

21 June

TOPIC: Father's Day – a father's influence



### Let's hear your story

1. How would you describe your relationship with your biological father?
2. How does God the Father introduce Himself in Genesis 1:1? (**Creative Creator**).
3. How does Psalms 91 describe God? (**He protects us**).
4. What does 1 Peter 1:17 tell us about God the Father? (**He does not show favouritism**).



### Let's go deeper

5. What was one of the first responsibilities God gave men? (**Fatherhood – see Genesis 1:28**)
6. What is the most important relationship as a father? (**a relationship with God – see Deuteronomy 6:2 – 7**).
7. What is the second most important relationship as a father? (**To love and honour your wife – see Ephesians 5:25; 28**).
8. According to Proverbs 22:6 what should a father and mother do? (**To train; instruct and be involved in their child's early education**).



### Let's apply this

9. **2 Timothy 3:16 – 17**; "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

Looking at the different characteristics of godly fatherhood; which one's need some extra attention in your family?

- Discuss them with your spouse or a close trustworthy friend and ask them to keep you accountable as you intentionally make the changes.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you, and give you power to overcome any obstacles.

### SUMMARY:

#### Introduction:

1<sup>st</sup> Story is of a father's influence in lovingly searching for 38 hours to rescue his son.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Story is of a father's influence of abuse, neglect and rejecting his son.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Story is of our Heavenly Father; our Perfect Father.

#### - But who is God, the Father?

**Genesis 1:1** – God is creative and an artistic Father

**Ephesians 1:17** – God is a glorious Father

**Ephesians 4:6** – God is Father of all

**John 3:16** – God is a loving and generous Father

**John 10:29** – God is greater than anything and everything that comes against us

**John 14:8** – God the Father is enough for us

**Colossians 1:12** – God the Father qualified you and **v.13**; He rescued us.

**James 1:17** – God the Father does not change

**John 14:6** – The destination of Christianity is a loving and generous Father

#### - God is our Perfect Father:

He counsels us (Psalm 73:24). | He protects us (Psalm 91 and John 10:27 – 29).

He gives us rest (Matt. 11:28 – 29). | He is patient (Matt. 18:26 – 27).

He gardens and prunes (John 15:1 – 2). He is righteous (John 17:25).

He is merciful (Romans 9:15). | He moulds and makes us (Romans 9:20 – 21).

He is eternal (Romans 16:26). | He is compassionate (2 Corinthians 1:3).

He comforts (2 Cor. 1:3 – 4). | He blesses us with every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3).

He is gracious and gives us peace (2 Timothy 1:2). | He is faithful (2 Timothy 2:3).

He corrects and disciplines (Hebrews 12:5 – 11). | He provides (1 Peter 5:7).

He does not show favouritism (1 Peter 1:17). | He forgives (1 John 1:9).

He is love (1 John 4:8). | He is holy (Revelation 16:5).

**Fatherhood** was one of the first responsibilities God gave men. After creating Adam and Eve, God commanded them to "be fruitful and multiply." (See Gen.1:28).

#### - What does godly fatherhood look like; characteristics of a godly father?

A godly father knows God – **Deuteronomy 6:2 – 7**.

A godly father loves and honours his wife – **Ephesians 5:25; 28**.

A godly father accepts responsibility for his children's spiritual training – **Prov. 22:6**.

A godly father is continually aware of his influence

A godly father models selfless service – **Matthew 20:28**.

A godly father is consistent – **Hebrews 13:8**.

A godly father disciplines his children appropriately – **Hebrews 12:9 – 10**.

A godly father is not controlled by outside influences – **Ephesians 5:18**.

A godly father is a man under authority – **John 8:29**.

A godly father will lead – **Proverbs 17:6**.