistent to the naked eye, it more likely is filled with a variety of currents, each with a different speed and angle.

When your fly lands on or in that water, your line will be affected by the pull of those differing currents. So as soon as the fly hits the water, get that initial mend in. Then be ready because more than likely you're going to need to mend again, and again, and probably again. Proactively "tending" your line as it drifts downstream will keep your fly in the correct current and on course to the target.

2 KINGS 5:13-14 (MSG)

"(Namaan's) servants caught up with him and said, 'Father, if the prophet had asked you to do something hard and heroic, wouldn't you have done it? So why not this simple 'wash and be clean'? So he did it. He went down and immersed himself in the Jordan seven times.'"

There's no denying the power of a name. Some open doors. Others slam them shut. It's completely unfair, but that doesn't make them any less impactful. In the bible we encounter Namaan, a decorated army commander who also carried the title of LEPER. Imagine his response when the disease verdict was dropped on him. It would have been a death sentence. All hope lost. It is what it is.

The story however doesn't end there. Suddenly, from the land of Samaria, a potential outside-the-box cure is suggested. Namaan promptly makes the journey with his entourage and receives the secret remedy: seven dunks in the Jordan River. His response and I paraphrase, "#\$@%*!" Eventually the anger subsides and Namaan makes it to the Jordan river. I can envision the servants urging him along, "Keep dunking sir, uh, that was only two. Dunk again sir, and again, and again..."

How about it, ready for round 2? You're closing in on the target. Time for another mend.

WATCH & OBSERVE

Play Chapter TWO (video length 11:56)

Directions: While you watch, write down below words & phrases that resonate with you.

DISQUALIFIED

PROCESS

Question 1: From the list of words & phrases you wrote down, choose the top 3 that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

Question 2: In the opening scene we experience a father and son enjoying the memories of the day. What’s one of your favorite memories with your father when you both just laughed?

“You are disqualified”

- Mark Evans (a father)

“If folks really knew and could see in and read this inner screen of my heart – see what was going on inside of me – they’d run away. There’s this idea in me at some level that says, I really am a joke, I really am a poser, I really am a pretender.”

- Participant on the Grande Ronde River

Question 3: What “names” have you or others attached to yourself that you need to release?

Question 4: What “names” have you placed on your target relationship that you need to release them from?

PRAY

God, You know how I have allowed the different “currents” of life to pull me into such dark places, especially in my relationship with You, myself, and _____. All I can see and hear sometimes are the lies of the enemy: “I’m a failure!” “It’s too late to say I’m sorry!” “I’ll never be able to change!” “There’s no way God or _____ will be able to forgive me!” “I can never forgive myself!”

Please help me to mend my heart and mind again and again with Your life-giving Truth that tells me who I really am – Your child, saved by Your grace, fearfully and wonderfully made by Your design in whom You have great delight.

DISQUALIFIED

WEEK TWO ASSIGNMENT

directions: This week commit to spending 10-15 minutes daily walking through the steps below.
Take the time required to fight into the absence.
Keep Mending.

At the end of chapter two, the father is sitting on a secluded hill with his son and asks him an important question: *"I think it's good to check in and see where we're at with... have you forgiven your dad?"*

Step ONE: Is there something you need to ask forgiveness for from your target relationship?

Step TWO: If you had the optimal environment (like the remote hill the dad/son talk on) to have a deeper conversation with your target relationship, what would you hope to talk about or ask them?

Step THREE: Purpose to continue praying over the areas of "unfinished healing" and asking this question: "God, what would you have me do in these unfinished areas?"

To dig in
even more check out
DEEPER WATERS
on page 24

Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

READ

I fondly remember a Family Lines expedition on the Grande Ronde River a few years back when we were anchored up in the middle of a primetime Steelhead run. In the front of the raft sat the 20 yr old son and the 45 yr old dad was in back. Both men were repeatedly casting and drifting, but only dad, to the chagrin of the son, was hooking them. After dad's third hook-up the son threw up his arms and said "How are you doing this?" From my guide observation seat in the middle of the raft the answer was pretty apparent.

Just because your fly is drifting downstream connected to your line doesn't mean you are "fishing." Knowing where the fish is located, then tending to and adjusting the depth of your fly accordingly, along with mending the line to achieve the ideal "dead drift" can make all the difference between a fish seeing what you have to offer...or not. Some scenarios won't require a lot of adjustment, while others may demand constant adjustment.

