

Community Moderator Guide

Getting Started Building Your Community

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Section One:

Understanding the Fathering Strong Network



Introduction to Community Moderation

A Fathering Strong online community is a place where dads can come together to share their experiences, challenges, and joys. Nevertheless, our opinions and behaviors might differ from one another. Therefore, it's important to have moderators who watch over the community by ensuring that discussions stay within appropriate boundaries and that all members can participate on equal footing without fear of harassment or abuse. Moderation ensures the avoidance of excess or extremes, especially in one's behavior or political opinions. Moreover, moderation helps to stimulate engagement within an online community and creates a sense of belonging among its members.

The Role of a Moderator

The role of a moderator in an online community is crucial as it ensures that all members have an enjoyable and enriching experience in the community. In a Fathering Strong Community, the moderator is a member of that community who has taken on the responsibility of acting as a mediator and keeping discussions within appropriate boundaries. It often includes making decisions about what's allowed in terms of speech or behavior, enforcing rules, responding to questions from members, and giving out warnings when necessary.

Moderating an online community can be a challenging but rewarding experience. By adhering to the following guidance, moderators can help to

create a safe, encouraging, nurturing, and welcoming environment where members can connect with others, share their experiences, and learn from each other.



Introduction to Community Moderation

Instructions for Moderating a Fathering Strong Community

- 1. Understand the Fathering Strong community policy and enforce it consistently, regardless of who the member is. Lead your group in establishing its House Rules, which is an easy-to-remember set of guidelines based upon the Fathering Strong community policy. Communicate to administrators any recommended policy improvements.
- 2. Treat each member with respect, as they are bringing something valuable to the discussions. Even novice fathers and those who may have made many mistakes are experts in their own lives and experiences. They, therefore, have something important to contribute to conversations. Encourage mutual respect among all members.
- 3. Respond to posts quickly and efficiently. This shows members that their concerns are being taken seriously and that the community is safe and welcoming. Moderators should be polite and respectful when responding to posts, even if the member is disruptive or offensive.
- 4. Keep an eye out for any potential cyberbullying, spamming, or other harmful behavior. Online communities can be a breeding ground for cyberbullying, spamming, and other harmful behavior. Moderators should be on the lookout for these types of activities and take action to remove them from the community. This may involve warning the member, suspending their account, or even banning them from the community altogether.
- 5. Encourage Fathering Strong community members to moderate one another. Moderators can't be everywhere at once, so it's important to encourage community members to help out with moderation. This can be done by creating a system for reporting inappropriate content, or by simply asking members to be mindful of their own behavior and the behavior of others.
- 6. A cadence should be established for consistent posting each week. For example, a poll or question could be posted every Monday morning, an article every Tuesday afternoon, and a Zoom session every Thursday at 8 p.m. You want to build a strategy where your users will know what is coming up each day and week. You can pick the days/times that work best for your community, but consistency is important to the success of the community.

Defining Community Goals and Guidelines

The mission of Fathering Strong is to grow a community of fathers who are dedicated to supporting each other through their fathering and faith journeys while building stronger families and communities. Fathering Strong has specific rules of engagement to ensure this mission is upheld and remains positive and effective. As an ongoing participant in Fathering Strong, you must agree to these rules of engagement.



Rules of Engagement

- 1. Be Truthful. Be sure that all of the information you provide within your profile and in the communities is true and factual. If profiles that are not fact-based are identified, they will be removed from the site immediately. The Fathering Strong team will endeavor to continually conduct due diligence on its members to ensure the community remains positive and Christ-centered.
- 2. **Don't promote**. The one ask we have, in addition to being generally cool, is don't promote. Don't spam members. Don't promote any programs or offerings without the consent of the Fathering Strong administrator. It's a slippery slope, so we start with nope.
- 3. Keep your remarks positive and productive. Any foul language, berating, or tearing someone down is prohibited, and you will be given one warning. The second time, your account will no longer have access to Fathering Strong.
- 4. If it's confidential, keep it that way. Many of the forums and discussion groups are private to approved participants. Many conversations in these groups are private and confidential. Do not repost or communicate any confidential information outside of the private community in which it originated without the consent of all parties involved.
- 5. Fathering Strong is a program of Urban Light Ministries, Inc., a private nonprofit organization that aspires to restore the Creator's original family design wherever possible for the sake of children. By participating in Fathering Strong, you agree to bible-centered approaches to parenting, the communities, the forums, etc.
- 6. **Please ask.** If you are unsure if you are right for Fathering Strong or have questions about this online community, feel free to contact us. We are happy to answer your questions.

Effective Communication Strategies

The primary goal of Fathering Strong is to cultivate mutually beneficial relationships among fathers through engagement and meaningful conversations. It is the responsibility of the host to drive this engagement through consistent posting of valuable content. The minimum expectation for a community host/moderator is to do at least one of the following to stimulate positive and optimistic conversations weekly:

- 1. Post a poll, question of the week, or quote.
- 2. Post an article of interest weekly (written by you or curated from a reliable source with proper credits).
- 3. Hold a "Live" feed each week to update your community on a "hot topic" and start a discussion about it. These should be posted at least 24 hours before and recorded for later viewing.
- 4. Hold a virtual Zoom meeting weekly to discuss a "topic of the week." (Poll the group members for their topic ideas.)
- 5. Work with the moderator(s) of the group to keep the chat communication going, vet new members, and monitor communications within the community.

The Fathering Strong team can help provide you with resources and content if necessary. There is a wealth of content on the Fathering Strong website (www.fatheringstrong.com) that has been curated for dads. Feel free to utilize the resources there. The AI tool within Mighty Networks is also turned on to help with content development. Feel free to use the tool and modify it.

A cadence should be established for consistent posting each week. For example, a poll or question could be posted every Monday morning, an article every Tuesday afternoon, and a Zoom session every Thursday at 8 pm. You want to build a strategy where your

users will know what is coming up each day and week. You can pick the days/times that work best for your community, but consistency is important to the success of the platform.



Inviting People to the Community

The Online Community

Here is a list of instructions:

- 1. Open the Fathering Strong app (Mighty Network) on your phone and go to the community to invite someone. You can find your community on the main menu by clicking the three lines in the upper left-hand corner of the screen.
- 2. Once you are on your community page, click on the three vertical dots in the upper righthand corner of your screen.
- 3. A menu will open. Click on "Invite" in the menu that pops up.
- 4. Click on the means you wish to invite someone (text, email, etc.) in most cases, you will be texting or emailing a new person to Fathering Strong.
- 5. Once you text or email them they will receive an invitation where they can create their own account and will automatically be subscribed to your community.

