

# Defining Fatherhood

## Bible Plan

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### Day 1 - Defining Fatherhood

#### Description

One of the most powerful ways God invites us into relationship with Him is through fathers. When we turn to the Bible to better understand the brilliant design of the parent/child relationship, we see reflected within it God's intentions for our relationship with Him. Through father's we catch glimpses of the complex nature of creation through a masculine lens.

So what happens when we elevate the conversation about fatherhood and only look at it through a lens informed by the Holy Spirit? What happens when we shine Jesus' lessons of love, forgiveness and light onto the darkest and most sinful aspects of the father archetype as we've seen it portrayed throughout history? Some of us have experienced this dark and sinful nature firsthand and have allowed it to inform our relationship with God. Where can we take that confusion, that hurt, that uncertainty and that fear of trusting in a God who says he wants a relationship with us but so much of what we see in the world around us makes us unsure about how to relax into that invitation?

The only one true place to take it is directly to God. There we can better understand His path for us when we explore it through His guidance. And, perhaps, when we study His Word we're able to see the purpose and promise even when the details don't end up looking as we'd like.

#### Bible Verses

Malachi 4:6

He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Act like men.

1 Timothy 3:2-5

Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

2 Timothy 3:15-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are



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able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

## Day 2 - Wanting To

### Description

The uniqueness inherent in the role of fatherhood that makes it incomparable to motherhood is the volunteer nature of it. While motherhood has an element of choice, the external nature of fatherhood, from inception on, gives it a flair that motherhood will never possess. That brings us to the first step in the process of defining fatherhood. Choice. Choosing, not only to be a provider for offspring, but to step into a willingness to both be a father and be fathered. The choice goes beyond simply agreeing to or accepting the role of father, it is one of willingness to walk the path to become the highest aspect of father imaginable.

When we look at one of the most famous fathers in history, Joseph, we see that choice memorialized in a beautiful testament to faith. For those men who step into that father role, with their own offspring or someone else's, and guide young people closer to God, there is no greater gift they can offer the world.

### Bible Verses

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Genesis 18:19

For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.

Psalms 127:3-5

Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

## Day 3 - Doing It

### Description

After we step on the path of looking at fatherhood differently, as more than simply being a provider, we quickly collide with confusion about how to do it. Depending on what lens we choose to look through, fatherhood calls us into play-acting roles we've experienced or perpetuated or rebelled against. These methods keep us trapped in a cycle of replication, despite our best intentions to create change. During this phase we look at the role of defender in our efforts to "do" fatherhood. As a fear-based concept, defending informs fatherhood very differently than it does as a love-based concept. When we harness courage and choose to pursue evolved fatherhood, we start to see how God wants to work in our lives. He works through fathers in families, in communities, in business, the father role doesn't end in the home with children. Fatherhood is a mechanism God uses to bring us into closer relationship with Him...if we allow Spirit to work through us.

### Bible Verses

Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Proverbs 14:26

Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.

Deuteronomy 1:29-31

Then I said to you, "Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. The Lord your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, and in the wilderness. There you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.

Colossians 3:21

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

## Day 4 - Fathering You

### Description

*The best way of training the young is to train yourself at the same time.*

Plato

As we begin to walk ourselves back to the original experience we had with a father concept, we see how our confusion toward parenting others is closely connected to our hurt and mixed feelings about our own parenting, at physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual levels. If we can't reconcile how we feel about God, we're left to perpetuate a watered-down, less-than version of our own greatness reflected through Spirit's gaze. Our collective concept of fatherhood can only be uplifted as a viable partner for God's vision of motherhood if we allow it to evolve in ways that we only vaguely envision at this point.

The pursuit of uplifting fatherhood and fathers IS the pursuit of a deeper relationship with God. Pursuit of a deeper relationship with God IS the pursuit of uplifting fatherhood and father. We can't do one without the other.

### Verses with text

Proverbs 4:1-4

Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. For I too was a son to my father, still tender, and cherished by my mother. Then he taught me, and he said to me, "Take hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands, and you will live.

Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Psalms 103:13

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

Hebrews 12:7

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

3 John 1:4

It is the greatest joy of my life to hear that my children are consistently living their lives in the ways of truth.

*This plan dives into the biblical perspective of the free Defining Fatherhood IM Series offered by Super Power Experts. For more information go to <https://superpowerexperts.com/messages>.*