

A Father as a Leader

Genesis 22:1-14

INTRODUCTION:

A. A. Lesson Text: **Genesis 22:1-14**

1. Abraham's faith is shown and confirmed through his obedience to God's commands for his life. When one thinks of faith . . . he thinks of Abraham.
2. In **James 2:23**, Abraham is called "the friend of God."
3. of the **2,930** Bible characters, Abraham was truly one of God's greatest servants.
5. We are introduced to Abraham some **427** years after the great flood and some **326** after the Tower of Babel. He sojourned in life **175** years and in Canaan for **100** years.
 - a. **75** years old when He entered Canaan.
 - b. **80** years old when he rescued Lot and paid tribute to Melchizedec.
 - c. **86** years old when Ishmael was born.
 - d. **99** years old when Sodom, Gomorrah, and the cities of the plain were destroyed
 - e. **100** years old when Isaac was born.
 - f. **137** years old when his beloved Sarah died.
 - g. **160** years old when Jacob & Esau were born.
 - h. And died at age **175**, some **115** years before Jacob would move to Egypt.
6. One of the great statements in all the Bible is said in reference to Abraham. **Hebrews 11:10** - "For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
7. Altogether, Abraham was the father of eight children.
 - a. From Hagar, Ishmael was born. Genesis 16:15-16
 - b. From Sarah, Isaac was born. Genesis 21:2-3
 - c. From Keturah (his wife after Sarah died): Genesis 25:1-2
 1. Zimran 4. Midian
 2. Jokshan 5. Ishbak
 3. Medan 6. Shuah
8. Is honored by three of the world's best known religions:
 - a. Muslims - in their Koran.
 - b. Jews - in their Old Testament writings.
 - c. Christians - in the Bible

B. Our focus in this study is upon fathers as leaders in the home and family.

GOD DESIGNATED FATHERS AS LEADERS.

A. Leadership.

1. A father is a leader who leads.
2. A father is a leader who is led.
3. A leader is a leader by appointment . . . appointment by a higher authority.
4. A breakdown in leader-ship can cause a breakdown in follower-ship.
5. God is a God of **ORGANIZATION, DESIGN, and ORDER**. Examples:
 - a. Creation
 - b. Patriarchal Age (God dealt with families through the patriarchal head in each family.)
 - c. Mosaical Age (Breaking camp in Numbers 2)
 1. Moses
 2. Priests and Levites
 3. Judges
 4. Kings
 5. Prophets
 - d. Christian Age
 1. Elders in the church
 2. Husbands in the home.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 11:3** - “But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”
 - b. **Ephesians 5:23** - “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of church; and He is the Savior of the body.”

B. Something to think about:

1. Not all who are husbands are fathers . . . and not all who are fathers are husbands.
2. God made you a leader . . . so be the leader God made you to be.
3. If you are a husband but not a father . . . you are still a leader.
4. If you are a husband and have children, you are both a father and a leader.
5. Functionally, you may not be the head of your house . . . but are you its leader. (If a proverbial UFO landed and its occupants said, “Take me to your leader,” many men would have to take them to their wives.)
6. Are you leading your family to your Leader.
7. Are you leading your family . . . or . . . are you following your family.
8. If you are not leading your family, then who is?
9. If you are not leading your family, then someone else is.
10. If you are not leading your family to where you think they should be, then someone else is leading them to where they want them to be.

D. Biblical definition or description of a father: **Simply stated, the male parent of a household in Bible times, was charged with the responsibility of providing for the family and giving religious instruction to the children.**

- a. Leadership, like love, is difficult to define.
- b. Leadership is defined not only by what it is, but also by what it does.
- c. Leadership empowers, motivates, and organizes people to achieve a common objective, and provides moral guidance.

- d. Leadership is a service to people today and a vision for them and their future.
- e. The best leaders lead by example.
- E. A leader as described by the Dynamic Leadership Group based in Brooklyn, New York.
 - a. He defines himself and knows his qualities.
 - b. He determines his purpose and personal values.
 - c. He develops a vision.
 - d. He sets measurable objectives and realistic goals.
 - e. He develops a personal strategic action plan.
 - f. He maintains motivation.
 - g. He disciplines himself.
 - h. He is flexible.
 - i. He makes time for leisure.
 - j. He takes action.
- F. The father as a leader as described by the Bible and seen in the life of Abraham.
 - 1. **He loves his family.**
 - a. **Ephesians 5:25** - “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”
 - b. The children will see real love and internalize it within themselves.
 - 2. **He provides for his family.**
 - a. **1 Timothy 5:8** - “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
 - b. Love gives . . . just look at **John 3:16** - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
 - c. **He disciplines his children.**
 - 1. **Proverbs 13:24** - “He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.”
 - 2. I am not speaking about child abuse nor am I referring to parental misuse of discipline.
 - 3. **Hebrews 12:6** - “For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.”
 - d. **He teaches his children.**
 - 1. **Ephesians 6:4** - “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
 - 2. Though God has given you power, you must not abuse that power, remembering that your children are, in a particular manner, pieces of yourselves, and therefore ought to be governed with great tenderness and love.

3. Do not be impatient with them.
4. Do not be unreasonable with them by putting undue restrictions and unrealistic limitations on them.

Let them have a religious education. Instruct them to fear sinning; and inform them of, and excite them to, the whole of their duty towards God. **Ecclesiastes 12:13** - “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all.” (“The whole duty of man.” KJV)

e. **He is unselfish toward his family.**

1. **I Corinthians 13:5** - Love “. . . does not seek its own . . .”
2. Love is not selfish . . . love is unselfish.

f. **He is the protector of his family.**

1. Abraham protected his family from the severe famine by entering Egypt.
2. Abraham rescued Lot from Chedorlaomer, Tidal, Amraphel, and Arioch.
3. Joseph protected Mary and the baby Jesus from Herod by entering Egypt.
4. Sometimes you may have to move in order to protect your family.

h. **He is the spiritual leader of his family.**

1. **Job 1:5** - “. . . Job . . . would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts. Thus Job did regularly.”
2. Abraham
 - a. **Hebrews 11:8** - “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.”
 - b. **Hebrews 11:10** - Abraham “. . . waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”
 - c. Abraham could be traced by the altars he built.
 1. Shechem (Genesis 12:7)
 2. Bethel (Genesis 12:8)
 3. Hebron (Genesis 13:18)
 4. Moriah (Genesis 22:9)
 - d. A man of great faith who instilled his faith in his family.
3. Lead your family to the One who can do for them what you are incapable of doing.

CONCLUSION:

A. Husbands be the leader God would have you to be:

1. Provider.
2. Leader-lover. To “lead” without loving is cruel, and to “love” without leading is a cop out on God’s concept of being a husband.

3. Know God. How can a husband be a leader if he doesn't know where he is going?
 4. Honor your wife. 2 Peter 3:7 tells you to.
 5. Know your family. Husbands cannot lead until they know their wife and children "inside out."
 6. Be a trainer . . . teacher . . . en-richer . . . facilitator in the home.
 7. A good example.
 8. Be considerate.
 9. Be a friend.
 10. Lead your family to Heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.
- B. **ILLUSTRATION:** Summer Lectures at Lipscomb in early seventies: "Will you please talk to me.? My father is an elder in the church. He has time for everybody else but me."
- C. TV - 10:00 p.m. - "It's 10:00, do you know where your children are?
It's _____, do you know where you family is going?"
- D. **God's Plan for man's Salvation**