You can view how to invite someone to your community by going to the YouTube instructional video: https://youtu.be/CaC10CGDNPU

Navigating Fathering Strong

Below are the primary sections to a Fathering Strong community. For a quick video tutorial on how to navigate the site go to this YouTube video: https://youtu.be/lt-Kd70wuK4

Feed

This is where all of your posts and articles will be placed for the community. the user can sort them by last activity, popular now, newest, oldest and distance. The can also filter the posts by their activity, from hosts, near you, unanswered, polls, articles, events and quick posts.

Events

This is where all upcoming events will be posted. This includes online, face-to-face and Live Streams. Users can register for events and receive notifications as reminders if they have their smartphone app notifications turned on. Each event show if they registered and a view of other members registered.

Chat

This section of the community is where members can chat with everyone in that community. All chat messages are private to that specific community. Community members can also chat with individuals privately by selecting on the member(s) they wish to chat with.

Page

This is an option for a community that wants a stand alone page for their site. This can be a welcome page or a single web page that can be updated as required.

Members

This section of the community identifies all of the members that are part of the community. YOu can filter by members near you, newest members, community hosts, and who's online now. Explore provides a visual of all members with the size of the picture correlating to their participation in the group.

Discovery

Discovery is an optional section that highlights top posts, members near you, top members and featured articles. This provides a quick reference to the latest information within the community and who is active within the community.

Building Trust and Establishing Authority

Introduction

As a group host and moderator, building trust and authority is paramount to the success of the community. This information will provide you with invaluable insights, strategies, and practical tips to help you become a trusted leader and moderator. From creating a welcoming environment to delivering value-added experiences, let's explore the key elements to build trust and authority as a group host and moderator.

Building Trust and Authority

Building trust and authority as a group host involves various aspects that collectively contribute to your credibility and reputation. Let's delve into each of these areas to gain a deeper understanding of how they shape your role as a trusted leader.

Creating a Welcoming Environment

One of the first steps in building trust and authority is to create a welcoming environment for your online group. By fostering a sense of inclusivity, you set the stage for positive interactions and meaningful connections.

Providing Value-Added Content

Delivering helpful, timely, appropriate, and accurate content is crucial for building trust and establishing yourself as an authority. You can present your own carefully researched content, curate from other reliable sources, and leverage the help of the Fathering Strong team to provide you with content for your community.

Engaging and Responsive Communication

Open and responsive communication is key to building trust with your group members. By actively engaging in conversations and promptly addressing queries, you demonstrate your commitment to their needs.

Cultivating Authenticity and Transparency

Authenticity and transparency are essential traits that inspire trust. When you lead with honesty, share your experiences, and admit your mistakes and limitations, you create a genuine connection with your group.

Building trust and authority goes beyond providing valuable content. It involves investing time and effort in nurturing relationships with your group members.

Building Trust and Establishing Authority

Encouraging Active Participation

Encouraging active participation from your group members fosters a sense of ownership and community. By creating opportunities for them to contribute and share their expertise, you empower them and enhance their trust in your leadership. This requires doing much more listening than talking. Avoid dominating conversations. Rather, endeavor to creatively draw out others to participate, especially the less-talkative members.

Demonstrating Expertise and Knowledge

If you are also a subject matter expert, workshop presenter, or class facilitator, establishing authority requires demonstrating expertise and knowledge. Share insights and experiences, and offer guidance to establish yourself as a go-to resource within your group. However, no one is expected to know everything about everything. Be quick to say, "I don't know, but I will find out." That also builds trust.

Maintaining Professionalism and Ethical Standards

Upholding professionalism and ethical standards is crucial for earning trust and respect as a group host and moderator. Lead by example, maintain confidentiality, and ensure fair, honest, and unbiased treatment of all members.

Building a Supportive Community

A supportive community is built on trust, empathy, and mutual respect. Encourage members to support and uplift one another, creating an environment where everyone feels valued and appreciated.

Leveraging Testimonials and Social Proof

Testimonials and social proof play a significant role in establishing trust and authority. Showcase positive feedback, testimonials, and success stories from your group members to highlight the value and impact of your community.

Embracing Continuous Improvement

Strive for continuous improvement by seeking feedback and actively incorporating suggestions from your group members. This interactive approach demonstrates your dedication to enhancing their experience and reinforces your commitment to their success.

Building Trust and Establishing Authority

Building Trust and Authority Offline

While online interactions are crucial, building trust and authority can extend to offline activities as well. Organize local meetups, live chats, or "open mic" Zoom sessions to facilitate in-person connections and further strengthen the bonds within your community.

Overcoming Challenges and Conflict Resolution

Challenges and conflicts are inevitable in any group setting. As a group host, it's essential to address these issues promptly and fairly, fostering an environment that encourages open dialogue and respectful resolution.

Implementing Trust and Security Measures

Establishing trust requires implementing appropriate trust and security measures. Ensure the privacy and confidentiality of your group members, and follow the Fathering Strong guidelines that promote a safe and respectful environment for all.

Emphasizing Long-Term Relationships

Building trust and authority involves nurturing long-term relationships with your group members. Strive for genuine connections that go beyond immediate goals, and invest in their growth and success over the long term.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: How can I build trust as a group host?

A: Building trust as a group host involves creating a welcoming environment, providing valuable content, engaging in open communication, and demonstrating authenticity and transparency. Additionally, nurturing relationships, encouraging active participation, and vulnerability contribute to building trust.

Q: How can I establish authority in my group?

A: You've probably heard the saying "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." To establish authority in your group, focus on demonstrating genuine interest in each member. Provide caring leadership, maintain professionalism, and uphold ethical standards. Encourage relationship-building and collaboration, sharing testimonials, and continuously seek feedback for improvement.

Q: What should I do if conflicts arise within my group?

A: Conflicts are a natural part of group dynamics. As a group host, address conflicts promptly and fairly. Encourage open dialogue, active listening, and respectful resolution. By fostering an environment of understanding and cooperation, you can effectively manage conflicts and maintain trust within your group.

