

Fathers. For some, thoughts of their father include throwing a baseball, having a tea party, or just hanging out with him. For some, the memories are broken promises, abandonment and betrayal. For some, thoughts of shame for disappointing their dad due to repeated acts of disobedience. Fathers provoke all types of thoughts and memories. Wherever you fall in that spectrum of emotions, Jesus wants you to know the greatest Father of all time. For all the tea parties a person has experienced with their father, Jesus tells us that God has a big banquet prepared for His children. Promises that were broken, Jesus tells us that God won't break a promise. Where loneliness and abandonment consume us, Jesus tells us that God will never leave us or forsake us. Where there is shame, there is forgiveness and restoration. The God of the Bible is the greatest Father of all time. No matter what your relationship with your father is like, Jesus wants nothing more than you to have a relationship that will be the most fulfilling one you could ever have. Do you know Him?



“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’--which is the first commandment with a promise--‘that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.’

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

Ephesians 06:01-04, NIV

Who is your favorite television dad? _____

What makes him your favorite? _____

Life is not television; life is reality. Look at these numbers:

- 1 in 3 children live apart from their biological father.
- The U.S. government spends approximately \$100 billion annually on programs concerning fatherless homes.
- 72% of the population believes that fatherlessness is most significant social problem facing the country.

The reality: *Children who grow up without dads have a tougher time in life.*

Exasperation Frustration

Ephesians 06:04a

Here is Our Model

John 05:16-18

ex•as•per•ate: to irritate or provoke to a high degree; annoy extremely

Have you put rules over the relationship with your children?

Our message to our children needs to be consistent.

“Famous Lines for \$200, Alex”:

“Don’t do as I do, do as I say”

“Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged”
Colossians 03:21



*“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love”
01 John 04:18, NIV*

When you see Jesus, you see God.

God’s relationship within Himself is a relationship based on love.

Love has to have an Object.

God’s Work= Rescuing Humanity

Jesus’ work was motivated by love.

Believe Better

This is a true full-time adventure.

What is your goal for your child’s life?

“But all the time, foremost in the parents’ minds, is to be not just the harmonious relationships of the home, or the happiness of the children, but their regard for the Lord”

Francis Foulkes

Ephesians 06:04b



The Letter

“For some reason I thought about my dad and I could hear his deep, distinct voice. His voice told me that I was loved. I knew I had really blown it and had to get home, but would my dad want me?”

Ryan Snyder

