



BEING A LIGHT

Genesis 18:17-19 "Should I hide my plan from Abraham?" the Lord asked. 18 "For Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him. 19 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." NLT



It takes a man willing to learn and to grow to become a godly father.

See Manufacturer's Manual (the Bible)

- **Fathering is begetting. Matthew 1:2-16**
 - Beget or begat (KJV on NKJV)
 - to procreate as the father
 - to produce especially as an effect or outgrowth
 - **14 Generations** of begetting to the birth of Christ.
 - It is producing children and "something" in them.

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- **Fathering is a function for "the sake of the children."**
 - 2 Corinthians 12:14-16 Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. 15 I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? ESV
 - The children are not here for the success of the father but the father for the success of the children.
 - It is the promoting of growth beyond one's self.



- **Inheriting a Promise**

- **Genesis 18:19** Yes, I've settled on him as the one to train his children and future family to observe God's way of life, live kindly and generously and fairly, so that God can complete in Abraham what he promised him." MSG

- **Genesis 12:1-3** The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. 3 I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

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- **Genesis 28:10-15** Meanwhile, Jacob left Beersheba and traveled toward Haran. 11 At sundown he arrived at a good place to set up camp and stopped there for the night. Jacob found a stone to rest his head against and lay down to sleep. 12 As he slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from the earth up to heaven. And he saw the angels of God going up and down the stairway.
 - 13 At the top of the stairway stood the Lord, and he said, "I am the Lord, the God of your grandfather Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac. The ground you are lying on belongs to you. I am giving it to you and your descendants. 14 Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth! They will spread out in all directions—to the west and the east, to the north and the south. And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. 15 What's more, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything I have promised you." NLT



- **Then and Now**

- Think about the context of Genesis 18. It is what I think could be called a “dark time”. God had purposed to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of its wickedness.
- Think about when Jesus came into the world.
 - **John 1:9-11** The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. NLT
- Is the world an any better place today? Darkness will always be darkness!
- We have a statement concerning Jesus but also a principle that will never change!
 - **John 1:5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. NLT

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- Ways God intended for the button to be on:
 - **TLC LOVE**
 - **TEACH**
 - Deuteronomy 6:1-9 "Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the rules that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.
 - 4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. ESV

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- So, we know the first thing we are to teach our children is to Love the Lord!
 - **Teaching to Love:**
 - **Sacrifice - John 3:16, Ephesians 5:25-28, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7**
 - **Obedience - 1 John 5:1-4** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. 2 We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. 3 Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. NLT
 - **1 Samuel 15:22-23** But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. 23 Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols.

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- Respect and Honor – The bible is full of scriptures and examples of respect and honor
 - Teaching doesn't happen by accident. You have to teach on purpose. You have to plan it or it probably won't get done.
 - Remember we are always teaching if we don't think we are!
“Kids observe everything!”
 - Daddy did, or does it!
 - **LEAD** - The Scripture we started with is our Heavenly Father explaining that one of our forefathers (Abraham) is to LEAD or direct his children. It even tells what he is to lead them to do – to keep the way of the Lord. “so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just.”

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- **Joshua 24:14-15** Then Joshua said to the people, "Now respect the Lord and serve him fully and sincerely. Throw away the gods that your ancestors worshiped on the other side of the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord. 15 But if you don't want to serve the Lord, you must choose for yourselves today whom you will serve. You may serve the gods that your ancestors worshiped when they lived on the other side of the Euphrates River, or you may serve the gods of the Amorites who lived in this land. As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." NCV
 - We lead by the example we set!
 - How we treat our wife.
 - How we treat our children (favoritism or partiality)
 - How we treat others.
 - How we spend our time.



◦ **CORRECTS – DISCIPLINES**

- Proverbs 3:11-12 My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you. 12 For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights. NLT
- Hebrews 12:6-11 It's the child he loves that he disciplines; the child he embraces, he also corrects. 7 God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's training, 8 the normal experience of children. Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God? 9 We respect our own parents for training and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God's training so we can truly live? 10 While we were children, our parents did what seemed best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God's holy best. 11 At the time, discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like it's going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God. MSG

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- Discipline needs to be an act of Love not anger.
 - Discipline should be an event!
 - Many children grow up today not realizing there are consequences to breaking the rules or law.
 - **LOVE** - A Father needs to love. Dad's we need to learn the Love Language. There are five ways we need to be told we are loved. Your children need to feel loved in all five ways.
 - Gary Chapman's book "5 Languages of Love"
 - Words of Affirmation
 - Acts of Service
 - Affection
 - Quality time
 - Gifts

Touch	Words	Quality Time	Gifts	Service
Describes your child: Receive hugs Kisses High Fives Cuddle Asks to be carried Physical activity: racing, wrestling, tag, climbs in your lap	Describes your child: Likes for others to tell them they did a good job. Favorite words include: Terrific! Good job! You're #1! Awesome kid! You did it!	Describes your child: Loves to do things with you: watch a movie, yard work, go out to eat, run errands, play a game. Tries to get your undivided attention. Wants to sit next to you or have you watch them while they're playing.	Describes your child: Feels good when someone gives them something. Enjoys a special present or surprise. Enjoys: birthday presents, surprise treats, earning a treat, having their favorite food made for them.	Describes your child: Likes it when people do nice things for them: helping with chores, school projects, driving places, making meals and snacks

It is hard being a father today. It always has been.

Remember: **Fathering is not trying to "make it through this generation" but effecting the next two.**

We have a good, good Father we need to depend, call upon and listen to!