Handling Conflict and Difficult Situations

As a group moderator, you play a crucial role in maintaining order, facilitating discussions, and ensuring a positive group environment. However, conflicts and difficult situations can arise, challenging your skills as a moderator. Here we will explore strategies, tips, and best practices for handling conflict and difficult situations as a group moderator. From effective communication to mediation techniques, we will equip you with the necessary tools to navigate these challenging scenarios and promote a harmonious group dynamic.

Limiting and Handling Conflict and Difficult Situations as a Group Moderator

Being a group moderator means limiting and being prepared to handle conflicts and difficult situations that may arise within the group. By employing effective strategies and maintaining a calm and objective approach, you can address these issues and guide the group toward a resolution. Here are some key points to consider when handling conflict and difficult situations as a group moderator:

Set the Right Tone From the Start

- Feel at liberty to begin sessions with prayer and/or an inspirational thought.
- Without being overly "churchy", or speaking "Christianese" establish a reverential atmosphere.

Establishing Clear Guidelines and Expectations

- Clearly define the group's purpose and house rules from the outset.
- Set expectations for member behavior, respect, and constructive participation
- Communicate the consequences of violating the established guidelines.

Active Listening and Empathy

- · Actively listen to all parties involved in the conflict.
- Show empathy and understanding towards each individual's perspective.
- Validate emotions and ensure everyone feels heard and acknowledged.

Effective Communication

- Encourage open and respectful communication among group members.
- Foster an environment where diverse opinions are valued and welcomed.
- Promote constructive feedback and discourage personal attacks.

Mediation and Conflict Resolution

- Identify the underlying issues causing the conflict.
- Remain neutral and unbiased while mediating between conflicting parties.
- Facilitate a collaborative problem-solving process to reach a resolution.

Handling Conflict and Difficult Situations

Managing Difficult Personalities

- · Recognize and address disruptive behavior promptly and privately.
- Use assertive communication techniques to set boundaries.
- Engage with difficult individuals to understand their concerns and motivations.

De-escalation Techniques

- Stay calm and composed in high-stress situations.
- Employ de-escalation techniques such as deep breathing or taking a break.
- Redirect the focus towards finding common ground and solutions.

Building Consensus

- Encourage collaborative decision-making within the group.
- Seek input from all members to ensure inclusivity.
- Help the group find common goals and work towards achieving them.

More Conflict Prevention Strategies

- Foster a positive and inclusive group culture from the beginning.
- Address potential conflicts proactively before they escalate.
- Promote a supportive and respectful environment for all members.

Handling Conflict and Difficult Situations

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q: How can I address conflicts within a group as a moderator?

A: As a moderator, it's important to approach conflicts with a calm and objective mindset. Actively listen to all parties involved, show empathy, and work towards a resolution through mediation and open communication.

Q: What should I do if a member consistently disrupts the group dynamics?

A: If a member consistently disrupts the group dynamics, address the issue privately and assertively. Use effective communication to set boundaries and engage with the individual to understand their concerns and motivations. Provide one warning and then remove them from the group if they do not modify their behavior.

Q: How can I prevent conflicts from arising in the first place?

A: To prevent conflicts, establish clear guidelines and expectations for group members. Foster a positive and inclusive group culture, address potential conflicts proactively, and promote a supportive environment where all members feel valued.

Q: How do I manage conflicts involving sensitive topics or differing opinions?

A: Managing conflicts involving sensitive topics requires sensitivity and respect for diverse opinions. Encourage open and respectful communication, validate emotions, and foster a safe space for members to express their viewpoints.

Q: What if I'm unable to resolve a conflict within the group?

A: If you're unable to resolve a conflict within the group, consider seeking external assistance from the Fathering Strong team and flag the persons who need moderation.

Q: How do I regain control of a group during a heated argument or intense conflict?

A: During a heated argument or intense conflict, it's crucial to stay calm and composed. Use de-escalation techniques like deep breathing, redirect the focus towards finding common ground, and remind the group of the agreed-upon guidelines and purpose.

Conclusion

Handling conflict and difficult situations as a group moderator requires effective communication, mediation skills, and fostering a positive and inclusive environment. By establishing clear guidelines, actively listening, and employing conflict resolution strategies, you can navigate challenging scenarios and promote healthy group dynamics. Remember to remain calm, neutral, and empathetic throughout the process, ensuring all members feel heard and valued. As a group moderator, you have the power to guide the group toward resolution and facilitate a harmonious environment where all individuals can thrive.

Section Two:

Developing Engaging Content



Understanding Your Community's Needs

In today's digital age, online communities play a pivotal role in connecting like-minded individuals, fostering discussions, and sharing valuable insights. Identifying the needs of the fathers in your space and providing them with networking and peer-mentoring opportunities, appropriate content, resources, and guidance is vital for sustainable growth and success.

Building an engaged and loyal community requires passion, empathy, and a genuine commitment to servant leadership. This section guides you through the essential elements of nurturing your online community and empowering fathers with mutual support and resources.

Understanding the Needs

To serve the fathers in your group well, you must understand their expectations, challenges, and preferences. Here are some key steps to achieve this:

1. Conducting Research

To comprehend your community's needs, continually conduct research by asking your community members questions. Review the latest news stories and other information on the primary subjects of interest to your community. Monitor social media to gather valuable insights into trending subjects that are important to your group.

2. Identifying Pain Points and Aspirations

Analyze the data collected from members to identify common pain points within your community. Move discussions from mere commiseration to hopeful, positive, and aspirational dialogue. Tailor your discussion topics, content, and resources to stimulate meaningful conversation that results in positive outcomes for your fellow community members.

3. Engaging in Active Communication

Engagement is critical to success! Encourage active and open conversations among community members. Respond to queries, comments, and feedback promptly to stimulate further discussion. Keep them talking to each other!

4. Hosting LIVE Zoom Sessions and Virtual Events

Organize Zoom sessions and virtual events to foster real-time interactions and knowledge sharing. These events build a sense of belonging within the community. You can even go LIVE periodically on the Fathering Strong platform to notify and connect with the fathers in your group on a "real-time" basis. However, the amount of time that the Fathering Strong platform can do LIVE feeds is limited, so don't do this more than once per week.

Understanding Your Community's Needs

5. Creating Valuable and Relevant Content

Provide high-quality content that adds value to your community's conversations and provides actionable insights. Regularly update your content to keep it fresh and engaging.

6. Implementing User-Generated Content (UGC) Strategies

Encourage user-generated content, as it fosters a sense of ownership and pride among community members. Highlight exceptional UGC to motivate others to contribute.

