

Foreman Memorial Baptist Church

“The Godly Father: A Reflection of the Fatherhood of God”

A Father’s Day Biblical Message

“The Godly Father: A Reflection of the Fatherhood of God”

Foundational Texts

Ephesians 6:4 NKJV

⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Psalms 103:13 NKJV

¹³ As a father pities *his* children, *So* the Lord pities those who fear Him.

Joshua 24:15 NKJV

¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Proverbs 20:7 NKJV

⁷ The righteous *man* walks in his integrity; His children *are* blessed after him.

3 John 4 NKJV

⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Theological Introduction

Fatherhood is not a human invention—it is a divine institution established by God Himself. Before there was a **government, school, nation, or church,** there was the family. **And at the center of the family structure, God placed the father as a leader, provider, protector, shepherd, teacher, and example.** The crisis of the modern world is not merely **political, educational, or economic**—it is **deeply spiritual and familial.**

When fathers abandon their biblical role, society collapses from the inside out.

Scripture repeatedly demonstrates that the health of a nation is directly connected to the spiritual condition of its homes.

The Bible reveals God as Father. Though no earthly father can perfectly represent Him, earthly fatherhood is designed to reflect His character:

- His love
- His discipline
- His provision
- His protection
- His faithfulness
- His leadership

Psalm 103:13 NKJV:

“As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him.”

The role of a father is therefore sacred stewardship. **A father is not merely called to produce children biologically; he is called to shepherd souls spiritually.**

From a Reformed theological perspective, fathers are covenantal leaders within the home.

They are entrusted with:

- Teaching the Word of God
- Leading their family in worship
- Modeling repentance and holiness
- Training children in truth
- Demonstrating sacrificial love

The father is to be the first theologian his children ever know.

Many men have confused fatherhood with:

- financial provision,
- emotional passivity,
- authoritarian control,
- or worldly success.

But biblical fatherhood is measured by **faithfulness to God.**

A father may never become wealthy, famous, or influential in society, yet still be greatly honored in heaven because he faithfully led his family toward Christ.

Modern-Day Introduction

We live in a generation where fathers are often mocked, minimized, or replaced. Society celebrates independence from authority while simultaneously suffering from the absence of godly leadership.

Many children today grow up:

- without guidance,
- without discipline,
- without protection,
- without affirmation,
- without biblical truth.

The consequences are everywhere:

- broken homes,
- identity confusion,
- anger,
- rebellion,

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- violence,
- emotional instability,
- spiritual ignorance.

Yet even in a culture that devalues fatherhood, God still calls men to rise up spiritually.

A godly father:

- teaches his children to pray,
- opens the Scriptures in the home,
- models integrity,
- asks forgiveness when wrong,
- protects his family from spiritual danger,
- and points his household toward Christ.

Fatherhood is not about perfection. It is about faithful direction.

A father’s greatest legacy is not:

- his money,
- his possessions,
- his career,
- or his achievements.

His greatest legacy is whether his children saw Jesus in him.

“The Marks of a Godly Father”

I. A Godly Father Leads His Family Spiritually

Joshua 24:15 NKJV

¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua understood that spiritual neutrality in the home is impossible. Either the home will drift toward God **or** drift toward the world.

A father is called to spiritual leadership.

Not dictatorship.

Not harsh domination.

But humble godly leadership.

A father cannot delegate spiritual responsibility entirely to:

- the church,
- the youth pastor,
- the Christian school,

- or the mother.

He must lead.

Applications

- Lead family prayer.
- Lead family worship.
- Lead in church attendance.
- Lead in repentance.
- Lead in holiness.

Children rarely rise above the spiritual seriousness of their fathers.

II. A Godly Father Loves Sacrificially

Ephesians 5:25 NKJV

²⁵ “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”

Biblical fatherhood is sacrificial.

The world teaches men:

- seek comfort,
- pursue self,
- avoid responsibility.

But Christ teaches:

- serve,
- sacrifice,
- protect,
- give.

A father reflects Christ most clearly when he sacrifices for his family.

Sometimes sacrifice means:

- long work hours,
- sleepless nights,
- personal denial,
- emotional strength,
- spiritual perseverance.

Real fathers stay when things become difficult.

III. A Godly Father Disciplines with Love

Proverbs 13:24 NKJV

²⁴ “He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.”

Biblical discipline is not abuse.

It is loving correction.

God disciplines His children because He loves them.

Hebrews 12:6 NKJV

“For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”

Children without discipline become adults without restraint.

Discipline teaches:

- authority,
- consequences,
- wisdom,
- self-control,
- respect.

A father who refuses correction does not love properly.

IV. A Godly Father Models Integrity

Proverbs 20:7 NKJV

“The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.”

Children learn more from observation than instruction.

A father can preach truth verbally while denying it practically.

Children notice:

- how he treats their mother,
- how he speaks,
- how he handles anger,
- how he responds under pressure,
- whether he lives what he professes.

Integrity means:

- consistency,
- honesty,
- holiness,
- faithfulness.

The greatest sermon a father preaches is his daily life.

