

# Father's Day 2020

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, June 21, 2020

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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us today. Whether you are here IN PERSON or watching via the LIVESTREAM, you are most welcome. Happy Father's Day! Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes. We have MUCH to cover in a relatively short amount of time.

## SETTING THE STAGE

**FYI** – This morning I want to offer a very simple, yet profound, message. Namely, I want to consider what the Lord requires of those who are FATHERS (i.e., biological, adoptive and/or foster). What does Scripture proclaim concerning fathers, fatherhood, and beyond? As we shall note, MUCH!

### 1) To the Fathers in the Sound of My Voice...

...Consider what the Word of God reveals about the crucial role YOU play in the family unit. The call of God in this arena is LOFTY, but He is FAITHFUL. Trust in and seek Him! Receive—daily—His empowerment, that you might fulfill His dream and design for your life!

### 2) To the Wives in the Sound of My Voice...

...Consider what the Word of God requires of the man YOU have pledged to love. May you come to APPRECIATE him all the more and PRAY for him, knowing that the part he plays in the home and in the family is invaluable, God-ordained and sacred!

### 3) To the Children in the Sound of My Voice...

...Consider what the Word of God requires of YOUR fathers. May this teaching inform and inspire our young BOYS, that they might be prepared to one day lead their homes in Christ! May it also provide insight to our young GIRLS, that they might have wisdom when it comes time to select a capable, godly spouse!

LET'S DELVE IN...

## POINT 1 – INSTRUCTION

**KEY** – The Word of God calls fathers to provide INSTRUCTION and TRAINING for godly life and living.

### Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

6 Start children off on the way they should go,  
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

### Ephesians 6:4 (Emphasis Mine)

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

### Deuteronomy 6:5–7

5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

**NOTE** – Failure to instruct and/or invest in your children may yield CATASTROPHIC result...

**ILL** – A young man was to be sentenced to the penitentiary. The judge had known him from childhood, for he was well acquainted with his father—a famous legal scholar and the author of an exhaustive study entitled, "The Law of Trusts." "Do you remember your father?" asked the magistrate. "I remember him well, your honor," came the reply. Then trying to probe the offender's conscience, the judge said, "As you are about to be sentenced and as you think of your wonderful dad, what do you remember most clearly about him?" There was a pause. Then the judge received an answer he had not expected. "I remember when I went to him for advice. He looked up at me from the book he was writing and said, 'Run along, boy; I'm busy!' When I went to him for companionship, he turned me away, saying 'Run along, son; this book must be finished!' Your honor, you remember him as a great lawyer. I remember him as a lost friend." The magistrate muttered to himself, "Alas! Finished the book, but lost the boy!"

## POINT 2 – EXAMPLE

**KEY** – The Word calls fathers to provide an EXAMPLE of consistent character and morality.

### James 1:22

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

### 2 Timothy 3:10–12

10 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, 11 persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. 12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

**NOTE** – Paul could CALL Timothy to follow His Christian example because He had demonstrated one over time!

**QUOTE** – “We are finding that both men and women get their basic religious style, trusting or paranoid, regardless of creed, from [the example of] their fathers. A failure in one generation starts a cycle . . . down through the ages to come.”

### POINT 3 – PROVISION

**KEY** – The Word calls fathers to PROVIDE for the material needs of their families.

#### 1 Timothy 5:8

8 Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

**NOTE** – In an age of entitlement (i.e., wherein many do NOT want to work), it’s time we get back to what Scripture declares and get to work! Before God gave Adam a family, he gave him a job. Remove work from your life—and the desire thereof—and you are VIOLATING something of a cosmic-level reality. IF you lose your job, work to find a new one. IF your current job is not sufficient to provide, prepare to get a better one.

#### Matthew 7:9–11

9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

**NOTE** – This speaks to the character of God, but it is ROOTED in the fact that good fathers care for their children!

### POINT 4 – DISCIPLINE

**KEY** – The Word calls fathers to DISCIPLINE their children.

#### Proverbs 13:24

24 Whoever spares the rod hates their children,  
but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

**NOTE 1** – The figure of ELI (cf. 1 Samuel) is an interesting one. Eli was a Jewish priest living in the days of the Judges, best remembered for his blessing on Samuel’s mother, Hannah, and for his part in Samuel’s first prophecy. For those who may not know, Eli had two WICKED sons named Hophni and Phineas...

**NOTE 2** – These men also served in the Tabernacle but did NOT know the Lord. They VIOLATED the Law by keeping and eating meat from the sacrifices that was not allocated to them (cf. 1 Sam. 2:12). They also had sex with the women who served at the doorway to the tent of meeting (cf. 1 Sam. 2:22).

**NOTE 3** – The bad behavior of Eli’s sons was WIDELY known, even by Eli himself. Yet, according to Scripture, Eli was judged by God because he FAILED to restrain or discipline his sons, allowing them to continue to profane the tabernacle of God!