The Power of Guidance and Support

Alongside valuable content and resources, offering guidance and support is essential to nurture your online community of fathers. When appropriate, referrals to subject matter experts and professionals are highly recommended. Often, however, you may be able to provide guidance from resources available within the Fathering Strong network and website. Here are some effective ways to provide assistance:

1. Developing Comprehensive FAQs

Create a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section that addresses common queries and concerns. Regularly update it based on user feedback. This will keep you from having to continually respond to the same questions.

2. Offering One-on-One Support

Provide personalized one-on-one support through Fathering Strong's chat feature to address individual needs and challenges. Often, dads only want someone to listen and empathize. Listening is support!

3. Collaborating with other Community Moderators

Identify influential community moderators and collaborate with them to become advocates for your space. Their support will strengthen your community further. Use this specific Host and Moderator community space to stay abreast of the latest Fathering Strong information.

4. Establishing Peer Support Channels

Encourage peer support within your space where community members can interact, share experiences, and offer solutions.

5. Organizing Skill-Building Workshops

Host skill-building workshops or events to empower your community with practical knowledge and expertise. These workshops can be online or in-person events.

6. Providing Access to Expert Resources

Provide access to expert resources, industry insights, and exclusive content to add value to your community membership. In many cases, these can be found in the Fatherhood Champions section of Fathering Strong.

Understanding Your Community's Needs

FAQs

Q: How can I effectively identify the needs of my online community?

A: Conduct thorough audience research, engage in open communication, and analyze user feedback to understand their expectations and preferences better.

Q: Why is user-generated content important for an online community?

A: User-generated content fosters a sense of ownership and belonging, making community members feel more engaged and motivated to participate actively.

Q: What role do Zoom events and virtual events play in building an online community?

A: Zoom and virtual events facilitate real-time interactions and knowledge sharing, creating a stronger sense of community among participants.

Q: How often should I update my content and resources?

A: Regularly update your content to keep it relevant, fresh, and engaging for your online community.

Q: How can one-on-one support benefit community members?

A: Peer mentoring benefits fathers, as many have no other trusted, mature, spiritually healthy men in their lives. When appropriate, the father should be referred to a trained fatherhood practitioner, social worker, licensed counselor, or other professional for personalized one-on-one support in their area of need.

Q: What are some ways to encourage peer support within the community?

A: Create discussions where community members can interact and share experiences, fostering a supportive and collaborative environment.

Conclusion

Understanding the needs of your online community and providing them with the necessary content, resources, and guidance are essential for building a thriving fatherhood community. By engaging in active communication, offering valuable content, and extending support, you can foster a strong and loyal community that trusts your expertise and authority. Remember, nurturing your online community requires constant effort, empathy, and adaptability to meet their evolving needs. And remember the three keywords. . . engagement, engagement, and engagement!

As a father, being a part of an online community offers numerous benefits. It provides a platform to share experiences, seek advice, and form meaningful connections with other like-minded individuals. However, to truly foster a vibrant community, you need to initiate engaging and thought-provoking discussions. In this section, we will identify various strategies and ideas for creating compelling discussion topics that resonate with fathers in your online community.

Here are 20 ideas to get you started on ways to get the fathers in your group to connect and engage.

1. Understanding the Needs of Your Community

To create discussions that resonate, it's essential to understand the needs and preferences of your online community of fathers. Conduct polls, surveys, and gather feedback to identify their interests, challenges, and aspirations. Analyze the data to uncover common themes that can be transformed into compelling discussion topics.

2. Navigating the Challenges of Modern Fatherhood

Explore the unique challenges faced by fathers in the modern world. From family-life balance to parenting techniques, discuss the hurdles fathers encounter and share strategies for overcoming them. Encourage members to share their personal experiences and advice. Your topics will be based on the primary goals of your group and types of issues your fathers face. Try to keep the topics aligned with the charter of your space.

3. Celebrating Parenting Milestones

Acknowledge and celebrate the various parenting milestones in the lives of your community members. Whether it's their child's first steps, first day of school, or graduation, such occasions provide an excellent opportunity for heartwarming discussions and sharing proud moments.

4. The Role of Fathers in Fostering Child Development

Discuss the vital role fathers play in their children's development. Explore the impact of positive fatherly involvement on children's emotional, social, spiritual, and academic growth. Share insights into bonding activities that strengthen the parent-child relationship.

5. Balancing Work and Family Commitments

Engage in conversations about maintaining a healthy balance between work and family life. Share time management tips, flexible work arrangements, and ways to make quality time for family despite busy schedules.

16. Building Lasting Friendships within the Community

Encourage members to connect on a deeper level by discussing the importance of building lasting friendships within the online community. Share stories of camaraderie and support that have grown from the platform.

7. Nurturing Mental Health for Fathers

Delve into the topic of mental health for fathers and discuss ways to cope with stress, anxiety, and the pressures of parenthood. Share resources and support networks to help community members who may be struggling.

8. Promoting Gender Equality in Parenting

Initiate discussions about the significance of promoting gender equality in parenting roles. Encourage fathers to challenge traditional stereotypes and embrace a more active and nurturing role in their children's lives.

9. Overcoming Fatherhood Stereotypes and Stigmas

Explore common stereotypes and stigmas surrounding fatherhood. Foster open conversations that challenge these preconceptions and celebrate the diverse and valuable contributions fathers make to their families.

10. The Impact of Technology on Parenting

Discuss the pros and cons of technology in modern parenting. Address concerns about screen time, online safety, and leveraging technology for positive family experiences.

11. Encouraging Kids in Extracurricular Activities

Engage in conversations about the benefits of extracurricular activities for children and how fathers can actively support their kids' interests and talents.

12. Traveling and Exploring the World as a Father

Share travel experiences and tips for fathers looking to explore the world with their families. Discuss the educational and bonding opportunities that travel provides.

13. Fostering Emotional Intelligence in Children

Discuss the importance of emotional intelligence in children and how fathers can nurture this essential skill through open communication and empathy.

14. The Art of Storytelling with Children

Encourage fathers to engage in storytelling with their children and discuss the benefits of this age-old tradition in building strong family bonds

15. Handling Peer Pressure and Bullying

Discuss strategies for helping children deal with peer pressure and bullying, and explore ways fathers can support their kids through these challenges.

