



Embracing the Necessary Disciplines

(When a Father Builds an Ark)

Part 3

June 15, 2025

Big Question: Do you have the resources to build your own Ark?

Big Statement: God will not build you an Ark. He did not build one for Noah.

Side Question: Can a mom build an Ark?

Review: Five Abilities Ark Builders Must Have

1. They Must be Able to **Hear** God like Noah (Requires Spirituality)
2. They Must be Able to **Resource** Their Ark Construction (Requires Money)
3. They Must be **Able** to Build Their Ark (This Requires Education)...**Father's Day Sermon**
4. They Must be Able to **Leave** People Behind (Who are you holding on to?)
5. They Must be Willing to **Lose** Everything (What are you willing to lose?)

Statement: Every person makes one decision that can determine if they will be safe in the future. Noah was warned that a flood was coming. He had to decide to prepare before the flood waters came. The question in this sermon will focus on the wisdom of preparing before an irreversible consequence occurs.

I. Noah: A Blueprint for Fatherhood

1. **Integrity-** He was honest
2. **Income-**He had money
3. **Insight-** He could see
4. **Initiative-** He was a self-starter
5. **Independence-** He worked alone when necessary
6. **Influence-** He recruited a team to help him

7. **Instruction-** He taught others the Blueprint to build the Ark

II. Elkanah and Manoah: An Example of Two Active Fathers

I Samuel 1:1-3

- There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none
- **3 Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh,** where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. (NIV)

1. Elkanah – Father of Samuel

- Elkanah, a Levite from the hill country of Ephraim, is recognized as the father of the prophet Samuel. His story is detailed in 1 Samuel 1–2.
- **Spiritual Leadership:** “Elkanah regularly led his family to worship and offer sacrifices at the tabernacle in Shiloh, demonstrating a commitment to spiritual practices.”
- **Supportive Husband:** “He showed deep compassion for his wife Hannah during her period of barrenness, offering her love and reassurance (1 Samuel 1:8).”
- **Dedicated to God’s Will:** “When Hannah vowed to dedicate their son to the Lord, Elkanah supported her decision, allowing Samuel to be raised in the temple under Eli’s guidance (1 Samuel 1:23).”

2. Manoah – Father of Samson

Text: Judges 13:1-14

1. A Family Miracle

- **1** Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. **2** A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth. **3** **The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said,** “You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. **4** Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. **5** You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be



touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”

2. A Family Unites

- 6 Then the woman went to her husband and told him, “A man of God came to me. He looked like an angel of God, very awesome. I didn’t ask him where he came from, and he didn’t tell me his name. 7 But he said to me, ‘You will become pregnant and have a son. Now then, drink no wine or other fermented drink and do not eat anything unclean, because the boy will be a Nazirite of God from the womb until the day of his death.’ ”

3. A Father Prays (to catch up)

- 8 Then Manoah prayed to the Lord: “Pardon your servant, Lord. I beg you to let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born.”⁹ **God heard Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman while she was out in the field; but her husband Manoah was not with her.** 10 The woman hurried to tell her husband, “He’s here! The man who appeared to me the other day!”¹¹ **Manoah got up and followed his wife.** When he came to the man, he said, “Are you the man who talked to my wife?” “I am,” he said.

4. A Father Learns (He seeks out knowledge)

- 12 So Manoah asked him, “When your words are fulfilled, what is to be the rule that governs the boy’s life and work?”¹³ The angel of the Lord answered, “Your wife must do all that I have told her. 14 She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, nor drink any wine or other fermented drink nor eat anything unclean. She must do everything I have commanded her.” (NIV)

Closing Question: What kind of father are you?

Note: The Impact of an Active Father¹

- **Academic Achievement:** Children with actively involved fathers are 43% more likely to earn A’s and 33% less likely to repeat a grade than those without engaged dads.
- **Behavioral Benefits:** High levels of father involvement correlate with higher levels of sociability, confidence, and self-control in children. They are less likely to act out in school or engage in risky behaviors in adolescence.

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2020). The Fatherhood Research and Practice Network: Father Involvement and Child Outcomes. National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse. Retrieved from <https://www.fatherhood.gov>



- **Reduced Risk Behaviors:** Greater exposure to father absence is strongly associated with elevated risk for early sexual activity and adolescent pregnancy.
- **Emotional Well-being:** Father involvement with children is significantly associated with children's positive mental, cognitive, social, and physical outcomes.

Further Reading On Your Own

- Manoah, from the tribe of Dan, is known as the father of Samson, one of Israel's judges. His narrative is found in Judges 13.
- **Receptive to Divine Instruction:** "Upon learning from his wife about the angelic prophecy of their son's birth, Manoah prayed for further guidance, seeking to understand how to raise the child destined for a special purpose (Judges 13:8)."
- **Collaborative Parenting:** "Manoah and his wife worked together to comprehend and follow the angel's instructions, showcasing a partnership in spiritual matters."
- **Respect for the Sacred:** "After witnessing the angel's departure in a flame, Manoah expressed awe and reverence, recognizing the encounter's significance (Judges 13:20–22)."

Bonus Question: Can a mom build an Ark?

Biblical Examples of Influential Women Over Young Men

1. **Hannah** (1 Samuel 1–2): Hannah's fervent prayers and dedication led to the birth of Samuel, whom she committed to God's service. Her faith and commitment played a pivotal role in Samuel's life, who became a significant prophet and leader in Israel.
2. **Eunice and Lois** (2 Timothy 1:5): The Apostle Paul commended Timothy's sincere faith, attributing it to his mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois. Their spiritual influence laid the foundation for Timothy's ministry.

Note: As of 2023, approximately 24.6 million children in the United States live in single-parent families, accounting for about **35% of all children under 18**. This marks a significant increase from 1960, when only 9% of children lived in single-parent households.

Breakdown by Parental Gender

- **Single Mothers:** Approximately 7.3 million single-mother households exist in the U.S., comprising over 80% of all single-parent families.
- **Single Fathers:** There are about 2.5 million single-father households.



Breakdown by Race

As of 2023, the distribution of children living in single-parent families in the United States varies significantly across different racial and ethnic groups. According to data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Center, the percentages are as follows:

- Black or African American: Approximately 64% of children live in single-parent families.
- American Indian or Alaska Native: Around 52% of children live in single-parent families.
- Hispanic or Latino: About 42% of children live in single-parent families.
- White (Non-Hispanic): Approximately 24% of children live in single-parent families.
- Asian and Pacific Islander: Around 15% of children live in single-parent families.
- Two or More Races: Approximately **40% of children live in single-parent families.**

Note: The United States has the highest rate of children living in single-parent households globally. **Nearly one in four (25%) U.S. children under 18 live with only one parent, compared to a global average of 7% .**

Next Time: Everybody Can't Ride in My Ark (The Courage to Leave)

Appendix Sources to Review

All for kids: <https://www.allforkids.org/news/blog/a-fathers-impact-on-child-development/>

National Library of Science: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12795391/>

National Library of Science: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8923429/>

National Library of Science: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5418933/>

Family Service Agency: <https://fsacares.org/dedicated-dads-lead-to-healthy-kids/>

Duke Today: <https://today.duke.edu/2003/06/dodge605.html>

Frontiers:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychology/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.02405/full>

Data center: <https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/line/107-children-in-single-parent-families-by-race-and->



[ethnicity?utm_source=chatgpt.com#1/1/false/2545,1095,2048,1729,37,871,870,573,869,36/asc/8223/431](#)

Gingerbread: https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Single-Parents-in-2023-Single-Parents-Day-report.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com