

FBC Father's Day Sunday June 15 2025 Joshua 24:15 Fathers Daring to be Different

Intro: Today, we take a moment to honour the men in our lives who have taken on the sacred responsibility of fatherhood — **not just biologically, but spiritually.**

Being a Christian father is more than providing food on the table or a roof overhead. It's about spiritual leadership, godly character, and intentional influence.

God has given us many examples of faithful fathers in Scripture. Today, we'll reflect on four of them — Noah, Abraham, Job, and Joshua — and what they teach us about being men of God, leading our families with courage, conviction, and faith.

Each of these men faced challenges, yet they remained faithful to God and their families. Their lives teach us powerful lessons about what it means to be a father who honours the Lord.

On one hand what they did was spectacular. On the other hand, they only did what's expected of every dad.

Anybody can be a father. **It takes a special man to be a dad.** It takes an even more special man to be a **"Godly father"**.

As fathers we have the supreme responsibility of representing God to our children.

1. We have been tasked with leading them into a vibrant life of faith.
2. We can be a source of pride, strength, stability and a help to them.
3. We're called to be a blessing and not a hindrance to our children.

How can we **do that** for them? How can we **be that** for them?

We can start by doing for them what God has done and continues to do for us.

1. If there has ever been a generation that needs some real-life heroes you can touch - it is today.
2. If ever there is a generation that needs to be reminded of what a godly man looks like - it is today.
3. If ever there is a generation that needs men to lead the way to the foot of the cross - it is to-day.

The men we'll consider as follow-worthy fathers are Noah, Abraham, Job and Joshua. These four men are household names. Most of us know their stories. They're famous Bible characters. They're super-heroes of the faith. Yet each of them did something which today's dad can easily duplicate.

1. Noah – A Father Who Led His Family in Righteousness Gen. 6:5-10

"The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. 6 So the Lord was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. 7 And the Lord said, "I will wipe this human race I have

created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing - all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them. 8 But Noah found favour with the Lord.

This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. 10 Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.”

God has never been a respecter of persons (Romans 2:11-16). He watches, listens, and discerns the hearts of all of us. **He looks for a heart turned toward Him.** And that was the kind of man that Noah was.

When the world was falling apart, one father went about life in such a way as to find favour with God in heaven.

Standing alone for God requires courage. It means resisting the pull of popular opinion, choosing righteousness, and being unshaken in faith when the world pressures you to conform. Noah dared to be different. He built the ark not because it made sense to those around him, but because he trusted God completely.

Today, God calls us to have the same unwavering faith. You may be the only believer in your family, your workplace, or your social circle, but God sees your obedience.

Let Noah's example inspire you to live boldly for God, even when you stand alone. Dare to be different. Stay faithful, even when the world doesn't understand. And trust that in the end, God's promises will always hold true.

Because he dared to be different rather than cowering to the spiritual climate of his peers, God saw a redeeming quality in the people He had created.

What a thought that one man living right in a wicked world could get God's attention. When the Lord looked at the world he saw a dismal picture.

But when He saw Noah, He decided on a way to save the one man who did what was right - and his family.

It doesn't matter what the rest of the world is doing, live faithfully for God and you will secure the honour of your family. In fact, the way one man lives sometimes alters the course of world events.

2. Abraham - A Father Who Taught His Family to Follow God Genesis. 18:18-19

“Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him.

I have singled him out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just. Then I will do for Abraham all that I have promised.”

To raise up a nation, God chose a man who would lead his children in the way God wanted him to. He used Abraham as the founder of the nation.

When Abraham chose to live by faith he carved a path in the wilderness. As he stepped out to follow the will of God, he demonstrated how to follow the Lord for his family. He taught them to keep the ways of the Lord by obeying His call.

I can imagine someone saying, "Yeah Alex, but Abraham had visions and revelations, I haven't had any of those things." No, but we have 66 books full of visions and revelations waiting for us to receive. **There's no need for the Lord to give us new revelations until we live by the old ones we already have.**

Following God is a spiritual experience, but it's also a practical experience. Abraham left everything that was familiar to him in order to inherit promises that were entirely unfamiliar to him. *"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you..."* (Genesis. 12:1)

That's almost beyond our understanding. But aren't we on a journey to a land we've never seen? **Hymn!** The practical part is getting up every morning and packing your things for that day's trip.

Abraham got up and started walking. "How will I know when I get there Lord?"

"I'll tell you when you get there." "Alright. Are we there yet?" It's the same for us. We get up every morning and do the things we know to do until the Lord tells us we've arrived.

3. Job - A Father Who Prayed for His Children Job 1:1-5

"There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil. 2 He had seven sons and three daughters. 3 He owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 teams of oxen, and 500 female donkeys. He also had many servants. He was, in fact, the richest person in that entire area.

4 Job's sons would take turns preparing feasts in their homes, and they would also invite their three sisters to celebrate with them. 5 When these celebrations ended - sometimes after several days - Job would purify his children.

