

Study Guide
Father's Day (06/16/24)
Pastor Bobby Davis

Key verse for this message:

When I think of the greatness of this great plan I fall on my knees before God the Father (from whom all fatherhood, earthly or heavenly, derives its name).

Ephesians 3:14-15 (JBP)

Our Father, who is in Heaven, wants to influence all the fathers who are on earth.

Read Ephesians 5:21-33.

What is the role of a husband in marriage according to this passage?

What is the role of a wife in marriage according to this passage?

What does marriage symbolize according to this passage?

Ephesians 5 deals with the relationship between husband and wife, while Ephesians 6 deals with the relationship between parent and child.

Read Ephesians 6:1-4.

What is the role of children within the context of family?

Who does Paul address when he shifts his focus to parenting?

Why would Paul only address fathers when giving instructions about Godly parenting?

Mothers naturally nurture, and many fathers leave the role of nurturer to mothers because it is not as natural for fathers to nurture their children.

In your childhood, what was your relationship with your father like?

In your childhood, what was your relationship with your mother like?

With your own family, what is your relationship with your children like?

Colossians 3:18-21 (NKJV)

Wives submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

In the Greek, the word “discouraged” means “to become disheartened” or “to lose spirit.” Webster’s Dictionary defines “discouraged” as “to deprive of courage or confidence.”

Romans 8:15 (NKJV)

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father’.”

The presence of a father produces courage and confidence; the absence of a father produces insecurity and fear.

Pastor Bobby shared details of his relationship with his father and how he discovered why his father was unable to express vulnerability and intimacy with him. Pastor Bobby shared truth that God revealed to him – his father was unable to give what he did not receive. If any of us has not received love, intimacy, and vulnerability from our earthly fathers, then we must learn to receive those things from our Heavenly Father.

Fathers, how do you most encourage your children (grades, sports, success, etc)?

Fathers, how often do you speak with your children about God?

Read Ephesians 6:4 (in the Message, it instructs fathers to “take them by the hand”).

Fathers will lead their children whether they realize it or not – where are you leading them?

Mark 1:9-11 (NLT)

“One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, ‘You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy’.” - (Note: This is before Jesus began His ministry)

Read Luke 9:35.

Was God the Father’s love/approval based on Jesus’ performance?

Jesus didn’t have to live FOR APPROVAL, because He lived IN APPROVAL.

Fathers, how are you raising your children, IN approval or FOR approval?

It matters how we parent as fathers – because rejection causes an infection (of anger/resentment).

Read Genesis 16.

Read Genesis 21:1-21.

Because Ishmael was rejected – he was infected with anger/resentment (Genesis 16:11-12).

The Middle East is still feeling the effects of this infection.

Ephesians 6:4 (MSG)

“Fathers, don’t exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master.”