



THE CHAPEL

AS FOR ME & MY HOUSE

A FATHER'S CALL TO LIVE, LEAD,
AND LOVE LIKE JESUS

INTRODUCTION

So many fathers have shaped the story of Scripture. Some are prominent – like Abraham, Jacob, David, and Joseph. Others appear for only a moment or remain unnamed. Regardless of their fame, or lack of name, they each played crucial roles in God's unfolding plan. One example stands out in the life of Jesus.

In Matthew 1, we read the genealogy of Jesus – a long list of names that reveals God's faithfulness through generations. Among them is Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. While not biologically connected to Jesus, Joseph was chosen by God to raise the Son of God. His quiet obedience, deep character, and steady leadership created a stable, godly environment in which Jesus grew “in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).

Though Joseph never speaks a recorded word in Scripture, his actions speak volumes. He protected Mary. He provided for Jesus. He followed God's direction when it was costly. He led his family with humility, courage, and faith. Joseph reminds us that being a godly father doesn't require the spotlight – it requires surrender, consistency, and trust in God's purposes.

This short devotional booklet is designed to encourage you and to remind you of the sacred role you carry as a father. You may feel ordinary, but your faith, presence, and leadership have the potential to echo for generations. In a world that often confuses manhood with bravado or busyness, Scripture calls you to

something greater – a humble, prayerful and faithful strength rooted in Christ.

Whether you're a brand-new dad, a seasoned father, a spiritual father to others, or somewhere in between, we pray this devotional helps you to recenter your heart on God's calling, renew your strength in His promises, and rediscover the joy and true calling of fatherhood.

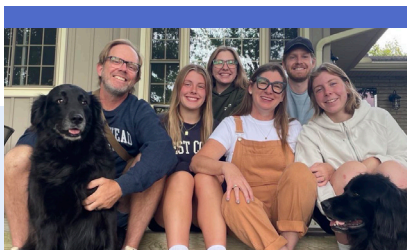
As your church family, we honor and bless you. Our community is stronger because of you! And with your children, we say, "The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him" (Proverbs 20:7). May this devotional remind you that even the smallest moments of fatherhood matter greatly in God's Kingdom – and that He is with you every step of the way.

BE PRESENT!

MARK CUSHING

“Let the message of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another with all wisdom, and singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God, with a grateful heart.” Colossians 3:16

There is a sign that hangs in the “Why Coffee Shop” in Niagara Falls, New York that reads, “If you are on your phone, you’re on your own.” I’ve had many conversations, whether with friends, my wife, or my adult children about the distractions that keep us from really connecting and listening to people. Self admittedly, I cannot multitask. Truth is, I think only moms come close to having that super power! And because of that, if I am not fully engaged without distraction, I am really not engaged at all. My family knows this. So, I was recently golfing with a friend and, like all avid golfers who want to track their progress (or lack thereof), I was using my phone to keep track of my score and other stats that I could analyze with my playing partner or those who follow me (I have a great following, you know) after the round. Problem was, the notifications on my phone were not turned off and so I kept getting distracted by many alerts, phone calls, and notifications. It actually hurt my golf game and my time in God’s creation with my friend on a beautiful sunny morning. The same thing can happen with our own kids.



Nothing can replace uninterrupted, distraction-free time with your kids. And, this is what God wants from His kids as well, so that His word might dwell richly in us, allowing us to model a Christ-Like attitude, to teach and counsel our children in light of God's Word. Now, don't get me wrong, technology can be great for a lot of things, but there are just some things that are worth fighting for that are "old school", one might say. For example, I actually miss the playing of music in my house. Now everyone has their own playlist on their own devices, with their own bluetooth headphones. We share playlists and have fun with that, but I miss the music playing in our home! With this, we miss the opportunity for our kids to hear us singing songs to God. We miss the emotion these songs bring as we sing them with gratitude that can influence those around us, even if they don't like our music.

