

June 13, 2021 Hebrews 12:7-11, 2 Corinthians 12:14-15, Jn 20:17 Title: Giving Priority to Fatherhood

Introduction: How do you talk about the importance of fatherhood without making everyone feel bad? Perhaps the place to start is the fatherhood of God.

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" John 20:17 NRSV

What we can learn from God about fatherhood:

1. Father Disciplines Children - "Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness" Hebrews 12:7-10 NIV

2. Father is a good example – "The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the ways of his father David before him. He did not consult the Baals but sought the God of his father and followed his commands rather than the practices of Israel." 2 Chronicles 17:3-4 NIV.

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord." Ephesians.6:4 NLT

Conclusion: DO NOT go home feeling guilty for failing to fulfill parental responsibilities. Go home knowing that regardless of what may or may not have happened in the past, regardless of what may or may not happen in the future, you have a Father who loves you without condition saying I'm here to help you with fatherhood responsibilities and all the parental responsibilities that you need because I know how to do it.