GENESIS 33:1-4 (MSG)

"Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with his four hundred men. He divided the children between Leah and Rachel and the two maidservants. He put the maidservants out in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. He led the way and, as he approached his brother, bowed seven times, honoring his brother. But Esau ran up and embraced him, held him tight and kissed him. And they both wept."

Life requires timely adjustments - especially if you've pulled a "Jacob" by ripping off your older brother's birthright inheritance and have any hope of reconciliation (or simply surviving).

Somehow against all odds in the story of Genesis 33 we find the paths of two fragmented brothers, Esau and Jacob, converging. Both brothers know who wronged who. Jacob would have seemingly been better off never putting himself and his immediate family in such a risky situation. In fact, if you read the fuller story Jacob strongly expects Esau to exact revenge. Despite the risk Jacob believes the reward is worth it. So he stops running away and follows through with the reunion. The adjustment kicks off a generational shock wave that will carry through King David all the way to Jesus.

So how about it? You ready to start really fishing? An adjustment might be in order.

WATCH & OBSERVE

Play Chapter THREE (video length 6:53)

Directions: While you watch, write down below words & phrases that resonate with you.

A P A R T

PROCESS

Question 1: From the list of words & phrases you wrote down, choose the top 3 that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

Question 2: Who are the three individuals that have most influenced you (for good or bad)? Or, if you are a father, who are the three that most influenced the way you parent? Why?

“I walked off thinking – I can’t believe... I want to believe and I don’t want to believe that there’s a real God, but how can I end up here with my son? We’re walking separate paths, but they’re coming like this (puts his hands together)”

- Ernie’s (father) thoughts after walking away from the campfire

Question 3: Looking back on your target relationship, write down some of the possible reasons you’ve grown apart?

Question 4: Steve (son) spoke about how his story is changing. He specifically mentions growing up thinking his dad had wanted him aborted, only to discover decades later this wasn’t true. Where have you possibly filled in the gaps of your story (with target relationship and personally) with false conclusions, similar to Steve?

PRAY

God, please help me to surrender my life to the “streams of living water” flowing from Your Holy Spirit and allow Him to make the necessary adjustments in me and through me, so that I, along with _____, can truly see what You want to offer through our relationship with You and each other.

WEEK 3
A P A R T

WEEK THREE ASSIGNMENT

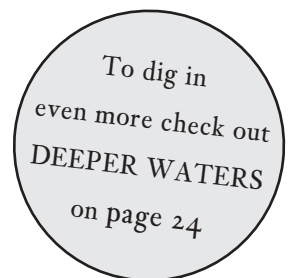
directions: This week commit to spending 10-15 minutes daily walking through the steps below. Remember, the goal is to fish the target water. So let's make adjustments, and start really fishing. Less than four weeks to go.

Step ONE: What adjustments in *your own life* is God inviting you to tackle?

Step TWO: What adjustments in *your relationship with God* is He inviting you to pursue?

Step THREE: What adjustments in *your target relationship* is God inviting you to launch?

Purpose to pray over these opportunities of "adjustment" throughout the week.



Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

READ

“How far should I let it drift?” The question snapped my focus off the rat’s nest of tangled line I was deciphering for the guy in the back of the raft and to the front fisherman’s line downstream. My eyes followed his snaking undulation of line (piling up on itself) until finally through a squint I spotted his neon green bobber a long ways downstream, sitting in an eddy.

A successful drift can be sabotaged once you’ve reached the point where you’ve let too much line drift downstream unattended. Any attempt to reposition your fly at this point feels minimal at best. In this case, the worst thing you can do is continue to let your line drift as-is. It’s best to bring it back in and reset.

LUKE 15:16-18a (NIV)

“He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father...’”

Some times are more obvious than others when you just need to stop and push the reset button. Why we are all so pigheaded to keep slogging forward in our cycles of futility is beyond me, but we all seem to be pretty good at it. Fail. Rinse. Repeat. Year after year. Generation after generation.

In the story of the prodigal son, it takes a pig-pod moment to reignite his senses. Literally, it’s as if the light that was turned off is turned on. He dares to consider hope. In the cruel paradox of life, defeat becomes the gateway for reawakening. It doesn’t feel like a gift, but maybe it is?

There’s a phrase “Cut Bait” - to give up on something in order to pursue something else. Or maybe just reel in your line, take a break to remember what you’ve been learning and then cast the line back into the target water. Now lock into the drift, and let’s fish.