16. Fun and Creative Family Bonding Activities

Share innovative and enjoyable family bonding activities that fathers can try with their children to create lasting memories.

17. Instilling Financial Literacy in Children

Engage in conversations about the importance of teaching children about money, saving, and responsible spending.

18. Supporting Children's Education

Discuss ways fathers can actively support their children's intellectual development and foster a love for learning. For example, discuss the importance of reading, talking, and singing to their children daily beginning day one.

19. The Influence of Male Role Models

Discuss the significance of positive male role models in children's lives and the role fathers play in shaping their kids' values.

20. Building a Supportive and Inclusive Community

Engage in conversations about creating a welcoming and inclusive space for fathers from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

FAQs

Q: How can I initiate discussions within my online community of fathers?

A: Start by understanding your community's needs and preferences. Develop topics based on common themes and encourage members to share their thoughts and experiences.

Q: What are some engaging activities for fathers and children?

A: Family storytelling, creative bonding activities, and participating in extracurricular pursuits are great ways to engage fathers and children alike.

Q: How can fathers balance work and family commitments effectively?

A: Time management, open communication with family, and seeking support from employers can help fathers strike a balance between work and family life.

Q: How can I support a fellow father going through a tough time?

A: Offer a listening ear, show empathy, and provide resources or information that may help them during challenging times.

Q: How do I challenge traditional stereotypes about fathers?

A: Engage in discussions that promote active and nurturing parenting roles for fathers. Share personal experiences that defy stereotypes.

Q: What are the benefits of joining an online fathers' community?

A: Online communities offer a platform for fathers to connect, seek advice, and share experiences, fostering a sense of camaraderie and support.

Conclusion

Creating compelling discussion topics for your online community of fathers is crucial for building a vibrant and supportive network. By understanding the needs of your community, exploring diverse parenting themes, and celebrating the joys and challenges of fatherhood, you can foster engaging and meaningful conversations. Remember, open communication, empathy, and inclusivity are key to creating a thriving online community where fathers can connect and grow together.

Implementing and Managing Community Events

Welcome to the world of online fathering communities, where like-minded individuals come together to support, share experiences, and build lasting relationships. One of the key elements that make these communities thrive is the effective implementation and management of community events. These events not only create a sense of belonging but also provide valuable opportunities for members to learn, grow, and celebrate together. In this section, we will address strategies and best practices for organizing successful events that leave a lasting impression on your fathering online community.

The Importance of Community Events

Community events are the heart and soul of any online fathering community. They serve as catalysts for strengthening bonds among members and creating a vibrant and supportive atmosphere. When executed thoughtfully, events can significantly enhance engagement levels, boost group retention, and establish your community as a go-to resource for fathers seeking advice, camaraderie, and inspiration.

Understanding Your Community

Before diving into planning events, take the time to understand your community's unique characteristics, interests, and needs. Conduct surveys, analyze member interactions, and gather feedback to gain insights into the type of events your audience is most likely to participate in enthusiastically.

Choosing the Right Event Themes

One of the secrets to successful community events is selecting the right themes. Opt for themes that resonate with your audience and align with the goals of your fathering online community. Whether it's a virtual workshop on parenting tips, a friendly online gaming competition, or a heartfelt storytelling session, the theme should inspire and engage members.

Promoting Events Effectively

No event can be successful without proper promotion. Utilize the events section in your community to announce the events. Also post about the event to create a buzz around your upcoming event. Highlight the benefits of participation and encourage members to invite others who can benefit from the event. If you have a large number of participants in your space who live in a close geographic radius, hold the event live and in person.

Implementing and Managing Community Events

Creating Interactive Event Formats

To keep participants hooked and actively involved, design interactive event formats. Incorporate Q&A sessions, polls, live chats, and breakout groups to encourage discussions and foster a sense of connection among attendees.

Utilizing Technology for Seamless Execution

Embrace the technology used by Fathering Strong to make event management a breeze. From registration to post-event surveys, the Fathering Strong platform can streamline the process and enhance the overall event experience for both organizers and participants.

Ensuring Inclusivity and Diversity

Inclusivity and diversity are essential pillars of a thriving fathering online community. When organizing events, be mindful of creating a safe and welcoming space for individuals from all backgrounds and experiences.

Encouraging Member Contributions

Empower your community members by allowing them to contribute to event planning and execution. User-generated content adds a personal touch to events and fosters a strong sense of ownership among participants.

Measuring Event Impact and Success

After each event, analyze relevant metrics to gauge its impact and success. Monitor attendance rates, participant feedback, and changes in community engagement to continuously improve your event planning strategies.

Handling Challenges and Obstacles

In the world of event management, challenges are bound to arise. Whether it's technical difficulties or low participation, anticipate potential obstacles and have contingency plans in place to tackle them effectively.

Creating Memorable Event Experiences

Craft events that leave a lasting impression on your community members. The experiences they gain through your events will contribute to the overall reputation of your fathering online community.

Implementing and Managing Community Events

Collaborating with Key Influencers

Leverage the power of collaboration by inviting influencers and experts to participate in your events. Their presence can attract a broader audience and lend credibility to your community.

Handling Post-Event Follow-Up

After every event, engage in post-event follow-up to express gratitude to participants, gather feedback, and assess the event's success. Valuable insights can inform your future event-planning endeavors.

FAQs

Q: How often should we organize community events?

A: The frequency of events depends on your community's size and dynamics. Aim for regular events to maintain engagement without overwhelming members.

Q: What types of events resonate best with fathers in online communities?

A: Fathers often appreciate events that combine learning, fun, and meaningful interactions. Consider workshops, virtual gatherings, and recreational activities.

Q: Can we host hybrid events, combining in-person and online participation?

A: Absolutely! Hybrid events allow you to cater to a wider audience while providing flexibility for those who prefer attending virtually.

Q: How can we handle registration for online events?

A: Utilize the event section within your community that offer easy registration processes and automated reminders for attendees.

Q: Is it necessary to have a dedicated team for event management?

A: While a dedicated team can streamline event management, smaller communities can involve volunteers in organizing events.

Q: How do we handle event cancellations or rescheduling?

A: Communicate promptly with participants through email or community announcements, explaining the reasons and providing alternative dates if possible.

Conclusion

Hosting and managing community events for your fathering online community can be a transformative experience. By understanding your community, creating engaging events, and leveraging technology, you can foster a supportive environment where fathers can connect, learn, and grow together. Remember, a successful event is not just about its execution but also the lasting impact it leaves on your community members.

