

### ***Time-Tested Principles for a Successful Father-Daughter or Father-Son Time***

***Make it safe.*** The child has to know that he or she can share anything and you will not criticize or be angry.

***Learn to ask questions.*** You cannot build into your son or daughter unless you know what's going on inside that child. I normally started with such simple questions as, "Tell me about you!" or "How's it going at \_\_\_\_\_?" (school, sports, certain classes, certain relationships, or whatever is going on in their life you should know about).

***Make it mostly about them.*** Your actions speak louder than words. If you do most of the talking, it's a bust. But whenever you spend one-on-one time with your children and keep the focus on them, it communicates tremendous value to them. It communicates love in a way they desperately long for.

***Shut up and listen.*** "For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks!" (Matthew 12:34b). It is when your child is talking that you can discover what he or she is excited about, facing, struggling with, or hurting from. (This leads to the next point.)

***Pray with them.*** After every father-daughter time, about a block from home I would grab my daughter's little hand and I prayed over what we had talked about. The prayer was short and just about them. They never turn down prayer when they are the focus. Plus you get to model Philippians 4:6-7, talking to God about everything we face in life.

***Speak a "building block of truth" into their lives.*** We will discuss this in-depth next week.