WATCH & OBSERVE

Play Chapter FOUR (video length 8:41)

Directions: While you watch, write down below words & phrases that resonate with you.

WEEK 4

EARN IT

PROCESS

Question 1: From the list of words & phrases you wrote down, choose the top 3 that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

Question 2: What is your reaction to Ernie answering the question, “*Do you want to be forgiven?*” with the response “*I don’t think so*”?

Question 3: Ernie talks about how he can’t forgive himself because he earned it. How does this belief cripple his ability to move forward?

“I was only a man, but I wanted to be a Father.”

- Ernie

“Your best chapter is yet to be written.”

- spoken to Ernie during the campfire

Question 4: Is there something in your story, past or present, with which you need to “cut bait”? Complete the following:

I need to release...

I need to pursue...

PRAY

God, please melt the “ice of arrogance” that has formed around my heart and is preventing me from hearing and accepting Your forgiveness for my sins. You and I both know all my personal failures and every step I’ve taken on my course of destruction as I’ve tried to figure out what it means to be a father/son/daughter. I’m really struggling to let go of the condemnation I believe I’ve earned.

Please help me to humbly give all my guilt and shame to You and let you make me the father/son/daughter You want me to be.

WEEK 4

EARN IT

WEEK FOUR ASSIGNMENT

Directions: This week commit 10-15 minutes a day to weigh the massive gap between EARN IT and RECIEVE IT. We are incapable of dropping shame & regret on our own. Instead our Heavenly Father invites us to release the burden of doing and simply recieve his grace.

Step ONE: Take one verse per day to dwell on (*Write it down on a note card & carry it with you.*)

day one: *II Corinthians 5:17*
day two: *Ephesians 2:4-10*
day three: *Isaiah 43:1-7*
day four: *I Peter 2:9*
day five: *Ephesians 5:8*
day six: *Romans 8:18-19*
day seven: *I John 4:16-19*

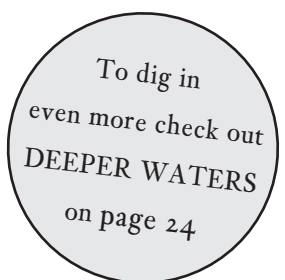
"The end of the chapter's not written. Things keep changing. I keep changing. I would have never imagined this moment in my whole freaking life...Never."
- Ernie (father)

Step TWO: Purpose to have a conversation with your target relationship. Ideally start with an activity you both enjoy, and then find an ideal environment to ask these questions:

Dads: If you could have a "do-over" in fathering your child, what would it be? Why?

Children: If you could have a "do-over" in the treatment of your father, what would it be & why?

Is there anything you need to ask forgiveness for?



II Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

READ

Learning how to mend your line is the most important thing a steelhead fisherman can do to improve their chances of catching a fish. By now, I hope that message is locked in. **Mending is a big deal!** When done well, it's nothing less than a masterpiece to behold, forged by thousands upon thousands of repetitions.

A half-hearted mend will not move enough line. Too much authority can pull the fly up and out of the water. But when done by a master it's a site to behold - precise timing blends with balanced pressure to manipulate the line in perfect unison along the water column. All the while the fly effortlessly drifts downstream undisturbed toward the target.

LUKE 19:2-5 (NIV)

"A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.'"

Some people cast a wide wake. A stigma surrounds them that most everyone in society is well aware of. You either stay out of their way or if you can't avoid them, tread lightly. Either way, it's a tenuous relationship at best. Break the rules by getting too close and sparks fly. Awkward. Explosive. Distasteful.

In Luke 19, two polar opposites collide. A reviled pint-size tax collector stalks out the Messiah Jesus from the branches of a sycamore-fig tree. Jesus is walking through a crowd of people - meaning there were plenty of "more tasteful" candidates he could have engaged. So when He stops and speaks to a "scumbag" tax collector, the pundits and followers alike are shocked. This isn't going to end well.

Yet Jesus with a craftsman's approach of precise timing and balanced pressure smashes thru the social stigma and speak's to Zaccheus's heart - "I'm coming to your house today". It changed everything.

Why did this work? Because Jesus cares more for people than serving his own needs and is willing to do whatever it takes.

WATCH & OBSERVE

Play Chapter FIVE (video length 11:12)

directions: While you watch, write down below words & phrases that resonate with you.

PROCESS

Question 1: From the list of words & phrases you wrote down, choose the top 3 that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

Question 2: Why is Anthony afraid of going “all in”, in his relationship with his stepdad? Can you relate?