Fatherhood is a profound journey filled with joy, challenges, and growth. Nurturing a strong bond with your children and becoming the best version of yourself as a father requires continuous learning and support. In the digital era, one of the most effective ways to enhance fathering skills is by participating in an online community dedicated to fatherhood. This section reviews the incredible benefits of joining and engaging such a community. It reviews how you, as a moderator, can help encourage participation by sharing personal experiences to inspire and guide fathers on their path to becoming exceptional dads.

Embracing the Digital Age: The Rise of Online Communities

The internet has revolutionized the way we connect and share knowledge. Online communities have emerged as vibrant platforms where like-minded individuals come together, share experiences, and provide support to one another. Encouraging members to participate in an online community to improve fathering skills offers a plethora of advantages that can significantly impact a father's life.

Finding Your Tribe: Joining the Right Online Community

The first step in this transformative journey is finding the right online community that aligns with the specific needs of the father. One primary role as the moderator is to properly vet the individuals requesting access to your community. Make sure they fit the profile of the father that your community serves. This is critical to the community's success since engaging with fellow fathers who share similar experiences, and challenges create a sense of camaraderie and belonging.

Leveraging the Power of Shared Experiences

Within your community, fathers from diverse backgrounds and fatherhood pasts come together to share their experiences, both triumphs and tribulations. The power of shared experiences is immense, as they reassure fathers that they are not alone in their journey. It fosters a sense of unity and provides invaluable insights to help fathers navigate the complexities of parenting.

Expert Advice: Learning from Experienced Fathers

One of the most significant advantages of participating in an online community is the access to advice from experienced fathers. Seasoned dads generously share their wisdom, strategies, and tips for effective parenting. Such advice is often based on real-life experiences and carries substantial weight, making it highly valuable for fathers seeking guidance.

Building Confidence: Overcoming Parenting Challenges

Fatherhood presents a series of challenges that can sometimes leave fathers feeling overwhelmed. Engaging within your community helps build confidence by learning from others who have faced and conquered similar obstacles. It empowers fathers with practical solutions and reassurance, fostering their growth as capable and confident parents.

The Impact of Active Participation

Actively participating in discussions and contributing to the community creates a positive ripple effect. Sharing your experiences, offering advice, and providing support to fellow fathers not only helps others but also reinforces your own learning and solidifies your fathering skills.

The Virtual Shoulder: Emotional Support and Understanding

In an online community, fathers find a virtual shoulder to lean on during tough times. Parenthood can be emotionally challenging, and having a supportive network of fathers who understand these feelings can make a world of difference. This compassionate environment fosters a sense of belonging and emotional well-being.

A Safe Haven: Judgment-Free Zone

Since your Fathering Strong community is private, it offers a safe haven for fathers to express themselves without fear of judgment. Whether discussing their vulnerabilities, seeking advice on sensitive topics, or sharing personal struggles, fathers can find solace in knowing they are surrounded by understanding and non-judgmental peers.

From Digital to Real Connections: Offline Meetups

Beyond the digital realm, your group of fathers, if located geographically in close proximity can organize offline meetups or events. These gatherings provide an opportunity for your dads to forge deeper connections, share experiences face-to-face, and strengthen the bonds formed online.

Fostering Lifelong Friendships

Through active engagement, fathers have the chance to develop lifelong friendships. These connections extend beyond parenting discussions, creating a robust support system that enriches various aspects of life.

Redefining Fatherhood: Embracing Inclusivity

Modern fatherhood has evolved, encompassing a diverse range of experiences and family structures. Encouraging participation in your online community and possibly others that also fit the participant's needs promotes inclusivity, allowing fathers from all backgrounds and cultures to come together, share perspectives, and embrace the beauty of diverse fathering journeys.

Setting Positive Examples: Being Role Models

As fathers actively participate they become role models for their children. Demonstrating the willingness to learn, grow, and seek support sets a positive example for their kids, teaching them the value of continuous self-improvement and the importance of community.

Addressing Mental Health: Breaking the Silence

Fatherhood can be both rewarding and challenging, and it is crucial to address mental health concerns. Your community plays a pivotal role in breaking the silence around mental health issues, encouraging fathers to seek help and support when needed. Fathering Strong is partnering with many different resources and organizations to help provide the necessary support.

Growing Together: Learning from Children

Participating in an online community to improve fathering skills also involves acknowledging the lessons fathers can learn from their children. Embracing the idea of being both a teacher and a student enriches the parenting experience.

Nurturing Empathy and Emotional Intelligence

Fatherhood provides an opportunity to nurture empathy and emotional intelligence. Online communities facilitate discussions that help fathers understand their children's emotions and needs better, fostering stronger connections within the family.

Fathering Skills Beyond Parenthood: Impact on Personal Growth

The skills fathers develop through their parenting journey extend beyond the realms of parenthood. Engaging with an online community to improve fathering skills can positively impact personal growth, leading to better communication, leadership, and problem-solving abilities.

Encouraging Positive Parenting Practices

Your community plays a vital role in promoting positive parenting practices. Discussions center around respectful and nurturing parenting techniques that contribute to children's well-being and happiness.

Fostering a Loving and Inclusive Home Environment

Creating a loving and inclusive home environment is paramount for a child's healthy development. Online communities emphasize the importance of fostering such an atmosphere and provide tools to achieve this goal.

Embracing Vulnerability: Strength in Openness

Fathers often feel societal pressure to be stoic and hide their vulnerabilities. You need to challenge this narrative, emphasizing the strength in being open and seeking support when needed.

FAQ's

Q: How can joining this Fathering Strong community improve my fathering skills?

A: Joining Fathering Strong provides access to a supportive network of experienced fathers who share their insights and advice, allowing you to learn from their experiences and grow as a parent.

Q: Are online communities judgment-free zones?

A: Yes, the Fathering Strong online communities foster an environment free from judgment, where fathers can openly express themselves without fear of criticism.

Q: Can participating in Fathering Strong positively impact my mental health?

A: Yes, active engagement in Fathering Strong can contribute to improved mental well-being by providing emotional support and a sense of belonging.

Q: Is Fathering Strong inclusive of diverse fathering experiences?

A: Absolutely, Fathering Strong embraces diversity and welcomes fathers from all walks of life to share their unique perspectives and experiences.

