

SPIRIT-EMPOWERED DAD

Lesson 1: A Spirit-Empowered Dad Provides Spiritual Leadership

Main Idea: Dad should be the spiritual leader in his home. In this lesson, you will learn how to develop your personal spiritual leadership.



SIGHTLINE: Acquire Your Target

The spiritual development of the family is usually linked directly to the spirituality of the dad. Dads should provide for the emotional and physical needs of their children; however, children also have spiritual needs, and a dad should be equally concerned about them. A dad who wants his children to be spiritually minded must be an example of one who is spiritually minded. If dads communicate to their children the philosophy of “do as I say, not as I do,” they will lose the respect of their children and their leadership will be ineffective.

The Bible has much to say about leading by example. Paul instructs Timothy to be an example in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity (1 Timothy 4:12). Paul encourages the church at Philippi to follow after his example (Philippians 4:9). For dads, being in right relationship with God themselves is the first step in leading by example. The Bible provides the pathway.



CROSSHAIR: Focus On Your Target

Becoming a godly leader for your family simply means that, as a Spirit-empowered dad, you do your best to reflect the character of God as revealed in the Bible. You can discover from the Bible that as a man you have a body, soul, and spirit. It is your spirit that is able to communicate and be in a relationship with God. Through sin, the world’s relationship with God is broken. God sent Jesus to the world so that relationship could be restored (John 3:16).

As a Spirit-empowered dad, when you repent of your sin, believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and decide to follow Jesus, you will be changed dramatically. The Bible describes you as a **new creation** (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is when you become spiritually alive. If you are going to lead your family spiritually and desire to meet the spiritual needs of your children well, then deciding to be spiritually alive through trust in Jesus is the starting point.

A Spirit-empowered dad has a divine command to be the spiritual leader of his family. Being the spiritual leader of a family is not easy, and unfortunately, many dads do not know how to fulfill this role. Often, dads abdicate the role to the mom, the child, the school, or the church. Dads who do not fulfill their role as spiritual leaders rob their family of important elements they need for healthy spiritual growth.

Spirit-empowered dads understand the value of spiritual leadership in the family (Proverbs 22:6). While dads cannot force their family to serve God, they can lead their family in the things of God that make the decision to serve God natural, logical, and easier. Every day a Spirit-empowered dad looks for opportunities to demonstrate and teach their family about the things of God in the daily activities of their life. These moments become crucial in the development of a child's understanding of God and the development of godly values they can follow in their life.

Throughout history, men have struggled with how much they should love God and the priority that love for God should take in their lives. The most important thing you can do individually and as a dad is to love God more than anything or anyone else (Matthew 22:36–38). This is a challenge for all dads. The love a dad feels for his family can be very powerful, and the idea that this love is to be secondary to one's love for God is sometimes difficult to comprehend. As a dad, how can you increase your love for God?

The secret may lie in Jesus' words in John 14:15: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Your first priority to increasing your love for God is to know His commandments found in the Bible. The Bible is the revelation of God to man, and your love for God will grow in proportion to your knowledge of God as revealed through Scripture. If you would like to grow in this area, Men's Ministries recommends going through the ***Spiritual Disciplines Study*** which may be accessed at <https://men.ag.org/Targeted-Studies/Spiritual-Disciplines>.

Another suggestion to help increase your love for God is to spend time with Him in prayer. When you are in His presence, you will begin to know Him more and increase your love for Him. Love for God is more than just knowing information about God; it involves your heart. When you commit to praying, reading the Bible, and worshipping, you will fall more in love with Him.





BULLSEYE: Zero In On Your Target

- What are some things that can stop a dad from taking on the role of the spiritual leader in the family?
- What dads love can be seen in their priorities. Take a moment and honestly reflect on the following five priorities. Put a number (1-5) beside your priority with one being high. This is a time of honest reflection. Be careful not to make your list on what the expectation is but rather on what the reality is.
 - Job
 - Hobbies
 - Friends
 - Family
 - God
- Write a plan for spending more time with God.
- If you were to pursue God and place Him first in your life, how would your children be impacted?

NEXT STEP:

This section gives suggestions for how to turn your new knowledge into an action step. Men's Ministries realizes that not all relationships are created equally. If these action steps seem too difficult, adjust your next step so it will fit into your relationship with your child.

- **Courage:** Look at the example personal growth chart below.

- Write and implement a 30-day personal spiritual growth plan.

- **Strength:** Look at the example personal growth chart below.
Write and implement a 90-day personal spiritual growth plan.

- **Endurance:** Look at the example personal growth chart below.
Write and implement a year-long personal spiritual growth plan.



Personal Growth Chart

| GROWTH QUESTION | | GROWTH ANSWERS |
|-----------------|---|---|
| T | TARGET What is my growth goal? | SPIRITUAL Cultivate a closer walk with God through consistent and meaningful prayer, Bible study, and Scripture memorization |
| R | ROAD MAP How do I plan to grow? What training, resources, relationships, & experiences will I use as growth steps? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule a personal prayer and devotional time from 6:30–7:00 Monday – Friday. Interview my pastor on the topic of prayer Draft a list of 22 Scriptures that address topics of _____. Create a waterproof version of my Scripture list and hang in my shower. Do a character study of one biblical leader—Joseph. Read and study the Synoptic Gospels this year. |
| A | ACCOUNTABILITY Who will hold me accountable for my growth? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every Monday of each week accountability meeting with Brian at gym. Questions: How consistent has your prayer and Bible reading been this week? Quote the verses you’ve memorized. What are you learning from your character study on Joseph? What are you learning from your study of the Synoptic Gospels? |
| C | CHECK-UP When and how will I evaluate my growth process? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin a morning prayer routine in January. Create Scripture memorization list in February. Interview pastor on prayer in May. Begin study on Joseph in September and finished by December. |