“This is his world, this isn’t mine.”

- Anthony

Question 3: Anthony expresses that he has entered into Mark’s (stepdad) world by going on the Grande Ronde trip. It’s been an uncomfortable experience for him. What would it look like or take for you to enter your target relationship’s world? Why is it important?

Question 4: Where have you been going thru the motions with your target relationship?

PRAY

God, You know how I’ve allowed all the distractions of my own life – the fears, the challenges, the failures, the losses, and the hurts – to get me tangled up in my own “stuff” and cause me to become complacent and disconnected from the “stream” of _____’s world. Help me to develop a heart filled with Your kind of love that causes me to intentionally and skillfully “mend” my relationship with him/her in ways that effectively counteract the “drag causing currents” of the world.

Please help me to do my part in reaching the “target” where both of our hearts can individually experience Your deep love and we can develop a deep love for one other.

WEEK FIVE ASSIGNMENT

Directions: This week commit to spending 10-15 minutes daily reflecting & journaling thru the steps below. Are you willing to do what it takes? Lean into the discomfort. Less than two weeks to go.

Step ONE: Read and Reflect Daily on I Corinthians 13. Each day after you read, ask God this question: Lord, how can I love _____ better?

I Corinthians 13:1-8 (NIV)

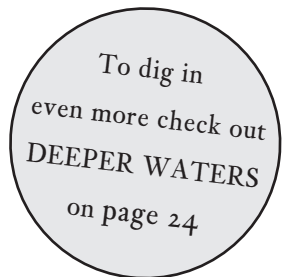
If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails.

Step TWO: Purpose to have a fun conversation this week with your target relationship about their **FAVORITE THINGS** (favorite dessert, favorite season, favorite color, favorite song, favorite movie, favorite meal, favorite book, favorite word,...).

Feel free to make it relevant to your target relationship and come up with your own “favorite” questions. Most importantly: **WRITE THEM DOWN** and archive them somewhere you’ll remember. This will be a valuable tool for you for a long time.



Matthew 7:11 (NIV)

“If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

CLOSING DISTANCE

READ

There's an important mentality to maintain when you're steelheading - "It's always a fish." With the amount of time the fisherman will spend rigging, casting, mending, and drifting, it would be a tragedy if the magical moment when a 20 lb steelhead hammers your fly, you're not ready. Sure, there's a number of other possibilities for that indicator "bump", with caught-on-a-rock being at the top of the list. But if you want to actually catch a steelhead, you've gotta be ridiculously optimistic and set the hook.

Be patient and repeat after me: **It's always a fish.** Don't lose hope or get distracted. Learn from every mistake. Put yourself in position. Anticipate with every drift that you will have a "take" from a fish. And when the moment comes, dude, set the hook. This is the moment you've been working and waiting for.

2 Chronicles 20:16-17 (NIV)

"Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you."

Everybody wants to do the right thing, but few actually position themselves to do so. When the going gets rough it gets even tougher. Of course, the storm is when you need a strong foundation the most.

In 2 Chronicles 20 we find the Israelites, led by King Jehoshaphat, in a difficult position. A vast army compiled of three different nations marches against them. The Israelites call out to God in desperation who responds - "Go out to face them." Of course there's a twist - God tells them to march toward the opposition WITH NO WEAPONS. The people have a choice to make.

"Early in the morning" you see their decision. They start marching...and singing. I guess if you're gonna fight a war unconventionally, might as well go all the way. Fast forward to the battlefield - they arrive to a desert of dead bodies. "No one had escaped." (2 Chron. 20:24b). What just happened?

What occurred was a community wholeheartedly leaning into a singular belief - **Always trust in God. Always.** It propelled them to march toward a battle they knew they couldn't win alone. **Always trust in God. Always.** What's it inviting you toward?

WATCH & OBSERVE

Play Chapter SIX (video length 14:21)

Directions: While you watch, write down below words & phrases that resonate with you.

CLOSING DISTANCE

PROCESS

Question 1: From the list of words & phrases you wrote down, choose the top 3 that stand out to you and answer “Why do these stand out to me?” or “How do these connect to my story?”

Question 2: Anthony mentions throughout the final chapter of taking his stepdad, Mark, for granted. What have you taken for granted in your relationship with father/son/daughter?

Question 3: Amidst the history of tension in their relationship, Mark (stepdad) pursues Anthony with a patient persistence. How would you describe your current pursuit of your target relationship’s heart?