Q: What are the benefits of offline meetups?

A: Offline meetups provide an opportunity to forge deeper connections, enhance friendships formed online, and engage in face-to-face discussions.

Conclusion

Participating in one or more of Fathering Strong's online communities improves fathering skills and is a transformative experience that fosters personal growth, provides valuable insights, and builds lasting connections. Embrace the power of fatherhood! By being a host or moderator, you are making a positive impact, and together, we can shape a future where every child has an exceptional father guiding their way.

Monitoring and Analyzing Community Feedback

As fatherhood continues to evolve, so does the need for online communities where dads can connect, share experiences, and seek support. Monitoring and analyzing feedback in Fathering Strong is crucial to ensure it remains a positive and valuable platform. In this section, we will explore various techniques and tools to achieve this, providing insights based on first-hand knowledge and credible sources.

The Importance of Feedback Monitoring and Analysis

Feedback monitoring and analysis are essential in any online community, and Fathering Strong is no exception. By actively listening to members and analyzing their feedback, hosts and moderators can gain valuable insights to enhance the user experience, address issues promptly, and identify trends and patterns. Moreover, it fosters a sense of community ownership, making members feel heard and valued.

Understanding the Needs of Fatherhood Community Members

To effectively monitor and analyze feedback, it's essential to understand the diverse needs of Fathering Strong's community members. Fathers may seek guidance on parenting challenges, work-life balance, relationship advice, or even mental health support. As a host and moderator, addressing these needs should be a priority.

Key Metrics for Feedback Monitoring

To comprehensively understand the pulse of Fathering Strong and your specific community, several key metrics need to be monitored and analyzed:

1. User Engagement and Activity

Monitoring user engagement metrics like likes, comments, and shares can provide insights into the most popular content and topics.

2. User Satisfaction

Surveying members about their satisfaction levels helps gauge the overall community experience.

3. Community Growth

Tracking the growth of the community in terms of new members and active participants indicates the platform's appeal and success.

4. User Feedback Sentiment Analysis

Using sentiment analysis tools, hosts and moderators can identify positive and negative sentiment trends to address concerns proactively. There should be minimal negative comments and discussions. Since each community is private and support the fathers in the community a positive and engaging environment is the key.

Monitoring and Analyzing Community Feedback

5. Content Performance

Analyzing the performance of different types of content (e.g., articles, videos, discussions) helps tailor future content to members' preferences.

Leveraging Technology for Feedback Analysis

Technology plays a crucial role in managing large volumes of feedback. Utilize the tools available in the Mighty Network analytics to monitor the process. This tool offers many ways to view the data and engagement tracking to make informed decisions.

Creating a Feedback-Driven Community Culture

Encouraging open and constructive feedback is essential for the growth of your community. Establishing guidelines for providing feedback and responding to it in a positive manner fosters a supportive and respectful culture.

Best Practices for Addressing Negative Feedback

Negative feedback can be an opportunity for growth and improvement. Implement the following best practices when addressing such feedback:

- Active Listening: Acknowledge the concerns and demonstrate that you are listening to the member's perspective.
- **Prompt Response:** Respond to negative feedback promptly, showing that the community takes feedback seriously.
- **Transparent Communication:** Be transparent about any actions taken based on feedback, ensuring members are informed.
- Conflict Resolution: If conflicts arise, mediate discussions to find common ground and avoid escalating tensions.

The Role of Moderators in Feedback Management

Community moderators play a vital role in managing feedback and maintaining a positive atmosphere. Your responsibilities include:

- Content Moderation: Ensuring all content adheres to community guidelines and standards.
- Conflict Resolution: Mediating conflicts between members and promoting respectful discussions.
- Encouraging Engagement: Promptly responding to members' queries and encouraging meaningful conversations.

Monitoring and Analyzing Community Feedback

Utilizing Feedback to Improve Community Experience

Feedback is the backbone of community improvement. Use the insights gained from feedback analysis to:

- Enhance Content Strategy: Tailor content to meet the interests and needs of the community.
- Identify Pain Points: Address common pain points and challenges community members face.
- Incorporate New Features: Introduce new features or improvements based on user suggestions.

FAQs

Q: How frequently should feedback be analyzed?

A: Feedback analysis should be an ongoing process, but it's advisable to conduct more in-depth analyses on a weekly basis as Fathering Strong begins to grow.

Q: What if negative feedback becomes overwhelming?

A: If negative feedback becomes overwhelming, prioritize addressing critical issues first communicate transparently with the community about the guidelines of being a part of the community, and look for ways for ongoing improvements.

Q: How can I encourage members to provide feedback?

A: Encourage feedback by creating polls, surveys, or feedback forms.

Q: What if there are conflicts between community members?

A: Community moderators should intervene promptly, promoting respectful dialogue and seeking resolution.

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Best Practices for Long-term Community Growth

In today's digital era, online communities have become powerful platforms that connect people with shared interests, experiences, and goals. Fathering Strong is an online community of fathers who are dedicated to supporting each other through their fathering and faith journeys while building stronger families and communities. In this section, we will explore some of the best practices to ensure the growth and sustainability of your Fathering Strong community.

Understanding the Importance of Online Fatherhood Communities

Online fatherhood communities play a crucial role in supporting dads worldwide. Fathers often face unique challenges and seek a safe space where they can openly discuss their experiences, share parenting tips, and seek advice from peers. Father Strong's Connections and Forums foster a sense of belonging and camaraderie, making them invaluable resources for dads navigating their fatherhood journey.

Creating a Welcoming and Safe Environment

A critical element of any successful online community is creating a welcoming and safe environment for its members. Here are some best practices to achieve this:

- Clear Community Guidelines: Make sure to use and communicate the community guidelines that outline expected behaviors, mutual respect, and zero tolerance for harassment or hate speech.
- Moderation Policies: As a moderator it is your role to enforce community guidelines and maintain a positive atmosphere.
- Privacy and Security: Prioritize the security and privacy of community members' personal information, ensuring they feel confident and safe in sharing their experiences.

Fostering Member Engagement

Active member engagement is vital for the growth and vitality of any online community. Use these tactics to encourage participation:

- Discussion Starters: Initiate thought-provoking discussions and encourage members to share their opinions and experiences.
- Gamification: Implement gamification elements such as badges, rewards, and challenges to make engagement fun and rewarding.
- Polls and Surveys: Conduct regular polls and surveys to gather feedback and understand community needs better.

