

## **Father's Day**

Luke 15:11-32; Ephesians 6:4

June 20, 2021

### **Frustration and Nurturing: What Does it Mean to be a Real Dad?**

#### **Introduction**

The role of a dad is imminently important and powerful in any child's life. A father's anger can cause a kid's soul to shrivel into small, desperate, angry shells because that's what they saw their dads do. Likewise, a Christ-like father can mold a child into a joyful and loving Christ follower.

In Ephesians 6, Paul tells dads to be cautious of how they guide their kids. If we are bitter, angry, critical, and hurtful, our children will also become frustrated, spiteful, and resentful. If, on the other hand, we nurture our children with firm but loving, gentle Godly leadership, our children will also learn the patience and peace of the Lord.

The father of the prodigal son was an example of what good fatherhood looks like. Although his son likely disappointed and embarrassed him, rather than responding with anger and bitterness, the prodigal son's father immediately welcomed his son back home. Likewise, however, when his older son showed annoyance at his prodigal brother's return, the father used the teachable moment to instruct the older son in showing grace and love in response to repentance.

***Memory verse: "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."—Ephesians 6:4***

Pray and read Luke 15:11-32 and Ephesians 6:4. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

## What do the passages say?

1. What did the prodigal son's father do when his son asked him for his inheritance early? (Luke 15:12)
2. What happened to the son as a result? (Luke 15:13-16)
3. What did the son realize about his father? (Luke 15:17-20)
4. How did the father react when he saw his son come home? (Luke 15:22-24)
5. What was the other son doing in the meantime? (Luke 15:25-27)
6. What did the father explain to the older son when he complained about the love he showed to the younger son? (Luke 15:31-32)
7. What did Paul tell fathers they should and should not do to their children? (Ephesians 6:4)

## What do the passages mean?

1. Paul told fathers to “not exasperate your children,” but rather to raise them “in the training and the instruction of the Lord.” How are these two actions opposite of one another? (Ephesians 6:4)
  
2. Do you think that the prodigal son’s father made a mistake by giving his son his inheritance when his son asked for it? What would you have done? (Luke 15:12)
  
3. “The Message” translates Ephesians 6:4a as “Fathers, don’t frustrate your children with no-win scenarios.” Did the father do that in this story? Do you think the younger son was frustrated with the father before he left? (Luke 15:11-32; Ephesians 6:4)



