

# God the Father: Why Fathers Are Crucial

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## I. Introduction

Fathers are crucial to children's lives and whether they realize it or not, fathers will have a tremendous impact on their children. God the Father shows all fathers how to be a father and if you lacked a father or had a bad father, God adopts you into His family and says, "You never have to be without a father again, in fact, you can call Me Daddy."

## II. Fathers Play a Crucial Role in Their Children's Lives and the Ultimate Model is God the Father

**What happens when fathers fail their kids**, fatherless children are more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems, use drugs or alcohol, commit violent crime, dropout of high school, attempt suicide, run away from home or end up homeless, become teen parents, be admitted to psychiatric care, end up in a state juvenile institution or prison, suffer parental abuse and neglect (especially at the hands of live-in boyfriends), and are less likely to succeed in the workforce. But it's not just fatherless children who are at risk, it's also children who have fathers in the home, but are just as absent. That is, fathers who may pay the bills but never or rarely make their presence known, show their children the love, affection or respect they need, take an interest in their child's life and upbringing, publically identify with and praise their children, delight in their children's accomplishments no matter how small, have meaningful conversations about God, the future, adversity, responsibility, work/career, money, romance, sex, love, retirement, laziness, or how to handle emotions like anger and anxiety. These are fathers who fail to nurture their children in the love and wisdom of the Lord.

**Fathers by design influence their kids**, God designed the human race to have a lasting influence on each other, i.e., anytime you live in close proximity to someone else, you will inevitably be influenced by that person or group. This is why little Johnny, once he starts hanging out with the bad kids begins talking, dressing, and taking drugs just like them. This design feature of the human race was not meant as a curse, it was supposed to be a blessing. Parents are supposed to influence their kids for the better not worse (Exodus 20:4-6). Where do kids first learn how to see God? How to use alcohol? How to deal with stress and anxiety? How to be a man or woman? How treat sex, love, romance, a spouse? From their parents, but this influence was meant to help the kids not curse them.

**How are fathers supposed to influence their kids?** Fathers (as well as mothers) are supposed to show their children who God is and what life is all about. The book of Proverbs gives you an idea of what God wants fathers to teach and show their children. He wants fathers to show them about everything! The book of Proverbs covers just about every topic in life: wisdom, foolishness, wealth, honor, sex, love, marriage, laziness, money, friendship, retirement, education, discipline, parenting, hunger, self-control, violence, work, politics, etc., etc. Thus parents, especially fathers, are supposed to show their kids who God is and how to live life (Proverbs 1:1-9). When God gives parents their marching orders, He addresses them to fathers; He holds them primarily responsible for their children's wellbeing (Ephesians 6:4). And fathers are to do this constantly not just a few minutes a day (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

**Following God the Father's example as a father**, the best father of all time is God the Father. He's the role model for all fathers. And God is not a hypocrite, so when God requires fathers to give their children not just quality time but quantity time (Deuteronomy 6:6-7), this is what He Himself did with own Son (Isaiah 50:4). What was the result of God the Father spending time with His Son every day? That result was that from a very young age, Jesus knew about life and how to live it (Luke 2:46-52). Everything Jesus thought, said and did was what His Father taught Him; He lived life the way He did because that's how the Father showed Him to live (John 5:19-20; 8:26, 28, 38). Before God the Father sent His Son on a mission that would end in a brutal death, notice what He does with His Son: He made His presence felt by enveloping His Son with His Spirit, He made His presence known by speaking to His Son, He fully identified with His Son publically, He expressed His love for His Son and He did it publically, He praised His Son and took delight in Him (Matthew 3:16-4:2). And after the Father sent the Son on His first battle with Satan, when that battle was over, the Father comforted His Son (Matthew 4:11). God the Father was always present, always loving, always guiding, always protecting and establishing His Son's true identity, and He was always delighting in His Son.

**If you lacked a father or had a bad father, God the Father promises to be your Father**, it's interesting that God could have demanded that we call Him King or Ruler or any number of names that reminded us that He's the Boss and we're not. But instead, God in essence says, "I'm your Father now so call Me 'Father,' in fact, you can call me 'Daddy'" (Matthew 6:9; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6). Why does He want us to call Him "Father" and "Daddy"? Because He wants us to know just how much we are loved by Him (John 3:16; 1 John 3:1), how much He wants to be part of our lives (Hebrews 4:16). He wants us to hear His voice every morning just like His Son did (Isaiah 50:4; John 16:12-15). And if you lacked a father or had a bad father, God promises to be your Father (Psalm 27:10). Therefore, you get to call God your Father and He's a Father who loves you and always longs to be with you, who always wants you to sense His presence (John 1:12; 3:16; 14:16-20; 16:12-15; 17:20-26; Hebrews 4:16; James 1:18).

### III. Conclusion

*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!*