

MY WOUND

*And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.” – Malachi 4:6
ESV*

DAVID’S STORY

In this session, we will talk about how a man receives a wound – not just any wound like a black eye, a broken ankle, or a cut requiring stitches – but an inner wound to the soul. I am talking about a wound inflicted by a father or a father figure. This sort of wound is deep, long lasting, and has greater implications than nearly any other wound.

For me, the wound did not come from my biological father. My dad is amazing. His love for me and unparalleled support of me my entire life has empowered me to soar as his son. My “father wound” came from a spiritual father, or at least someone who had the title but lacked the heart. He is the same man you read about in the “My Offense” reading assignment. That situation not only led me to a crisis of offense requiring a breakthrough in forgiveness, it left me with a deep wound that needed to be closed and healed. An offense and a wound can be interconnected.



I’M NOT ALONE

I can think of many examples of fathers who are physically or emotionally absent for one reason or another. Their words and actions speak a clear message: “I don’t give a rip about you.”

I know of a football player whose father never came to any of his games. One day his father unexpectedly showed up. Inspired, the young football player exerted the greatest effort of his life. He played in such a remarkable manner that he awed his coaches and fellow players. Following their victory, he made a beeline straight for his father. To his shock and horror, his dad remarked, “Well, son, you could have done better,” and proceeded to point out all his mistakes during the game. The son later reported that at that moment something died in his heart.

HEALING THE WOUND

In this session, I will talk about wounds in general and the father wound in particular. We won’t just describe the problem, we will take steps to close the wound and find healing



from it in partnership with God.