



**ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD MASEN** had never met his father, who abandoned him for a life of crime that ultimately led to prison. The wound of abandonment that Masen carried was not visible on the outside, but it gnawed at him on the inside-producing anger and resentment and convincing him that he was not worthy of a father's love.

Masen was enrolled in *Fathers in the Field* through a local church. Masen's grandmother noticed the *Fathers in the Field* enrollment ad in the newspaper and she called indicating that he needs help and we should call his mother to get Masen enrolled.

Masen and his Mentor Father started planning for their end of year turkey hunt. Masen was introduced to the concept of forgiving his father in month 6 of the 10-month Journey Curriculum. He emphatically and angrily wrote in big, hate-filled letters, that he will NEVER FORGIVE his father.

Over the next couple of months while sharing time together and exploring God's creation, Masen asked his Mentor Father and his Sunday school teacher many questions about this concept; such as, would you forgive your father if he abandoned you? Did Jesus really die for me on the 'cross'? How could God let His Son die on the Cross? Do I really need to be forgiven? Am I a sinner? Many wonderful conversations happened and unfolded in natural and normal settings, like driving to Sunday school and eating lunch under a tree while looking for elk in the Wind River mountains.

One Sunday morning, when his Mentor Father picked him up to take him to Sunday school, Masen boldly and confidently told his Mentor Father that last night he prayed to his Heavenly Father to forgive him and that he accepted His Son, Jesus as his Savior...And, by the way... I forgave my earthly father too. And, I want to be Baptized! To say the least, his Mentor Father was blown away and filled with awesome joy.

They hugged and had such a wonderful drive to Church that day. One month later, Masen was Baptized in witness of his church family, his mother, grandmother, his grandfather, his great grandfather and great grandmother and yes, his Mentor Father.

## WHAT A CELEBRATION! PRAISE THE LORD.

However...God's special redemptive plan is not over... Within two weeks of his telling his Mentor Father of being saved in Christ...

Masen received the unthinkable. He received a letter from his father in prison wanting to see him. (God's plan is perfect... that letter would have been torn apart before God softened Masen's heart.)

Masen asked his Mentor Father... what would you do?... and the Mentor Father asked what do you think you should do? Masen thought for a little while and responded... I should go see him and tell him that I forgive him. And, tell him, that I have been forgiven too. Plus, I should tell him about Jesus. Maybe we can spend forever in Heaven together.

What a powerful testimony of God's mercy and love for His children. Masen's wound can finally heal, no longer festering. He has broken the bonds of anger and hatred—and through God's grace, prayerfully the cycle of destruction. He is now whole in Christ.

## THE FATHERLESS ARE THE CLOSEST TO GOD'S HEART...!!!!!!

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