

✓ OWF.2. The Key Responsibilities of a Father

Wednesday, 30 April 2025 12:14 PM

The Unique Role of a Father

I. What is a Father or Dad?

1. Personal Experience

- **What memories come to mind when you think of your Father?**
 - What emotions or experiences come to mind as you think of your Father?
 - These emotions and responses will affect your relating to God as your Father
- **What was your Father like?**
 - Active and engaging
 - Hard working?
 - Loving?
 - Angry?
 - Silent?
 - Passive?
 - Absent?
 - Other?

2. How does the Bible describe a Father?

- **Bible Definition of Father:**
- The Words used to describe a Father give insights to God's design for Fathers
 - OT.....Heb... **Ab**.....The head or founder of a household, the originator, the source
 - NT.....Gk.... **Pater**.... The originator, a term of honour and respect for authority figure
 - NT.....Gk.....**Abba**..... "Daddy", a term of intimate endearment and closeness

3. How does the Bible describe a Son/Daughter?

- **Bible Definition:**
- The words used to describe a Son/Daughter give insights to the relationship of children to their Father
- **OT:**
 - Son.....Heb.....Ben....a Branch, a Builder of the family name
 - Daughter.....Heb.....Bath...a Branch, a Builder
 - Both words describe identity, and inheritance and belonging to a family
 - The describe a personal relationship and Working together in the Father's interests
 - OT names reflect that. Men were identified as " the Son of"
- **NT:**
 - Son..... Gk.....Huios.....a mature Son and heir
 - Daughter.....Gk.....Thugater...a female child

4. God is the Source of Fatherhood

- [Eph 3:14](#) *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
- [Eph 3:15](#) *from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is **named**,*
- **Family draws its very name and Nature from God the Father**
 - Earthly Fathers are called to model and represent the Fatherhood of God
 - Fathers are called to demonstrate and model the Loving Kindness, generosity and Faithfulness of God
 - Fathers are called to sacrifice for the benefit and welfare of the next generation
- **This is their assignment as a Father.... to represent Father God and raise up sons and daughters for Him**
- [Jhn 1:18](#) *No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. NKJV*
- [Jhn 14:9](#) *Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time, and you do not know Me yet, Philip, nor recognize clearly who I am? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father?' AMP*
 - Fathers are the first authority figure in a child's life and create a lasting impact on their children
 - Jesus was a Spiritual father to His disciples. He represented to them what Father God is truly like

5. Fathers are also called by God to build a Legacy for their children and grandchildren

- [Pro 13:22](#) *A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children,*
 - A Legacy is not left, a legacy is intentionally built
 - The Legacy of a Father impacts generations for good or bad

- That legacy can be spiritual, relational, emotional, physical, financial or all of these

II. Key Responsibilities of a Father

1. What is a Father a Source of?

- **A Source is the origin from which something comes**
 - The Role of a Father is multifaceted and deeply rooted in spiritual and practical responsibilities
- **Fathers are called by God to be a source of**
 - 1. Identity**
 - [Eph 3:14](#) *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
[Eph 3:15](#) *from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*
 - Identity is a person's understanding of who they are, shaped by their origin, relationships and purpose
 - Fathers are a profound source of identity throughout the Bible.
 - Fathers give a Family Name and Legacy to their children
 - Children form their first understanding of God through their Fathers
 - 2. Provision**
 - [1Ti 5:8](#) *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*
 - A Father has the responsibility of:
 - Providing for his household physically, spiritually, emotionally and morally
 - Model the goodness and generosity of God the Father (Matt.7:9-11)
 - Physical Provision.....Food, shelter and basic needs
 - Spiritual Provision.....Praying for them, teaching them truth (Dt.6:6-7)
 - Emotional Provision.....Building a safe, loving and nurturing environment (Ps.103:13)
 - Moral Provision.....Teaching values and establishing boundaries (Prov.3:11-12)
 - 3. Protection**
 - [Gen 2:15](#) *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.*
 - The first responsibility given to Adam was that of a watchman and cultivator
 - A Father is expected to protect his family from harm, physical, emotional and spiritual
 - Protection includes guarding the heart and spirit of his family from negative influences
 - A Father sees and warns of impending dangers, issues, and relationships that would negatively impact his children
 - 4. Leadership and Guidance**
 - [Deu 6:5](#) *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*
[Deu 6:6](#) *"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.*
[Deu 6:7](#) *You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*
 - Fathers are expected to be spiritual leaders in their homes guiding their children in the ways of God
 - Fathers are meant to lead by personal life example and not just by words
 - Jesus was a Father to His disciples. He modelled prayer to them
 - 5. Correction and Discipline**
 - [Pro 3:12](#) *For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.*
 - A Father is called to guide his children to maturity, teaching them right from wrong
 - Biblical discipline is about love, correction, and the shaping of character and self control
 - Without a Father's boundaries and discipline, a child becomes insecure and self-centered
 - 6. Comfort and Nurture**
 - [2Co 1:3](#) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,*
[2Co 1:4](#) *who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*
 - [1Th 2:7](#) *But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.*

1Th 2:8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

- God the Father is a source of comfort and nurture (2Cor.1:1-3)
- God gently comes alongside of us to be present with us and to comfort and encourage us
- This is the gentle and affectionate and relational aspect of God's Fatherhood

7. Affirmation and Encouragement

- *Mat 3:17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
 - Fathers are called to speak words to their children that help them see their value and their worth
 - Speak words like:
 - *My Son I love you*
 - *My son, You did so well*
 - *My son I am so very proud of you*
 - *My Son I am here for you. I have your back*

III. Activations

- 1. Share some personal memories or experiences with your Natural Father**
 - **What was your best experience with your father?**
 - **What was your worst experience with your Father?**
- 2. How did these impact your life?**
- 3. What aspect of this teaching impacted you the most?**
Why did this impact you so much?
- 4. Which of the Key Responsibilities of a Father did your Father fulfil well?**
How did this affect you?
- 5. Which of the Key Responsibilities did he not fulfil well?**
How did this affect you?