

6-21-26 Summer at Freedom - A Good Father Kids Study Guide

Overview

In this Father's Day message, Pastor Jason explores what truly makes a good father. Rather than arbitrary lists, he identifies five key attributes that flow from **love** and ultimately reflect the character of God the Father: Love, Protection, Provision, Time, and Instruction.

The core truth is that the secret to being a good father is first being a good son. Good fathers don't strive for perfection — they reflect God's heart to their families by living as sons who are loved by their Heavenly Father.

Main Points

1. Love (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Love is the foundation. A father's love is often shown through action and protection more than nurturing. An action done without love becomes a burden. An action done *out of* love becomes a blessing. All other attributes flow from love.

2. Protection (1 Corinthians 13:7)

A good father positions himself between the world and his loved ones. "Bears all things" (Greek: *stego*) means to shield or cover. Protection is a natural byproduct of love, not a separate duty.

3. Provision (1 Timothy 5:8; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 John 3:17-18; Philippians 4:19)

God ties provision to faith, but it must be driven by love, not duty. True provision goes beyond tangibles — it is proactive and includes emotional, relational, and spiritual needs. God supplies *all* our need according to His riches in glory.

4. Time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

Children often prefer time with their dad over gifts. Research shows 73% of kids wish they had more family connection time. Emotional connection grows more important with age. What you love most is what you make time for.

5. Instruction (Proverbs 22:6; 4:13; 13:1)

Good dads teach eternal things — how to pray through hardship, stand on God's Word, and live with honor. Instruction is caught more than taught. The best gift a father can give is the example of a son being loved by God the Father.

"Every father should remember one day his son will follow his example, not his advice." — Charles Kettering

Wrap-Up Truth: Good fathers simply reflect the attributes of the best Father — God. The secret to godly fatherhood is godly sonship. The goal is reflection, not perfection.

Reflection Questions

1. Which of the five attributes comes most naturally to you? Which one needs more intentional focus right now?
2. How does seeing yourself as a "son loved by the Father" change the way you approach fathering (or being fathered)?
3. When have you seen an action in your family become a burden because it lacked love? How could love have changed it into a blessing?
4. Are you more focused on providing tangible needs or investing in intangible needs (time, presence, spiritual guidance)?

5. What example are you setting that your children (or others) are more likely to follow than your words?
6. If you didn't have a godly earthly father, how does the truth that "God is your dad" speak to you today?

Application

- **Love in Action:** Choose one specific way to express love this week that feels more protective or instructional than nurturing.
- **Proactive Provision:** Identify one potential (not just current) need in your family — spiritual, emotional, or practical — and take a step toward it.
- **Time Investment:** Block out undistracted time with your kids this week. Ask them what they would like to do together.
- **Instruction & Example:** Share one spiritual truth or pray out loud with your child(ren). Let your life back up your words.
- **Sonship First:** Spend time this week simply receiving God's love as your Father (prayer, worship, Scripture). Let it overflow to your family.
- **For Everyone:** Embrace God as your perfect Father. Look for spiritual fathers in the church who can stand in the gap.

Group Discussion Prompts

1. Share a positive memory of your earthly father (or a father figure) that reflects one of these five attributes. How did it point you to God?
2. Which point challenged or encouraged you most? Why?
3. How can the church better help men embrace their identity as beloved sons of God so they can father from overflow instead of striving?
4. Discuss the difference between "perfection" and "reflection" in fatherhood. How does grace change how we parent?
5. For those who are not fathers: How does this message apply to spiritual fatherhood or mentoring?
6. Who in your life needs encouragement in sonship or fatherhood right now? How can we pray for them?

Closing Truth: Whether you are an earthly father, a spiritual father, or simply a son or daughter of God, the invitation is the same — step closer into sonship. The result is a step closer to reflecting the heart of our good, good Father.