

Focused On The Family

A father in New York was very concerned that the relational bonds in his family were decaying and that his children no longer valued the importance of family ties. So he called his son in Los Angeles, "I have bad news son. Your mother and I are getting divorced! I can't take any more!" The son yells, "Dad, what are you talking about?" So dad replies, "I've had enough! We're sick of each other and I'm sick of talking about it, so tell your sister in London!" Frantically, the son calls his sister, who screams, "Like heck they're getting divorced. I'll take care of this! Meet us with your family in New York tomorrow!" She immediately calls her father, "Dad, you guys are NOT getting divorced! We'll see you tomorrow and we're both bringing the grand kids for leverage. We'll discuss it then." And with that the father hangs up, tenderly hugs his wife and smiles, "Okay, Honey it's all set. The kids and their families are coming home for Christmas and paying their own airfare!"

Our Father in heaven is the God of the family! He created it, designed it, values it, knows best how it works and desires to see **entire families** 'coming home' to Christ through His powerful plan of forgiveness, redemption and grace. He too is very concerned that many of His ALL IN men do not value their families as a high enough priority as they often fail to give them the focused attention they deserve. **Why is our Father so fervently committed to your entire family? How has He faithfully demonstrated His commitment to you and your family? and to you as a father (if you have children)? What are some practical things ALL IN men can do to help their families come to and grow in Christ? Where is the enemy working to hurt your family? What question do you want to ask God the Father about being an ALL IN father?**

"I'm Watching You Dad!" When does your family stop watching you as the servant-leader of your household? What grabbed your heart? Why?

As we discover the characteristics of **ALL IN men** from the book of Acts, what excites or concerns you about the following verses as you consider your own family? What do you learn about the Father's commitment to the family? To your family and the salvation of each member?

Early Church and families of the first Jesus followers (2:36-47; 5:40-42)

Roman Centurion's family (10:24; 11:12-18)

Business Woman Lydia's family (16:11-15)

Roman Jailer's family (16:19-34)

Crispis The Synagogue Leader's family Acts 18:1-11



The Bible is filled with the Father's promises and principles for the family of every ALL IN man. Write out a key principle you discovered from the following passages which you purpose to apply in your own family.

Noah's Family Gen 6:13-22; Heb 11:7

God's promise to Abraham and His family Gen 12:1-3

Instructions to all fathers and grandfathers Duet 6:1-25

Abraham/Isaac generational patters of sin Gen 12:8-20; 20:1-14; 26:6-11

ALL IN MEN are committed to doing everything and anything they can to help each family member **come** to (salvation) and **grow** in (sanctification) Christ by applying the following principles. Will you do the same?

- 1) **Pray daily for hearts of each family member.** (Job 1:1-5; Lam 2:17)
- 2) Authentically (not perfectly) **live your faith** before you lip it. (2Tim 2:2)
- 3) Develop a **100 year vision** (3 generation) for your family. Leave a legacy not just a lineage! It is NEVER too late to start. (Ex 3:15-16;)
- 4) **Show them value** as the Father values you. I love you! (Jer 31:3; Ps 127)
- 5) **Trust God with the future of your children** understanding that He loves them far more than you ever will having a perfect plan for their lives.
- 6) **Father filtered truth:** Commit to finding a way to **pass on God's truth** each day to each of your children. (I Tim 1:3-7; II Tim 3:14-17; Esther 2:11, 4:13-17)
- 7) **Rules w/out relationship** results in resentment & rebellion. (Esther 2:11)
- 8) **A Father's Main Message:** (Psalm 78:1-18)
- 9) **More is caught than taught!** (John 14:26)



TAG TEAM DISCUSSION How has the Lord shown His deep commitment to your family? What principle(s) is He trying to teach you currently about leading/raising a family? Where do you most need His help?

ASSIGNMENT Read and discuss the attached "Be-Dad-itudes" with your wife and older children asking them to pray that you would be an ALL IN Father.



BE-DAD-ITUDES

Matthew 5:3-12 By Dr. Perry Bowers

Early in His ministry Jesus gathered His ALL IN men together and taught them 8 powerful principles (**Beatitudes**) that, if lived out, could help grow them the family men for a lifetime God had called them to be. We are calling on all fathers to take to heart each of principles in order to model Christ in their lives. You see, Jesus is calling fathers to give their children the awesome gift of their growing, authentic relationship with our Father God. Enjoy!

Blessed are the POOR IN SPIRIT,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the kids whose Dad admits that he is spiritually bankrupt and desperately needs the Father, for only then will he begin to build his home on the foundation of God's Kingdom.

Blessed are those who MOURN, *for they shall be comforted.*

Blessed are the kids whose Dad grieves deeply over his sinful, spiritually bankrupt condition, for they will experience God's comfort in their home as their Dad seeks the God's forgiveness and walks in His grace.

Blessed are the GENTLE, *for they shall inherit the earth.*

Blessed are the kids whose Dad is gentle because his strength is controlled by God, for they will inherit the awesome richness of his humble character.

Blessed are those who HUNGER AND THIRST *for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

Blessed are the kids whose Dad is hungry and salivating to be rightly related to the Father more than anything else in life, for these kids will also develop an appetite for God Who is the only One who can satisfy the deep desires of their hearts.

Blessed are the MERCIFUL, *for they shall receive mercy.*

Blessed are the kids who see their Dad speaking forgiveness, modeling grace and showing patience, for in time they will also be drawn to the Father's mercy in order to make their faith their own.

Blessed are the PURE IN HEART, *for they shall see God.*

Blessed are the kids whose Dad is driven by a pure, focused, and determined heart to know the Father, for every day they will see God with skin living in their home.

Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS,
for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are the kids whose Dad works hard to mend broken relationships with their mom and his friends, for they will never be ashamed to be associated with God's family.

Blessed are those who have been PERSECUTED *for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great.....*

Blessed is the politically incorrect Dad who is often misunderstood, ridiculed, laughed at, hassled and even persecuted for daily living out his faith with these attitudes because he is promised a priceless reward both for himself and, by covenant extension, for his family!

- Which Be-Dad-itude most speaks to your heart? Why?
- Which has been the toughest for you to live out lately?
- In which are you experiencing some success?

ALL IN MEN'S MAIN MESSAGE Father filtered truth! Psalm 78:1-8

GOD WILL ALWAYS COME THROUGH FOR YOU SO REST!

"That they should put their confidence (kesel= butt/loin) in God." (7)

GOD HAS ALWAYS COME THRU FOR YOU SO REMEMBER!

"And not forget the works of God." (7)

GOD'S WAY OF LIFE ALWAYS WORKS BEST SO RESPOND!

"But keep His commandments." (7)

GENERATIONAL PATTERNS MUST BE BROKEN SO REPENT!

"Not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that did not prepare its heart, and whose spirit was not faithful to God." (8)

Which of these truths do you sense the Lord is most asking you to share with a family member or friend? How and when will you do so? Pray for each other.