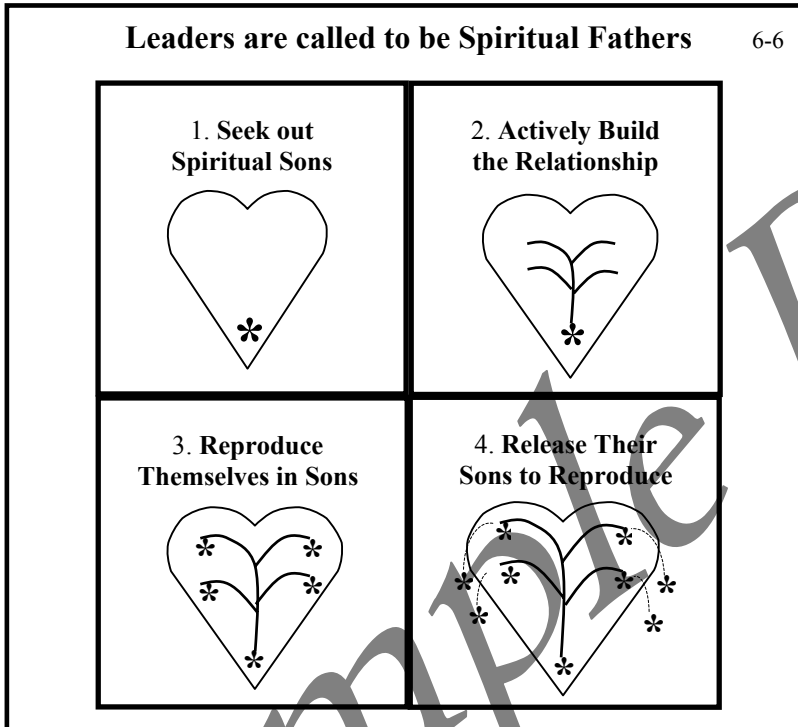


## D. Leaders are called to be Spiritual Fathers.

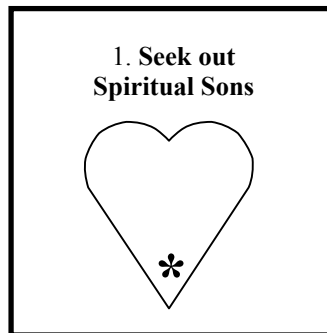
(Suggested teaching time: 10 minutes) [See Appendix 6C]



1. **Leaders must seek out spiritual sons.**

a. **Leaders must initiate the relationship.**

- Pray about who the spiritual son is that you are to be in relationship with. Then make the first move and ask the person if he would like to begin a relationship.
- Jesus sought out the men who would be his disciples (Mk 1:15-19).



b. **The relationship must be mutual.**

It is important that there is agreement and both recognize the need for this relationship (Amos 3:3).

c. **Love must be the pivotal point of the relationship.**

- It is key that father and son enjoy being together, hopefully becoming friends through the process.
- It is important that the son is assured of the father's love for him, so he can be himself.

— Leader's Notes —

Show slide 6-5.

6-5

### Leaders are called to be Spiritual Fathers

1. Leaders must seek out spiritual sons.
2. Leaders must actively build the relationship.
3. Leaders must reproduce themselves in their children.
4. Leaders must release their children to reproduce themselves.

Show slide 6-6.

If there is time, read Appendix 6C, "The Three Important Benefits of Spiritual Fatherhood", which looks at spiritual fatherhood from the story of Elijah and Elisha.

Remind your group that this model of reproducing is similar to the process of a reproducing plant or tree. This same concept is used in the *Leading With the Word* module to show the incarnational approach of developing sermons and messages.