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V. A Godly Father Leaves a Spiritual Legacy

3 John 4 NKJV

⁴ **“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”**

Every father leaves a legacy. The question is not **WHETHER he leaves one.
The question is WHAT he leaves behind.**

Some leave:

- wealth,
- land,
- businesses,
- trophies,
- memories.

But the greatest inheritance is faithfulness to God.

A father’s deepest joy should be:

“My children know Christ.”

10 Old Testament Scriptural Illustrations

1. Noah — A Father Who Saved His Household

Genesis 6:13-22 NKJV

The Ark Prepared

¹³ **And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.**

¹⁴ **Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.**

¹⁵ **And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.**

¹⁶ **You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it *with* lower, second, and third *decks*.**

¹⁷ **And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which *is* the breath of life; everything that *is* on the earth shall die.**

¹⁸ **But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.**

¹⁹ **And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every *sort* into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female.**

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²⁰ Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep *them* alive.

²¹ And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather *it* to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.”

²² Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Noah’s obedience preserved his family through judgment.

Lesson:

A father’s obedience can bless generations.

2. Abraham — A Father of Faith

Genesis 18:19 NKJV

¹⁹ For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him. God said Abraham would command his children after him.

Lesson:

Fathers must intentionally teach truth.

3. Isaac — A Father Who Blessed the Next Generation

Genesis 27:26-29 NKJV

²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near now and kiss me, my son.”

²⁷ And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: “Surely, the smell of my son *Is* like the smell of a field Which the Lord has blessed.

²⁸ Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine.

²⁹ Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed *be* everyone who curses you, And blessed *be* those who bless you!”

Lesson:

A father’s words carry tremendous influence.

4. Jacob — A Father Who Loved Imperfectly

Genesis 37:3–4 (NKJV)

³ “Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors.

⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.”

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Favoritism damaged his household.

Lesson:

Fathers must love children impartially.

5. Joseph — A Protective Earthly Father to Jesus

Matthew 1:20-24 NKJV

²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife.

Matthew references OT prophecy fulfillment through Joseph’s obedience.

Lesson:

Fathers protect their family spiritually and physically.

6. Job — A Father Who Prayed for His Children

Job 1:5 NKJV

⁵ So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus, Job did regularly.

Lesson:

Godly fathers intercede regularly.

7. Eli — A Father Who Failed to Restrain Sin

1 Samuel 2:12-17 NKJV

The Wicked Sons of Eli

¹² Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the Lord.

¹³ And the priests’ custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest’s servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling.

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¹⁴ Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up. So, they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there.

¹⁵ Also, before they burned the fat, the priest’s servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, “Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw.”

¹⁶ And if the man said to him, “They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires,” he would then answer him, “No, but you must give it now; and if not, I will take it by force.”

¹⁷ Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord, for men abhorred the offering of the Lord.

Lesson:

Passive fatherhood destroys families.

8. David — A Father with Great Strengths and Great Failures

For the theme “David — A Father with Great Strengths and Great Failures” in Second Book of Samuel, several passages together present the full picture of David’s **fatherhood**, **leadership**, **successes**, and **failures**.

Key Verses and Passages

1. David Failed to Discipline Amnon

2 Samuel 13:1–21

This chapter records Amnon’s sin against Tamar.

Critical Verse

2 Samuel 13:21

²¹ “But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry.”

David was angry, but the text records no corrective action against Amnon.

This becomes a major example of passive fatherhood and failure to administer justice within his own household.

2. Absalom’s Rebellion Against David

2 Samuel 15:1–12

Absalom steals the hearts of the people and rebels against his father.

Key verse:

2 Samuel 15:6 NKJV

⁶ “So, Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.”

This reflects deep fracture within David’s family.

3. David’s Grief Over Absalom

2 Samuel 18:33 NKJV

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³³ **“O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place!”**

One of the most emotional fatherhood verses in Scripture:

This reveals David’s deep paternal love despite Absalom’s rebellion.

4. The Sword in David’s House

Foundational Background Passage

2 Samuel 12:9–12

After David’s sin with Bathsheba, Nathan prophesies consequences upon David’s household.

Especially:

2 Samuel 12:10 NKJV

“Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house...”

This passage becomes the theological backdrop for the family turmoil in **chapters 13–18**.

Recommended Main Texts

Core Verses

- **2 Samuel 12:10**
- **2 Samuel 13:21**
- **2 Samuel 15:6**
- **2 Samuel 18:33**

Major Themes

David demonstrates:

- Great love for his children
- Deep spiritual devotion to God
- Strong leadership nationally
- Yet inconsistency in parenting
- Failure to discipline properly
- Painful family consequences from personal sin

This makes David a powerful biblical portrait of:

- The complexity of fatherhood
- The lingering effects of sin
- The necessity of godly leadership at home
- The grace of God toward imperfect fathers

David loved God deeply yet failed at times in parenting.

Lesson:

Even godly men must remain vigilant.

9. Boaz — A Redeemer Figure
Book of Ruth

Lesson:

Godly men protect and provide.

10. Joshua — A Father Who Chose Covenant Faithfulness

Joshua 24:15 NKJV

¹⁵ **And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”**

Lesson:

Homes need spiritual direction.

