



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Father's Day: Spiritual Dads”

Ps. James Lowe - June 21, 2015

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- Who do you think is a great father? What is one quality they have that you admire?
- What is an important responsibility of being a great father?
- What can you be thankful for about your own father?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org>

(O)ne God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:6 ESV)

God the Father is not difficult to locate. He is present. He is not far away. He is accessible because of Jesus.

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land. (Psalm 68:5-6 ESV)

God is our Father. He desires to be an active father in our lives. We are not alone.

Men are most like God the Father when they fulfill their spiritual calling.

Men must reject passivity. Remember, Adam in the garden. Remember his passivity when he stood by as the evil one tempted his wife to rebel against God.

Men must cover their families spiritually. God the Father covered Adam and Eve with animal skins after they sinned. In a similar way men need to help ensure that their families are covered by the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ.

Fatherhood is fundamentally designed by God to be a spiritual action more than a position. The apostle Paul never had children so far as we know. Yet he was a tremendous role model for fathers. He spiritually fathered many churches, and spiritually fathered a number of young men, especially Timothy.

I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me. That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. (1 Corinthians 4:14-17 ESV)

A large percentage of America's population believes one of the great crises facing our society is fatherlessness. Fathers who abandon their responsibilities to their children harm them significantly.

Men need to serve their children and other men as spiritual fathers. They need to live lives that are worthy of imitation.

If your father is or was less than what you think a great father should be, you can still honor him. Don't focus on his sins and flaws. Focus on whatever was good, noble, or worthy even if it seems small.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- How is or was your relationship with your father? Is there anything that you need to forgive him for?
- Are you a spiritual father or mother to anyone? How does God want you to grow in that important privilege and responsibility?
- How well do you relate to God as your heavenly Father? What do you want to grow in understanding and believing about God as your heavenly Father?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray for an increased revelation of God as your heavenly Father.
- Pray to become a better father or mother and/or daughter or son.
- Pray to become a better spiritual father or mother to others.