The apostle Paul said to the church in Corinth, *"follow me as I follow the example of Christ."* Wow! "Watch me", says Paul. "Learn from me". Bold words from the apostle. The Lord Himself said, "Be holy, because I am holy." As followers of Jesus, we are called to represent Him by reflecting Him in our lives and to disciple others to "watch us" and learn from us. We are not perfect as fathers, but we all know that our kids are watching and following us, regardless of what we tell them.

I have referenced this before, but seeing both my own father with his open Bible every morning at the breakfast table, and watching my father-in-law spend time with my kids with absolutely no distractions have had a lasting impact on both me and my kids! So, what can you do today to unplug, go handsfree, mute notifications, whatever your distraction may be, to allow uninterrupted relational time, both with your kids and with your heavenly Father? You won't regret the impact that your intentionality will have on your relationship with the Lord and your children.

REFLECTION

What distraction can you remove to be more present with your kids? How can you value work, while not missing opportunities with your kids?

If you didn't go to church, would your kids know that you love Jesus? What can you do to model Christ and allow your children to see who you are in Christ?

GIVE YOURSELF AWAY

DAN DAVIS

“Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.”
1 Corinthians 9:19

Being a dad is one of the highest callings that the Lord gives to His people. The Lord has entrusted us with other people that have been created in His image from the first moment of their life until the end. He's entrusted us to care for their physical needs – and we all know that kids have a lot of physical needs! But He's also entrusted us to care for their spiritual needs as well. We are called to point our children to Jesus and teach them about Him. We are called to model our Heavenly Father to our children. And generally, as dads we are called to the highest level of leadership to our children. This is the way that the Lord has ordered the family in His Kingdom.

Now, the Kingdom of God is an upside-down Kingdom from the way things normally work in our world. It doesn't operate the way that the world knows how to operate. One of the ways that the Kingdom operates differently is in what leadership looks like. We often think that the highest level of leadership means that we have the highest level of freedom to do what we want. We think it means that everyone should be doing what we want done and serving us and our needs. But that simply is not true.



In this passage in 1 Corinthians 9, Paul is speaking about the way he operates in his ministry. He has found freedom in Christ – freedom from the Law, freedom from the ways of the world, and freedom from the expectations of the world. That's a great blessing that we all find in Jesus. But in Paul's role as an Apostle and a leader in the church, he has been called to lay down his freedoms for the good of others. He says, "I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible."

As fathers, we can take our cue from Paul. It can be easy to take the leadership role that God has given us and use it to serve ourselves. We can be heavy-handed to get what we want. We can put the kids to bed as quickly as possible so we can have time to ourselves or do what we want to do. We can focus our interactions and our words to them and our time with them on ultimately serving ourselves.

But what the Lord has called us to as Fathers more than anything else is to make sure they can know Christ by both hearing about Him and seeing Him modeled in the home. That takes living a life not to be served, but to serve.

What it comes down to is that we are called to give ourselves away. This is the highest calling of leadership in the Kingdom of God. It is the highest calling in the Church. And it is the highest calling in the family.

And Dad – it is your calling.

We are called to lay down our freedoms for the glory of God and the good of others. This is modeling Christ to others. Jesus, who is God the Son, with complete sovereign freedom in all the universe, laid down his freedom – yes, laid down His very life – in

order that we may become children of God. And this is how we model Him to our families. This is how we raise children who not only know things about Jesus, but have somewhat of a picture of what He is like. And in the times where you fail (and you will have those times), you have the opportunity to speak to your children about the grace that God gives us to pick us up and set us back on the path – all because He has given Himself away for us.

So, Dad, it may not be easy. It may not be what you thought. But if you want to be blessed by the Lord, live your life to be a blessing to your family – and lead them to do the same for others as well.

REFLECTION

Where in my parenting am I holding onto my personal freedoms instead of laying them down for the good of my children?

How can I practically serve my family this week that requires me to lay something down for their good?