10 New Testament Scriptural Illustrations

1. Joseph, Earthly Father of Jesus

Matthew 1–2

Protected Jesus from Herod.

Lesson:

Fathers guard their homes.

2. The Father of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15

Lesson:

Godly fathers combine truth and mercy.

3. Jairus

Mark 5

A desperate father seeking healing for his daughter.

Lesson:

Good fathers bring needs to Jesus.

4. The Nobleman

John 4

Believed Christ for his son’s healing.

Lesson:

Faith impacts the family.

5. Cornelius

Acts 10

Led his household toward God.

Lesson:

Spiritual leadership affects entire homes.

6. Timothy’s Spiritual Heritage

2 Timothy 1:5 NKJV

⁵ When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

Lesson:

Faith should transfer generationally.

7. The Philippian Jailer

Acts 16:30-31 NKJV

³⁰ And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

³¹ So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Lesson:

Salvation transformed his household.

Major Themes

The Philippian jailer illustrates:

- The transforming power of the gospel
- Salvation affecting the entire home
- A father leading his household toward Christ
- Immediate evidence of genuine conversion
- Joy replacing fear and despair

This passage works especially well for themes such as:

- “A Father Transformed by Grace”
- “When Salvation Comes Home”
- “The Gospel Changes Families”
- “A Household Redeemed by Christ”

8. Paul as Spiritual Father

1 Corinthians 4:15 NKJV

¹⁵ For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have many fathers*; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Lesson:

Fatherhood also includes spiritual mentoring.

9. God the Father

Matthew 3:17 NKJV

¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**”

Lesson:

Children need affirmation.

10. The Heavenly Father’s Discipline

Hebrews 12:5-6 NKJV

⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

⁶ For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”

Lesson:

Love corrects.

20 Modern-Day Illustrations

1. A father working exhausting hours yet still kneeling beside his child’s bed at night to pray.
2. A dad putting away his phone to listen attentively to his teenager.
3. A father faithfully attending church even when tired.
4. A man asking forgiveness from his children after losing his temper.
5. A father teaching his son how to read Scripture before school.
6. A grandfather continuing to disciple generations after retirement.
7. A stepfather choosing sacrificial love for children not biologically his.
8. An adoptive father reflecting God’s adoption of believers.
9. A father refusing unethical business practices to maintain integrity before his children.
10. A dad praying in the hospital waiting room for his child.
11. A father leading family worship despite feeling spiritually inadequate.
12. A single father carrying both emotional and spiritual burdens faithfully.
13. A father teaching biblical masculinity in a confused culture.
14. A military father serving sacrificially while maintaining spiritual leadership from afar.

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15. A father helping his child understand forgiveness after failure.
16. A dad choosing family faithfulness over career advancement.
17. A father standing against worldly influences entering the home.
18. A father attending his child’s events simply to show love and support.
19. A father consistently modeling repentance and humility.
20. An elderly father finishing life faithfully, still pointing his family toward Christ.

Practical Applications for Fathers

1. Be Present

Children spell love: T-I-M-E.

2. Pray With Your Family

Your children should hear your voice praying.

3. Open the Scriptures in the Home

The father should help establish biblical atmosphere.

4. Love Your Wife Publicly and Privately

Children learn marriage from observing parents.

5. Repent When Wrong

Humility builds trust.

6. Prioritize Church Faithfulness

Children notice spiritual priorities.

7. Protect Your Home Spiritually

Guard against ungodly influences.

8. Encourage Your Children

Words shape identity.

9. Discipline Biblically

Correction is love.

10. Leave a Legacy of Faithfulness

One generation impacts another.

Gospel Invitation

No earthly father is perfect. Some fathers failed greatly. Some children grew up wounded. Some men feel they have fallen short.

But the gospel offers:

- forgiveness,
- restoration,
- grace,
- reconciliation,
- transformation.

“The Godly Father: A Reflection of the Fatherhood of God”

The greatest Father revealed in Scripture is our Heavenly Father.

Through Jesus Christ:

- sinners are forgiven,
- prodigals are welcomed,
- broken men are restored,
- and spiritual orphans become sons and daughters of God.

John 1:12 NKJV:

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God...”

Closing Exhortation

America does not merely need:

- stronger politics,
- better economics,
- or greater technology.

America desperately needs godly fathers.

Fathers who:

- fear God,
- love their wives,
- disciple their children,
- honor Scripture,
- stand courageously,
- repent humbly,
- and lead faithfully.

The future of the church, the strength of the family, and the health of the nation are deeply tied to the spiritual condition of fathers.

May fathers rise again to reflect the heart of the Heavenly Father.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the gift and calling of fatherhood. We thank You for every godly father who has loved, sacrificed, prayed, protected, disciplined, and faithfully led his family toward Christ.

Strengthen the fathers of our homes today. Give them wisdom to lead, humility to repent, courage to stand for truth, and compassion to love sacrificially. Restore

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broken families. Encourage weary fathers. Heal wounded hearts. Raise up a generation of men who fear God more than culture. May our homes become places of prayer, holiness, truth, and gospel-centered love. And above all, may earthly fathers point their children to the perfect Father revealed through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen.