



The Fruitfulness of a Father By Dr. Ricky Temple

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Father's Day

Statement:

- A fruitful father is not simply a man who produces children. A fruitful father is a man who produces value in the lives of others.
- The greatest evidence of fatherhood is not found in what a man owns, earns, or accumulates. It is found in what grows because he lived.

Note: Appendix 1

I. Joseph: Six Signs of a Fruitful Father

1. A Fruitful Father Has Vision

Text: Genesis 37:5–11

Statement: Joseph's journey began with a vision from God. Before he ever led a nation, he saw a future beyond his present circumstances.

“Where there is no vision, the people perish...” (Proverbs 29:18, KJV)

2. A Fruitful Father Remains Faithful When Forgotten

Text: Genesis 40:23; Genesis 41:1

After helping the cupbearer, Joseph was forgotten for two full years. Yet he continued serving faithfully.

“Let us not become weary in doing good...” (Galatians 6:9)

3. A Fruitful Father Maintains Integrity Under Temptation

Text: Genesis 39:7–12

Joseph refused Potiphar's wife's advances because his relationship with God was more important than temporary pleasure.

“How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9)

4. A Fruitful Father Learns to Forgive

Text: Genesis 45:4–8; Genesis 50:20–21

Joseph chose forgiveness over revenge when he had the power to punish those who hurt him.

Note: Fruitful fathers break cycles of bitterness and model grace.

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good...” (Genesis 50:20)

5. A Fruitful Father Tells the Truth

Text: Genesis 42:6–24

Joseph lovingly confronted his brothers with the truth before reconciliation could occur. Real healing required honest conversation.

Note: Fruitful fathers tell the truth in love, even when it is uncomfortable.

“Speaking the truth in love...” (Ephesians 4:15)

6. A Fruitful Father Becomes a Provider

Text: Genesis 41:46–57; Genesis 47:11–12

- Joseph’s wisdom and stewardship preserved Egypt and protected his family during a famine.
- “Anyone who does not provide for their relatives... has denied the faith.” (1 Timothy 5:8)

Closing Thought

- Joseph’s greatest accomplishment was not becoming prime minister of Egypt. His greatest accomplishment was becoming fruitful in the land of his suffering.

Genesis 41:52

- “God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.”

Note: A fruitful father:

- Has vision.
- Remains faithful.
- Lives with integrity.
- Practices forgiveness.

- Speaks the truth.
- Provides for others.

The measure of a father’s life is not simply what he earns, but what he produces that continues long after he is gone.

Appendices 1

Despite cultural debates about masculinity and fatherhood, the research remains remarkably consistent: fathers matter.

1. Approximately **1 in 4 American children (18.2 million children)** live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home.
2. Children with actively involved fathers are **43% more likely to earn A’s in school and 33% less likely to repeat a grade.**
3. Research consistently shows that children with involved fathers experience **fewer behavioral problems, less anxiety, better social development, and greater emotional stability.**
4. Children with engaged fathers are more likely to perform well academically, avoid substance abuse, and thrive socially and economically.
5. One recent study found that children with less involved fathers were **3.7 times more likely to be diagnosed with depression** and significantly more likely to experience problems at school.
6. Research also shows that father involvement helps children develop resilience, self-control, confidence, and independence.

Resources on the Value of Fathers

1. **National Fatherhood Initiative.** *Father Absence Statistics.* Updated 2025–2026.
<https://www.fatherhood.org/father-absence-statistic>
2. **All For Kids.** *A Father’s Impact on Child Development.* March 12, 2025.
<https://www.allforkids.org/news/blog/a-fathers-impact-on-child-development/>
3. **National Center for Education Statistics (U.S. Department of Education).** *Fathers’ Involvement in Their Children’s Schools.* 1998.
<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs98/98091.pdf>
4. **Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin–Madison.** *Involved Fathers Play an Important Role in Children’s Lives.* Current research summary.
<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/involved-fathers-play-an-important-role-in-childrens-lives/>
5. **National Institutes of Health (NIH).** *Long-Term Effects of Father Involvement in Childhood on Adult Outcomes.* 2021.
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8923429/>

6. **University of Florida IFAS Extension.** *The Impact of Fathers on Children's Well-Being.* 2023.
<https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FY1451>
7. **National Marriage Project.** *Good Fathers, Flourishing Kids.* 2025.
<https://nationalmarriageproject.org/2025-good-fathers-flourishing-kids>
8. **North Dakota Compass.** *Father Involvement and the Future of Children and Families.* 2024.
<https://ndcompass.org/insights/article-of-the-month/father-involvement-and-the-future-of-children-and-families/>
9. **Taylor & Francis / Journal of Child and Family Studies.** *Father Involvement and Child Well-Being Research.* 2025.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15295192.2025.2555648>
10. **National Fatherhood Initiative.** *Why Father Inclusion Matters.* 2025.
<https://www.fatherhood.org/why-father-inclusion-matters>