Best Practices for Long-term Community Growth

Encouraging Offline Meetups

While the online space is essential, fostering real-world connections can strengthen the community further. Consider the following:

- Local Meet up events: For fathers located in the same geographic areas look into hosting live events to improve engagement
- Workshops and Events: Organize Zoom session workshops, seminars, and events where fathers can come together to learn and share.
- Partnerships: Collaborate with local organizations or businesses to co-host fatherhoodrelated events.

Encouraging Peer Support

Peer support lies at the heart of any successful fatherhood community. Foster peer connections with these approaches:

- Mentoring Programs: Establish mentorship programs that pair experienced fathers with new or struggling dads.
- Buddy System: Implement a buddy system where members can connect with likeminded peers for support.
- Fatherhood Challenges: Organize friendly fatherhood challenges that encourage collaboration and camaraderie.

Analyzing Community Metrics

To ensure long-term growth, regularly analyze community metrics and gather insights:

- Engagement Metrics: Monitor engagement levels, such as likes, comments, and shares, to gauge community activity.
- User Feedback: Collect feedback from community members through surveys or feedback forms to identify areas for improvement.
- Identifying Trends: Stay updated on the latest fatherhood trends and adapt the community's focus accordingly.

Leveraging Partnerships for Growth

Collaboration can significantly boost community growth. Explore the following partnership opportunities:

- Parenting Brands: Partner with parenting brands or organizations for mutual promotion and support.
- Online Influencers: Collaborate with online influencers focusing on fatherhood or parenting content.
- Media Outlets: Engage with media outlets for coverage or guest appearances to increase your community's visibility.

Best Practices for Long-term Community Growth

Conclusion

Building and nurturing a successful long-term fatherhood online community is a rewarding endeavor that requires dedication, empathy, and a passion for supporting fathers. By following the Fathering Strong guidelines and best practices outlined in this section, you can create a thriving community where dads can come together, share their experiences, and grow as parents. Remember, driving engagement and fostering a sense of belonging and camaraderie will be the key to the community's enduring success.

Conclusion

As a moderator for Fathering Strong and one of the Connections and Forums, your role is of utmost importance in fostering a positive and supportive environment for all members. You play a crucial role in ensuring the community remains a safe and respectful space for fathers to connect, share experiences, seek advice, and engage in meaningful discussions.

Your role as a host and moderator is to:

- 1. Maintaining a Safe Environment: Moderators are responsible for enforcing community guidelines and ensuring all interactions remain respectful and free from harassment or discrimination. This helps create a space where fathers feel comfortable expressing themselves without fear of judgment or negativity.
- 2. Encouraging Healthy Discussions: You promote constructive discussions and discourage toxic or unproductive behavior within the community. By encouraging respectful communication, the community becomes a hub for sharing diverse perspectives, which enhances the collective understanding of fatherhood challenges and joys.
- 3. Supporting and Empowering Fathers: You are there to offer support and encouragement to community members. This can involve providing resources, recommending relevant discussions, or even just offering a listening ear to those who may be going through difficult times.
- 4. Addressing Conflicts and Disputes: In any online community, conflicts may arise. As a moderator, it's essential to address these issues promptly and fairly. Resolving conflicts respectfully fosters a sense of trust within the community.
- 5. **Curating High-Quality Content:** I help maintain the community's integrity by ensuring the content shared is relevant, appropriate, and aligns with the community's purpose. This helps keep the discussions focused and beneficial for all participants.
- 6. **Monitoring Spam and Misinformation:** You play a vital role in preventing spam and misinformation from spreading within the community by monitoring and removing any members who are not following the guidelines.

Conclusion

- Encouraging Inclusivity: You strive to make the fatherhood online community inclusive
 and welcoming to all. This involves actively promoting diversity and ensuring that the
 voices of fathers from different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences are heard and
 respected.
- Promoting Learning and Growth: The community can serve as an educational platform
 for fathers seeking to improve their parenting skills or learn from the experiences of
 others. As a moderator, you facilitate opportunities for learning by organizing
 educational events, sharing relevant articles or resources, and encouraging members to
 share their insights.
- Building a Sense of Community: A strong sense of community is essential for the success. You should work towards building relationships among members, organizing regular community events, and fostering a friendly atmosphere where fathers can bond over shared experiences and interests.
- Collaborating with Members: A successful community relies on the active participation
 and input of its members. Actively seek feedback from the community and collaborate
 with them to implement improvements, address concerns, and ensure that the
 community's needs are met.
- Handling Sensitive Topics: Fatherhood can involve complex and sensitive issues, such
 as mental health, family challenges, or parenting struggles. As a moderator, you should
 approach these topics with empathy and sensitivity, offering support and directing
 individuals to appropriate resources if needed.
- Adapting to Change: Online communities are dynamic, and trends and needs can evolve
 over time. As a moderator, you should stay adaptable and open to change, continuously
 improving the community to cater to the evolving needs of fathers.
- Setting a Positive Example: As a representative of the Fathering Strong community, you should strive to lead by example, following the community guidelines, and maintaining a positive and respectful attitude. This sets the tone for the entire community and encourages others to follow suit.
- Protecting Privacy and Security: Moderators are entrusted with maintaining the privacy
 and security of community members. You must take data protection seriously, ensuring
 that personal information is handled responsibly and that the community remains a safe
 space for all.
- **Celebrating Fatherhood:** Above all, as a moderator for Fathering Strong you should celebrate and appreciate the essence of fatherhood. By highlighting the joys, triumphs, and moments of pride, we encourage members to cherish their roles as fathers and create lasting memories with their families.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the role of a moderator for the Father Strong online community goes beyond just managing discussions; it involves cultivating a positive and supportive environment where fathers can connect, engage, become empowered, and grow together. By being vigilant, empathetic, and proactive, you can contribute to making Fathering Strong a valuable resource for fathers worldwide.

Powered by Urban Light Ministries

Fathering Strong is an online community where dads can share their stories' and learn from others as they become better fathers through building mutually beneficial relationships with other fathers and with Jesus Christ.

Document prepared by:

Eli Williams - President and CEO, Urban Light Ministries

Bruce Stapleton - President, Movementum Group and Board Chair, Urban Light Ministries



We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the Heavenly Father

Contact Information

www.fatheringstrong.com www.urbanlight.org @fatheringstrong