PRAY BOLDLY

NICK KISH

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” James 5:16b

There is something sacred about a father's prayer. In a world filled with distractions, pressures, and uncertainties, one of the most powerful things we can do as fathers is to get on our knees and intercede for our children. James reminds us that prayer is not empty or passive – it is powerful and effective. It changes things. It changes hearts. And it starts with us.

As a dad of four wonderful children, I've had my fair share of moments where I've felt unsure of what to do. Every age brings new challenges and there are no perfect roadmaps for parenting. There are days I feel confident, and others I feel completely unqualified. But there's one thing I've learned already – when I don't know what else to do, I can always pray. I can always call upon the name of Jesus over my children. And that is not a last resort – that is the starting point of godly fatherhood.

Prayer isn't about performance or perfection; it's about presence. It's about taking intentional time to bring your children before the throne of God and asking Him to shape their lives according to His perfect will. Below are five areas I try to regularly pray over my kids. Maybe they can be helpful to you too.



1. PRAY FOR A REVERENT FEAR OF GOD

“Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.” – Psalm 34:11

I want my kids to be smart. I want them to be kind and compassionate. But more than anything, I want them to know God – and not just casually, but with awe and reverence. I pray that they would grow up with a heart that fears the Lord – not in a terrified way, but in a way that respects and honors Him deeply. I want them to know that the beginning of wisdom starts with a reverent fear of God.

Ask God to cultivate in them a deep, reverential fear of Him – one that guides their decisions and leads them to walk in wisdom and humility.

2. PRAY FOR DIVINE FAVOR OVER THEIR LIVES

“Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield.” – Psalm 5:12

As a dad, I love giving good things to my kids. How much more does our Heavenly Father love to bless His children? I pray God’s favor would rest on them – not just for worldly success, but for kingdom purposes. That His favor would open doors they could never open on their own. That His hand would guide every step of their lives.

3. PRAY FOR GODLY FRIENDS AND MENTORS

**“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”
– Proverbs 27:17**

The people our kids surround themselves with will have a massive impact on who they become. I pray God places Christ-centered friends and mentors in their lives – people who will sharpen them, build them up, and walk alongside them in faith. I also pray for discernment – for them and for my wife and I as parents – to know when relationships are healthy and when they’re harmful.

4. PRAY FOR STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE IN TRIALS

“For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” – 2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)

Life won’t always be easy. There will be storms. But I pray that when those storms come, my children won’t be overcome by fear or discouragement. I pray they’ll know the Spirit God has given them – full of power, love, and a sound mind. That even in trials, they would walk in courage, love boldly, and hold tightly to Jesus.

5. PRAY THAT YOUR LIFE WOULD ALWAYS POINT THEM TO THE FATHER

**“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”
– 1 Corinthians 11:1**

One of the most sobering truths of fatherhood is this: our children are watching us. They’re learning how to live, how to love, how to

respond to hardship, and how to follow God – by watching us. And while that can feel weighty, it's also one of the greatest opportunities we have as dads.

I often find myself praying, “Lord, let the way I live draw my children closer to You.” I don’t just want to talk about faith – I want to live it. I want my kids to see a dad who is quick to repent, quick to forgive, and quick to worship. I want them to know what it looks like to walk humbly, to serve selflessly, and to love Jesus wholeheartedly – not because I preach it, but because I model it.

The truth is, I will mess up. I will fall short. But even in that, I want to show them what grace looks like. I want them to know that their dad doesn’t have to be perfect – he just needs to stay surrendered.

So I pray this: *God, may my life be a mirror that reflects You. Let my words, my habits, my priorities, and my love all point my children back to their true Father—the one who will never fail them, never leave them, and never stop loving them.*

So, dads, here’s my encouragement to you: **Pray boldly.** Pray with love. Pray with faith. Speak these blessings over your kids regularly, not out of routine, but out of relationship. You don’t need perfect words. You just need a willing heart.

Whether your children are toddlers, teens, or adults, your prayers matter. They are shaping hearts, inviting God’s presence, and calling forth purpose in your children’s lives. Never underestimate the power of a father’s prayers. And never forget – your Father in heaven hears you. Let’s be fathers who pray boldly – because we serve a God who answers boldly.

