



Being A Good Father

This weekend marks the celebration of father's day. Being a father is a great blessing. The Bible says, "Children are a gift from the Lord" (Psalm 127:3). Though that gift certainly presents numerous challenges, the rewards are countless. So what does God say the key to being a good father is?

First, being a good father is about **character**. The Bible says, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged" (Joshua 1:9). Fatherhood includes a variety of challenges and there are moments when it may appear easier to throw in the towel. But a strong character ensures endurance. Don't give up.

Second, have **faith** in God. Having a strong character is dependent upon having faith in God. "For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" Joshua 1:9. The task of fatherhood can only be accomplished when men place their faith in God.

Third, be a good **example** to your children when it comes to moral behaviour. Children imitate what their parents do and say. Proverbs says, "Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it" (22:6). If men set a good example for their children, their conduct will be positively influenced.

Fourth, **teach** them the faith. St. Paul writes that Father's should "bring up their children with training and instruction from the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Deuteronomy informs fathers that they are to constantly teach their children the faith: "when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (6:7). Educating your children in the faith is a life long process and it can occur during everyday activities. There is always an opportunity for education and to display Christian charity.

Fifth, **love** your children, no matter what. "Do not provoke your children to anger" (Ephesians 6:4), rather, show them compassion and love (Psalm 103:13). As God has loved us so we are to love others (John 15). Children need to know that they are loved. Not just by you, but also by God.

Fatherhood is not an easy task; it requires constant prayer, support and encouragement. This Sunday take time to pray for our fathers.