#### 1 Samuel 3:11–14 [God’s Word to Eli through Samuel]

11 And the Lord said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. 12 At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. 13 For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. 14 Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, ‘The guilt of Eli’s house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’”

## POINT 5 – GRACE/ENCOURAGEMENT

**KEY** – The Word of God calls fathers to raise their children with an attitude of GRACIOUS ENCOURAGEMENT.

### **Ephesians 6:4 (Emphasis Mine)**

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

### **Colossians 3:21 (Emphasis Mine)**

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

**NOTE** – We must set high STANDARDS for our children, but we must ALSO be reasonable (i.e., NOT setting standards that are unrealistic or unattainable). We should be the first to PRAISE their SUCCESSES and the first to offer them COMFORT when they FAIL. Otherwise, the stage is set for frustration and resentment!

**ILL** – Keith Hernandez is one of baseball's top players. He is a lifetime .300 hitter who has won numerous Golden Glove awards for excellence in fielding. He's won a batting championship for having the highest average, the Most Valuable Player award in his league, and even the World Series. Yet with all his accomplishments, he has missed out on something crucially important to him: i.e., his father's acceptance and recognition that what he has accomplished is valuable. Listen to what he had to say in a very candid interview about his relationship with his father: One day Keith asked his father, "Dad, I have a lifetime .300 batting average. What more do you want?" His father replied, "But someday you're going to look back and say, 'I could have done more.'"

**FYI** – I love the remarks, herein, of the apostle PAUL...

### **1 Thessalonians 2:11–12 (Emphasis Mine)**

11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 **encouraging, comforting** and **urging** you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

## POINT 6 – COMPASSION

**KEY** – The Word calls fathers to NURTURE (i.e., show tender-compassion to) their children.

**QUOTE** – “I think we can affirm that fathers are called upon to be nurturers. It is not enough, dad, just to be the breadwinner. you need to help with the nurturing as well. This is not always easy because men have historically not done this. There was an interesting story . . . that told about a YMCA program in California. Fathers are placed in the playroom with their children. The mothers watched from a one-way window outside in the hallway. The one rule is that if the child starts crying, the father cannot take him or her to the mother. He must resolve the problem himself. If the child is given to the mother when it is crying, so the theory goes, that sends the signal that the one who gives the comfort and love is the mother.”

**Q. Is that the message we want to be sending?**

**Q. Is that the message Scripture wants us to send?**

### **Psalms 103:13**

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

## POINT 7 – TIME

**KEY** – The Word calls fathers to invest quality TIME with their children. [LOVE is spelled TIME]...

### Deuteronomy 6:5–7

5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up

**NOTE** – This text ASSUMES interpersonal connection and the spending of time together (varied contexts)...

### Deuteronomy 6:5–7 (Emphasis Mine)

5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them **when you sit at home** and **when you walk** along the road, **when you lie down** and **when you get up**

### Q. What happens when you fail to spend time with your children?

**QUOTE 1** – “Studies show that the absence of the father expresses itself in male children in two very different ways: it is linked to increased aggressiveness on one hand, and greater manifestations of effeminacy on the other. A 1987 study of violent rapists found that 60 percent of them came from single-parent homes. A Michigan State University study of adolescents who committed homicides found that 75 percent of them were from broken homes. Girls without fathers fare no better. They become sexually active sooner and are more likely to have out-of-wedlock children.”

**QUOTE 2** [James Dobson] – Finding the right balance between the workplace and home front can be a guilt trip, but it doesn't have to be that way. Look over the list of possible improvements you can make in the way you balance career and family...

- Set aside time after dinner to help your kids with their homework.
- Listen at all times: to mealtime stories, to the chatter over dishwashing, to bedtime prayers.
- Create family rituals: Saturday morning pancakes, Sunday night pizza, Monday night health club, Thursday night piano recital.
- Include children in your planning and decision-making regarding things like weekly chore assignments, summer vacation plans and special monthly events.
- Hold family councils once a month to discuss pet peeves, rules, rewards and punishments.
- Let the answering machine take calls during the dinner hour and at bedtime. Or, take the phone off the hook.
- It's better to play 15 or 20 minutes spontaneously and have fun, then go do chores, work or other priorities, than to spend all day at the zoo (or ballgame or the mall) feeling angry, guilty, or worried.
- Find one common mission or cause that your family loves to do together, instead of splintering your volunteer activities in several different directions.

## POINT 8 – PARDON

**KEY** – The Word calls fathers to FORGIVE if and when necessary. [i.e., Models of Mercy and Grace]

### **Luke 15:11–24**

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

### **Ephesians 4:32**

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

### **Colossians 3:13**

13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

## POINT 9 – LOVE YOUR WIFE

**KEY** – The Word of God calls fathers to LOVE their WIVES.

**FYI** – Men of God, the BEST thing you can do for your children and family is love your wife. A loving connection between husband and wife is the FOUNDATION for the whole of the home. There can be NO overall health if this foundation is CRACKED or FAULTY. Invest in and prioritize your relationship with your wife!

### **Ephesians 5:25**

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . .

## CONCLUSION

**KEY** – Thank you for taking the time to join us on this Father’s Day! Should those of you who have joined us online wish to give, please do so through the giving portal of our church WEBSITE ([www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org)). For those who are present, you may place your donation in the OFFERING BOXES in this Sanctuary.

### **Numbers 6:24–26**

24 The Lord bless you  
and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.