Scan the QR code below to access a free song created just for dads. I had the privilege of writing it alongside some other incredible fathers, and our hope is that it blesses you and encourages you as you faithfully pray for your children.

thechapel.com/a-fathers-prayer —————



REFLECTION

In what areas of parenting do you feel the most unqualified or unsure? How might God be inviting you to bring those areas to Him in prayer?

How do you hope your children will one day describe your faith? What kind of example do you want your life to be for them?

BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS!

LEROY WIGGINS

“Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you.” 1 Chronicles 28:20a

I recall years ago a men's ministry curriculum we studied created by Dr. Robert Lewis called “Authentic Manhood”. It was a 36-week series that focused on what it means to be a Christian man who leads like Jesus led. There were four key manhood mandates that pointed to Jesus' model of leadership focusing on: Rejecting Passivity + Accepting Responsibility + Leading Courageously + Investing Eternally.

And as I ponder personally what it means to lead like Jesus as a Christian man, I can't help but to extend these mandates to what it means in my role as a Christian father. You see, fatherhood is not for the weary or faint of heart! Regardless how you have come to be a father and regardless what kind of father you grew up with or did not grow up with, if you are a father, you're called into action and to be a living sacrifice for those you've been entrusted to lead.

My father passed away in late 2025 at the age of 89 and having been married 64 years. Yes, you read that correctly. He was a Godly man who loved the Lord, loved and



served the church faithfully, loved and served his wife and family and knew what living sacrificially meant. One thing he would not sacrifice on was engagement in the church and being active in the body. What I believe formed my father into being the father he was, was his relationship with Christ and His people, his time in the word and prayer, the community of believers he surrounded himself with and a willingness to do what it would take to provide for his family and lead them in the direction and path of Jesus. Did I mention that for many years dad held two full time jobs and also finished grad school at night?

Now my father wasn't familiar with Robert Lewis and his Authentic Manhood material, but he was familiar (very familiar) with scripture and how to apply it to life and fatherhood (though imperfectly for sure - at times truly living out that passage about "Not sparing the rod" if you know what I mean).

I look at: 1 Chronicles 28:20a *"...Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you..."* and immediately I recognize how this can and does apply to us as fathers (and for that matter grandfathers and father-figures). The demands of a father are many and the work is hard...very hard. There is a responsibility we have to the precious lives God has given us to steward in His name; again regardless of what kind of father you grew up with or did not grow up with. As men who love the Lord, we're to tend to the flock that Jesus has given us and we're to shepherd them well (though imperfectly for sure). There's much that can frighten a father and more than enough times in which we can be discouraged. But we don't allow these to stop us in our tracks. We remember that the Lord is with us. He's given us His word, he's given us other Godly men and their experiences, and He's given us the Holy Spirit who strengthens us.

So yes, as a father, we passionately reject passivity because we know that Jesus didn't sit around doing nothing and complaining about life when there was work and life got hard. We accept the responsibilities we have to be provider and protector all while being a tender warrior just as Jesus was. We lead our families courageously in the face of life's difficulties (and life is difficult). And we invest eternally in the lives of our children regardless of their age and the prodigal nature of their lives in seasons. We foster loving relationships with them so we remain positioned to be a Godly influence in their lives.

So, as we contemplate our role as fathers, grandfathers and father figures, let us gain strength from the Lord by remaining close to Him and empowered by His word to accomplish the work we've been entrusted to accomplish.

REFLECTION

When you hear the four manhood mandates – Reject Passivity, Accept Responsibility, Lead Courageously, and Invest Eternally – which one resonates most with you in this season of life, and why?

What practices or rhythms (like time in the Word, community, or prayer) help you stay grounded and strong in your calling as a father? Where might God be inviting you to grow in these areas?

