

WHAT DOES A “BIBLICALLY INVOLVED” FATHER LOOK LIKE?

Selected Old & New Testament Scriptures

Dr. David Popenoe of Rutgers University says, “*Fathers are far more than just the second adult in the home. Involved fathers bring about positive benefits to their children that no other person is likely to bring. They provide protection and economic support and are male role models. They have a parenting style that is significantly different from that of mothers, and the difference is important in healthy child development.*”

Today I want to key in on just one word from Dr. Popenoe’s statement about fathers and that is the word involved.

Involved:

- Adjective – difficult to comprehend, something that is complicated.
- Verb – include as a necessary part or result.

What does an “biblically” involved father look like?

F = Faithful

- Involved fathers are faithful people. They are first faithful to God and trust God with their whole heart, soul, and mind.
- Good fathers believe in God’s promises, and He will provide their families every need.
- Abraham is a good example in **Genesis 15:1-6**.
 - God says that He will be a shield and a reward to Abram.
 - God will give Abram a son from his own body.
 - God says that his descendants will be as many as the stars.
 - The response from Abram to God is found in **verse #6**.
 - Paul quotes this in **Romans 4:1-3**

A = Action

- Let’s use our friend Abram again here in **Genesis 18:17-19**.
 - God has promised to bless Abram, but God’s intention is for those blessings to flow down to his children and even future generations.
 - Words like “**command his children**”, “**to keep the way of the Lord**” and “**by doing righteousness and justice**” are all actions packed statements.

T = Teaching

- Involved fathers are teachers and prepare their children to enter adulthood and face the tough world around them.
- **Ephesians 6:4.**
- Most of the time when we read this verse, we focus on just one part, “*fathers do not exasperate (provoke) your children*”.
- When really *the teaching point is the second part* of the verse that says, “*instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*”
- Dads we can delegate that job if we want to, but you cannot delegate the responsibility that comes with it.
- Jesus chooses 12 men to be His inner core of disciples, He does this by saying these words, “*Come follow Me.*”

H- Hope

- Involved fathers are a source of hope and inspiration for their families.
- “*Hope is called the anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:19), because it gives stability to the Christian life. But hope is not simply a ‘wish’ (I wish that such-and-such would take place); rather, it is that which latches on to the certainty of the promises of the future that God has made.*” - RC Sproul
- The greatest example of a father of hope is found in a parable told by Jesus in **Luke 15**.
- How many days did that hopeful father walk to the end of his pathway and cast an eye toward the city where his son had gone?
- Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*
- But one day God rewarded the hope of that father by restoring his son to him not dead but rather more alive than ever before.

E – Example

- **I Corinthians 11:1.**
- “*Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*”
- Dad’s where are your eyes focused this morning, are they on Christ?

R – Reliable

- **Hebrews 13:8.**
- *I commit myself to being a person of character. Truth, reliability, honesty and confidentiality will be the pillars of my life. I will treat others as I expect to be*

treated and I will live according to the highest standards of integrity amid all of life's circumstances. – John Maxwell