

Single Mother Interview — Guide



One person is to handle the interview and the speaking. One person is to be the ‘note taker’ and record appropriate answers on the First Interview with Mom form. Others in attendance should prayerfully support the interviewer and mom. If they feel something was missed, they will have the opportunity at the end to provide that info. The interviewer should be aware that he/she will more than likely have an opportunity to speak encouragement/affirmation into the life of the mom and should take advantage of those opportunities as they arrive.

Ask the mom to fill out the portion only through “Other Children in the Home” on the First Interview with Mom form. The note taker will record the remaining information needed on the form.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introduce yourself and those present

Ask her how she heard about *Fathers in the Field*

Ask for a brief summary of her family situation

Continue the First Interview with Mom questions – always ask second- and third-layer questions.

Explain FitF in detail – covering the points below and give single mom a FitF brochure

- FitF was founded in 2005 by John Smithbaker because of John’s own wounds caused by being abandoned by his own father at a young age. He knew of the great need to share God’s love with hurting boys dealing with the same abandonment wounds he dealt with for so long. FitF is a national ministry that only works through local churches. The focus is to heal the abandonment wound in boys and introduce them to their Heavenly Father, who will never leave them.

FitF is a three-year intentional mentoring ministry focusing on a one-year commitment at a time.

- Year 1 focus – Trust - Can I trust you and this Jesus you love? The boys will experience a man who keeps his word and shows up when he says he will.
- Year 2 focus – Relationship
- Year 3 focus – Forgiveness – To get to the place where the person who has hurt me no longer holds power over me.

The boys are known as “field buddies” and the men are known as “mentor fathers”. These Mentor Fathers go through vigorous training and background screening. They have community references and must be approved by Pastoral Staff.

The ministry is built around four contacts per month between the boy and MF, culminating with a “Year End Trip”.

- Two times/month, the MF will pick up and bring the boy to church. This begins to break down the wall of dealing with men who previously have not kept their word.
- Once per month they will work together on a service project – serving someone in the community with a need.
- Once per month they will go over their Journey Guide devotional together and then do a fun activity geared towards learning the skills of the Mentor Father’s passion and preparing for the year end multi day trip such as fly fishing, hunting, etc. The MFs will never do an overnight with their field buddy without other people being present.
- **Interviewer gives the mom copies of the commitment pages for her to review and go over in detail the commitments for her, son, and MF.**
- **Let mom know there is no cost to her for this ministry**

The ministry here at “ church name ” is comprised of Mentor Fathers and Church Champions.

The Church Champions oversee the details of the ministry and make it possible for the Mentor Fathers to focus on their relationship with the boys. Their duties include these Single Mom interviews, scheduling service projects, helping with the Signing Ceremonies, helping with the application process for new mentor fathers, etc. The Lead Church Champion of this church is _____.

The Mentor Father’s role:

- The Mentor Father’s role is to be exactly that – a mentor. They are not to be seen as ‘replacement fathers’ and not a disciplinarian for mom.
- Mentor Fathers are never to be a mediator between the mom and her son.
- They are to come alongside these boys and model Biblical manhood to them what a Christian man is like. For those Mentor Fathers who are married, the boys will experience how a Christian man treats his wife.
- They will learn from the MF things that only a man can teach and they will have a male role model to speak into their lives.
- The MF will never come into your home as a protection to your reputation. We don’t want neighbors seeing a man come in and out of your home.
- The Journey Guide is a key component to this ministry, for as they work through this, the boy will understand he has a Father in heaven who will never leave or forsake him. Although the goal would be for your son to work through the JG on his own, if your son needs assistance in completing this, you are more than welcome to work with him. You will need to commit to help your son as stated in the Single Mom Commitment. (Please have a copy for the moms to read through at the interview so she knows the commitments for her, her son, and MF. The moms don’t need to take the copies with them, but need to clearly understand the commitments).
- The single mom and MF will communicate primarily via group text and will include another person in the text messages – an assigned CC and the MF’s wife, if married.

- Communicate to the single mom that the relationship is not a triangle... so she can share anything she wants with the MF, but the MF will not communicate anything from her son with her unless her son shares with MF that he plans to hurt himself or others. The FB can communicate whatever he wants with the MF or his mom.
- Any personal needs a single mom has, she must go to the CC, not the MF.
- We ask that you please never use this ministry as discipline, such as withhold your boy from attending as punishment.
- The Mentor Father's role is to minister to the FB and the Church Champions' and church's role is to minister to the single mom and family. So, any needs a single mom might have need to be directed to the CC's.
- **Add this final question**, if not covered earlier. As mentioned earlier, the MF will teach your son an activity that he is passionate about – fly fishing, skiing, hunting, etc. The monthly 'fun' activities will be built around teaching your son skills to be able to enjoy this passion and prepare for The Year End Trip. Are there any activities that you would not allow your son to participate in? (because the MF will not be asking mom if it's okay to do something with your son if he mentors him)

Interviewer to ask the mom what questions she has and if she still wants to proceed with the ministry. If yes, Interviewer asks the CC in attendance if he/she missed anything.

Interviewer (or CC) closes the interview in prayer and informs the mom we will go over the information she provided and will be back in touch with her within a week. Ask that she does not share this ministry with her son until after this time, as to not get the boys hopes up, only to be let down if CC's decide not to move forward.

After she departs, the team will discuss and make a recommendation. Then call the single mom back within a week of the first interview.



FIRST INTERVIEW WITH MOM (1 of 2)

Date _____

NAME

Mothers Name _____

Sons Name First _____ Last _____ DOB _____ Grade _____

ADDRESS

Number & Street _____

City _____ State _____ Country _____ Zip/Postal _____

PHONE

Home _____ Cell _____

Mother's email _____

EMPLOYMENT

Mother's place of employment _____

Number & Street _____

City _____ State _____ Country _____ Zip/Postal _____

Work Phone _____ Fax _____

Other Children in the home:

Name _____ Age _____ Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____ Name _____ Age _____

How did you hear about F.I.T.F.? _____

Introduce the ministry.

Brief summary of your family and the biological father situation: _____

FIRST INTERVIEW WITH MOM (2 of 2)

Is there currently a man in your life? Yes No

To what extent is he in the home with you and your son? _____

Church background: _____

MORE ABOUT YOUR SON:

Are there any physical limitations that might limit his ability to participate in vigorous outdoor activities?

Yes No If so, please indicate _____

Is he currently taking prescription medication? Yes No

If yes, which medication (s) is he on: _____

Is he under the care of a physician? Yes No _____

Are there any problems with illegal substance abuse? Yes No

If yes, which one(s)? _____

Are there any legal issues, either current or pending? Yes No

If yes, what are the circumstances: _____