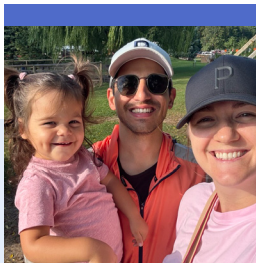
STAY FAITHFUL

EDWIN PEREZ

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”
Hebrews 13:8

What a verse - it beautifully speaks to the faithfulness of Jesus. Think about this for a moment: Jesus will never change. What a hope. What a security. What a foundation that we have in Him. How incredible is it that we can build our identity on an unshakeable, immovable God? This means that no matter what is happening in our life right now, we can still experience love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22). Why? Because Jesus does not change like the shifting shadows. He is faithful. We need this reminder daily, because in a world that is constantly changing, in a culture that is constantly changing, in seasons that are constantly changing, God does not. What a gift that is to us - ***to know a God who is faithful so that we can be faithful as fathers.***

Now admittedly, I have not been a father for terribly long. Our oldest daughter is two and a half and our family will be welcoming another child this summer. We're so grateful and excited for that! With that said, I realize there is still a great deal to continue to learn and grow in when it comes to being a dad. Yet at the same time, I have also learned at least two things thus far. The first



is that my daughter loves my attention. Whether that is playing chase with her around the house, listening to her sing to the top of her lungs to one of her favorite Frozen songs, or letting her decorate my fingers with the most colorful hair ties, there is something powerful when I can stop whatever I am doing and give her my attention and presence. And by the way, I love to give her that attention. I have also learned another thing about being a parent: it is not always easy. My wife came across a phrase that we will often remind each other of: "Parenting is the hardest best thing that you will ever do." I don't think I could articulate it better than that. It is the hardest, best thing. Being a parent is the best. It is filled with so much joy and so many beautiful moments to watch a human being grow from infancy. It's absolutely miraculous and remarkable. And at the same time, it can be hard. There can be long days, uncertainties, and worries. You also learn quickly that a consistent requirement of parenthood is patience. For me - a father of a toddler and a soon to be newborn - you know that perseverance and coffee is required for those long, sleepless nights. Yet, even on the best days and the tough days, the call is not to always have it all together or to be the perfect superhero dad. The call is to be faithful. To faithfully show up for my children, to faithfully give them my attention and affection, to faithfully love their mom, but more than all of that, to faithfully love Jesus. That's the call.

I am not sure what season you are in but can I remind all of us together that our call is not to be perfect or somehow have it all together. Free yourself from that crushing weight and pressure.

The call is faithfulness. The greatest gift we can give to our families is demonstrating that we as fathers are not perfect but that we find our hope, strength, and confidence in the one who is: Jesus. That's the gift and legacy that I desire to give to my family and I hope that is the same for you as well. So, fathers,

stay faithful. Don't ever give up fighting for your spouses, for your children, and for the presence of God to fill your homes. Grandfathers, stay faithful as well. You matter and the investment into your grandchildren deeply matters. You see, when we stay faithful, we model Jesus who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And let's watch the Lord do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine through a lifetime of faithfulness.

REFLECTION

What does faithfulness look like for you in your current stage of fatherhood? In what areas is it hardest for you to remain faithful?

What are some small but meaningful ways you can give your children (or grandchildren) your attention and affection this week? How might this reflect the love of our faithful God?

THANK YOU DADS

**"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
Joshua 24:15**

There are few words more courageous and countercultural than these. These words were spoken by Joshua as he led Israel into covenant renewal. And here's the thing - he had a choice. God gives choices!

Joshua chose to serve the Lord with his life. He chose to fight - choosing when it might have cost everything. He chose to reject idols - even though his flesh may have been satisfied by them. Joshua chose to serve the Lord by serving Moses; he chose humility instead of pride. Joshua chose to believe God about the Promised Land, even though many of his brothers continued to doubt. Joshua chose to be a leader who was led by God; he chose surrender and faithfulness. And these choices weren't just a personal declaration - they were a family commitment. He stood before a nation and said: No matter what others do, I will lead my household to serve the Lord.

We know that like Joshua, you're still called to choose daily. We see you choose God, even when the world says unbelief is easier. We know you choose intentionality and presence, even though the world celebrates working harder and staying busy. We see you choose to prioritize your family, when the world says your value is found in your financial status and career success. We know that you choose purity and integrity, when the world shrugs at compromise and temptation. You choose humility and confession,

when the world says that you're always right. You choose to open the Bible, when the world says to just scroll on your phone. You choose to bring us to church, when the world says to sleep in and take it easy. You choose to serve, when the world says to be served.

Dads, we want to say thank you. Thank you for leading us - your family - with that same boldness as Joshua. Thank you for the quiet choices you make every day to put God first. Thank you for waking up early to seek God – even when you're tired. Thank you for showing us what it looks like to forgive, to persevere, and to walk humbly with God. Thank you for not giving in to the cultural current that pulls families away from faith, but instead standing firm – declaring with your life, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

We know you don't always hear it, but we see it. We're learning from you. Your influence matters. Your love and leadership shape our lives in more ways than we can express. Thank you for continuing to choose God - even when it's hard and even when the world says to do differently. We are grateful – deeply grateful – to walk behind you on the path of serving the Lord.

Love,
Your family and all those you lead

PRAYERS FOR MY HOUSEHOLD

As a father, one of the most powerful things you can do is bring your children before God - by name and with purpose. These prayer prompts are designed to help you pause, reflect, and speak life over your household. Write down your kids' names, ages, what they love, where they are struggling, and what you're hoping for them. Use this space to pray specifically, intentionally, and boldly over your children. There are no perfect words needed - just a faithful heart.

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." – 3 John 1:4

Write each of your children's names and ages. Take a moment to reflect on who they are becoming – what they love, what they're curious about, and where they are still learning.

Write a prayer asking God to awaken a deep love for Jesus in their hearts. Pray they would not only know about God, but walk with Him personally. Ask that they would know the truth of His Word, trust in His promises, and love Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

A PRAYER FOR STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE

“Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God is with you.” – 1 Chronicles 28:20

Write out a challenge or struggle each child is currently facing – emotionally, physically, socially, academically, or spiritually.

Write a prayer asking God to give them courage when life is hard, peace when it's chaotic, and strength when they feel weak. Pray that they would grow in confidence not in themselves, but in who God has made them to be.

A PRAYER FOR GOD'S FAVOR AND DIRECTION

**"The Lord bless you and keep you...and give you peace."
– Numbers 6:24-26**

List one or two gifts, dreams, or talents you see emerging in each of your kids. What do they get excited about? Where do they need clarity?

Write a prayer asking God to surround them with His favor and lead them on a path that honors Him. Pray for open doors and divine appointments, and ask that their lives would be shaped by purpose – not pressure.

A PRAYER FOR THEIR RELATIONSHIPS

**“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”
– Proverbs 27:17**

Think about the current influences in your child's life – friends, teachers, coaches, leaders. What kind of voices are shaping them? Write down a few names if you can.

Write a prayer asking God to surround your children with godly friends and mentors. Pray that they would have wise voices in their lives – people who help them grow in character, kindness, courage, and faith.

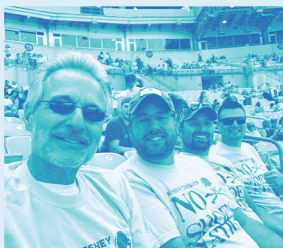
A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

You've reflected on what it means to be present, to stay faithful, to be bold in prayer, to lead with strength and courage, and to give yourself away in love. This is the high calling of a father in God's Kingdom – not to be served, but to serve. Not to lead from a distance, but to lead through daily sacrifice, intentionality, and love.

Write a prayer of commitment – your personal declaration to God. Commit to lead your family with faithfulness, to be present even when it's hard, to pray boldly and consistently, to serve your household sacrificially, and to choose courage over comfort. Invite God to strengthen your heart, shape your character, and use your life to reflect His love in your home.

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