He would get up early in the morning and offer a burnt offering for each of them. For Job said to himself, "Perhaps my children have sinned and have cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular practice."

Job got God's attention. Not just because he was the richest man around, but because he was blameless and because as a father he faithfully prayed for his children. Job's faithfulness in this responsibility has always impressed me.

He prayed for his children just in case any of them had sinned. He didn't wait for a neighbour to report he had seen one of his children doing wrong. He knew the weakness of human nature.

He prayed for them **"whether they needed it or not."** It was Job's burden and prayer that his kids always honour God which gave the Lord such confidence in him.

There's not a Christian dad in the world who can't adopt this habit of intercession for the hearts of his family members.

Every morning when we wake up, we can take our family before the throne of God in prayer. Every night before we go to bed we can call our children by name.

And all through the day, as they come to mind, we can breathe a prayer on their behalf that all of them would be walking with the Lord. Pray for them on special occasions. Exams. Jobs. Dates. Weddings. Babies. **On and on.**

Our children will never outgrow our prayers or the need for our prayers. Job's children were all grown and on their own. But he never stopped the custom he developed when they were young.

Neither should we.

4. Joshua - A Father Who Made a Bold Commitment to Serve God Joshua. 24:14-16

"So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshipped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. 15 But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve.

Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."

16 The people replied, "We would never abandon the Lord and serve other gods."

When Israel was about to enter her third generation of leadership, Joshua set the example for every home in the nation. Not only that, he also set the tone for every father who would follow after him.

When we leave this world, our greatest legacy is the one which shows the direction we left. **The most important thing we can do in our death is to let those we leave know where we're going** – and where we stand with the Lord.

Quote! Steve Green song.

After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone
And our children sift through all we've left behind
May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover
Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find
... Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful
May the fire of our devotion light their way
May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe
And the lives we live inspire them to obey

How many funerals have you attended and had someone come to you with these words, "I believe he made his peace with the Lord," and you can tell by the way they say it, they're hoping for confirmation from you?

They don't know, but they're hoping the departed loved one in question made peace with God in his final moments. **What a sad way to leave those you love - wondering where you will spend eternity.**

When Joshua laid down the baton of leadership, he made clear the direction he wanted the nation to pursue.

I realize we can't impose our faith and standard of conduct on the next generation once we're gone, **but we can let them know our dreams and faith while we're here.**

Joshua as much as told Israel, "I don't know what you'll do when I'm not here, but this is what I hope you'll do."

What made Joshua a great father to follow was his determination that he and his family would follow the Lord, and what greater joy to any Christian father than to see his children embracing the faith he professes.

To be able to say like Joshua— *"as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"* and to witness that firsthand.

3 John 1:4 *"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."*

These are four famous fathers, men who loved their families and served the Lord.

- Noah who lived differently from the people around him.
- Abraham who instructed his family in the ways of the Lord.
- Job who prayed for his family, that their hearts would stay pure.
- Joshua who chose the Lord to be Lord of his home.

Each of these men was different — a builder, a wanderer, a sufferer, a warrior — but they all had this in common: **They led their families spiritually.**

They have been famous on earth, and they will be famous in heaven.

They set their families on a godly path leading by example. **They left footprints worth following.** They did simple things we all can do as Christian fathers.

They did right when it would have been easier, even acceptable to do wrong. **They left the familiar and broke away from the crowd.** They prayed faithfully for their children.

And they chose the Lord as God of their life and let everyone know it.

Men and fathers, I urge you to choose to have a close relationship with God. Be intentional about who you're going to follow in your life. **Choose to seriously follow the One who has given His life for you.**

For some this choosing Christ will mean entering into a relationship with God through Jesus.

If you have never taken Jesus as your Saviour, I pray you will do so today, and be able to say with conviction;

“I know whom I have believed.”

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Then live for God and let everyone know it. You can make a world of difference.

Make that genuine commitment today! **Start the journey right now.**

Make time to build your relationship with Him. Give priority time to worship, Bible study, prayer, and seeking God's will for your life.

Resolve to be a good steward of what God has given you. Stop looking at what you have as “**yours**” to use as you want and instead start seeing what you have as “**His**,” to be used as He sees fit.

Let Him control your calendar, your cheque book, and your time.

Men - you can do these things. Start with choosing the Lord.

God is not looking for perfect men — **He's looking for faithful ones.** Your influence lasts for generations.

You may not build an ark, but you can build a godly home.

You may not see a nation come from you like Abraham, but your faith can shape your lineage.

You may not suffer like Job, but your prayers can shield your family.

You may not lead a nation like Joshua, but you can lead your household.

Fathers, boldly declare that your homes belong to the Lord. Make church a priority and ensure that your households reflects God's love.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the fathers in our midst. Strengthen them to lead their families in righteousness, wisdom, and love. May they be like Noah, Abraham, Job, and Joshua—faithful men who honour You in all they do.

Men who walk with You, intercede for their families, teach the next generation, and boldly declare their household will serve You.

Bless their homes, guide their steps, and fill them with Your grace. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**