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LEADER'S GUIDE:

Sugar Daddy by Jermaine Archer
I saw myself as a provider, not a dealer.

DISCUSSION FOCUS:

Defining your values as a parent.

ACTIVITY GOAL:

Participants will identify the behaviors and attitudes they want to model for their children.

STORY SUMMARY

Jermaine grew up angry at his father, an abusive alcoholic, and felt determined to escape from a life of poverty. He saw drug dealing as a way out.

As a father, Jermaine felt proud of his ability to provide for his children, but he also got caught up in the power and money of dealing drugs. After he went to prison on a long sentence, Jermaine missed his children and realized that his values had been misplaced. In trying to become a better father than his own, he'd jeopardized his relationship with his kids.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

GROUP INTRODUCTION: 10 minutes

Today we're going to talk about the values we want to model for our children. All of us want our children to grow up with strong morals and good behavior. But we all face conflicts at times in modeling those behaviors, especially during times of economic or family stress. Thinking through our own attitudes toward money, work, religion, violence, "tough love," family and community can help us make day-to-day decisions that are consistent with the behaviors and attitudes we hope to see in our children.

- How do you feel about this topic?
- Do you have experiences related to this topic that you'd like to share before we get started?

READ AND DISCUSS STORY: 15 + 30 minutes

Read the story out loud as a group. Help participants recognize the writer's emotions and coping mechanisms and their own. Go back over important moments in the story and ask the participants about how they've handled similar experiences:

STORY MOMENT	DISCUSSION QUESTION
Jermaine vowed never to be like his father, an abusive alcoholic.	What about the way you were raised do you <i>not</i> want to repeat with your children?
Later Jermaine wished he'd raised his children more like his mother: with love and happiness, not material things.	What about the way you were raised <i>do</i> you want to pass on to your children?
Jermaine loved to see his children happy.	What are some times that you and your children feel happiest together?
Jermaine failed to see that his life as a dealer could jeopardize his relationship with his children.	What conflicts do you face between your values and the pressures you face in daily life?
Jermaine feels that he was not a positive role model to his children.	How do you see yourself as a positive role model for your children?

JOURNAL TIME: 15-30 minutes

By writing in their journals, participants can more deeply reflect on their own experiences. Hand out the "Journal Reflections" worksheet and give participants time to write. They can share their responses with the group or in pairs, or after the workshop with a peer, family member, therapist or other important person in their lives.

NAME:

DATE:

JOURNAL REFLECTIONS: Sugar Daddy by Jermaine Archer


Like Jermaine, many of us want to do things differently from our own parents but find that it is difficult to become the parents we want to be. Jermaine told himself that he was setting a positive example for his children by working hard and providing for them. However, after he was incarcerated, he realized that he was modeling negative values as well.

Take some time to reflect on your values, the conflicts you face, and the steps you could take to model the values you care about.

1. What values do you want to model for your children?

2. What concerns do you have about the values your children are learning from you or their community, family, schools, etc.?

3. How do you see your children growing up with positive attitudes and behaviors?

OVER 

4. What attitudes or behaviors in your children or yourself are you concerned about?

ACTION STEPS

Many times we face conflicts between how we want to live and the choices available to us. Think about one moral conflict you're facing and how you could take steps toward sending a consistent message to your children about your values.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

A SUPPORTIVE CONNECTION

I plan to get support and encouragement by talking about my reflections and action steps with:
