

The Father-Child Relationship
(Psalm 127:3-5)

Introduction:

1. Father's Day is a convenient time to study "the father-child relationship."
2. This important subject needs to be studied carefully because:
 - a. God considers children to be very special (Psalm 127:3)
 - b. God considers being a father to be very special (Psalm 127:4-5)
 - c. many people are not following God's plan.
 - 1) "Deadbeat dads" are a serious problem today.
 - 2) Unfortunately, some in the church do not follow God's plan.
3. In our lesson we are examining passages that relate to fathers and children.
4. Let us first examine . . .

Discussion:

- I. PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO FATHERS
 - A. According to Genesis 2:24, before a man is a father he is to be a husband.
 1. God gave a husband and a wife the responsibility of bringing children into the world (Genesis 1:27-28).
 2. These guidelines have not changed (Matthew 19:4-5; Ephesians 5:31; Hebrews 13:4).
 3. A good husband will fulfill his God-given responsibilities to his wife (Ephesians 5:25-28; Colossians 3:19).
 - B. When a husband becomes a father he must fulfill his God-given responsibilities to his children (Colossians 3:21; Ephesians 6:4).
 - C. Abraham stands out in the Bible as a special father (Genesis 18:19).
 - D. Let us next examine . . .
- II. PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO CHILDREN
 - A. As fathers provide instruction, children are to listen (Proverbs 1:8-9).
 - B. Children are to obey and honor their fathers (Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20).
 - C. Jesus provided a wonderful example for children to follow (Luke 2:51-52).
 - D. For our final point, let us examine how . . .
- III. JESUS USED THE FATHER-CHILD RELATIONSHIP TO ILLUSTRATE HOW GOD ANSWERS THE PRAYERS OF HIS CHILDREN
 - A. (Matthew 7:7-8) Jesus assured His followers twice that God will provide His blessings to those who ask, seek, and knock.
 - B. (Matthew 7:9-10) Jesus gave 2 illustrations that involve a man and his son.
 - C. (Matthew 7:11) Jesus asked a thought-provoking question to show that God will provide abundant blessings to those who ask Him for them (Ephesians 3:20).

Conclusion:

1. On this Father's Day, let us make a renewed effort to stand up for God's plan for the father-child relationship.
2. Let us also make a renewed effort to ask, seek, and knock for the blessings that we desire from our Heavenly Father.