“If I was to go back. I really would have opened myself up to having more of a relationship starting earlier. We both missed out on something. Moving forward, we can build from this trip, and build something new.”

- Anthony

Question 4: Complete the following sentences in regard to your target relationship:

If I was to go back. I really would...

Moving forward, we can...

PRAY

God, in the coming days, please help me not to allow the “things” that are behind me to keep me from taking hold of the new “things” You have prepared ahead of me in my relationship with _____. Help me to take what I’ve learned and be willing to get out of my comfort zone and see every opportunity to zone in on my relationship with _____.

I know I can’t win this battle alone, but I believe there is more to the story that I want to write – something new, something vulnerable, and intentional. I ask that You help me write it so that I don’t miss a moment to connect with the heart of _____.

WEEK 6

CLOSING DISTANCE

WEEK SIX ASSIGNMENT

"Sometimes to get to the next place, you have to step way outside your comfort zone, which this certainly was for me. So yeah, I think it's important to do things that are uncomfortable from time to time, and it will get you to places where you didn't think you'd be able to get to."

- Anthony

This is it, the final week of this Mending Lines journey. The takeout is just around the corner, **but it's not here yet**. Through this past 6 week journey you've explored a myriad of stories - Stories from six guys on the Grande Ronde River, from Scripture, and from your past...**WHAT NOW?**

Some smaller questions that may help you answer this big question:

- What is the area of unfinished healing with my target relationship I need to focus on? (Week 1)
- What do I need to ask them or tell them (in person or by letter)? (Week 2)
- Where do I need to ask forgiveness from them? (Week 3)
- What do I need to hear from my Heavenly Father about them? (Week 4)
- Where do I need to go further out of my comfort zone for them? (Week 5)
- What is the one action step God is inviting me to take now with them? (Week 6)

To dig in
even more check out
DEEPER WATERS
on page 24

II Corinthians 8:11 (NIV)

"Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it, may be matched by your completion of it."

CONCLUSION

THE TAKE - OUT

You made it! The takeout for this journey has arrived. We are pulling out the boats and de-rigging all the gear. Although this story is coming to a close, the next chapter of your story is waiting for its cue to begin.

First, well done in persevering to the end. There is incredible significance in simply completing what you started. These past six weeks have no doubt prompted more than just a subtle shifting in your family line. We hope you have recognized areas for growth and further conversation with your target relationship as well as with God.

Now we encourage you to lean into the next chapter of your story: don't leave the thoughts only written in your journal or on these pages. It is critical that it makes the transtion inside the walls of your family line, to your child or father.

We champion you, through the restorative power of Jesus, to go for it. Not that we have already obtained all of this, but we press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of us (Phil 3:12, NIV)...for generations to come.

Ok. It's Go Time. You've looked back. Now it's time to move forward. Purpose to take the one step God's invited you to take into the unfinished healing with your target relationship. The next step will be revealed after that.

NEXT STEP

THE ACTION PLAN

What I need to do:

When I will do it:

How I'd like to share it:

Where it will take place:

Who will provide accountability for me to follow through:

MENDING LINES

DEEPER WATERS

Questions for taking your journey to a deeper level.

WEEK 1

How can a father's loneliness impact their children?

WEEK 2

How does the false message of being disqualified affect your role as a father? What scares you about the knowledge that God knows all this about you and loves you still?

WEEK 3

Ernie talked about losing his son. When have you felt a similar feeling with one of your children? Take a second look at your current story: in the midst of obvious challenges, are there hopeful aspects that have potentially been minimized?

WEEK 4

Ernie spoke about intending "to be there for them all the time, forever, and I didn't". How can your past intentions stand in the way of you and your target relationship writing a new story for your family line today? Is there an ongoing posture of forgiveness and repentance? How is an ongoing posture of repentance different than shame?

WEEK 5

Anthony discusses his biological dad's lack of involvement in his life. Where did you experience lack of involvement with your dad? How would your children answer this question about you?

WEEK 6

Anthony speaks about how important it was for him to hear his step-dad share stories about his days in the military. In parenting, with all the information a parent needs to teach their children, we can run the risk of overloading them with information and neglect to share our actual stories. Is your parenting full of information or stories? What is the one thing you would like to know more about your dad's story?

FIGHT ABSENCE. CHOOSE PRESENCE. ENGAGE RESTORATION.



For more information on other Family Lines video curriculum
along with father/child trips and workshops, contact us at

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