

1. What do you think a Father is? Read supplied responses and discuss.
2. What about your father has influenced you? Were there key moments that you can look back on? They could be positive or negative.
3. Was it your father that lived by example, a godly life, or someone else. What about their lives struck you most?
4. What does the Bible say about fatherhood? See Prov 13:24 and 22:6, Deut 6:6-7; Thess 2:11-12, Ephesians 6:1-4.
5. Charles Spurgeon said "Consider what you owe to His immutability. Though you have changed a thousand times, He has not changed once." and CS Lewis said this: "Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not." God does not change, discuss how this unchanging character is in our favour.
6. Proverbs 3:1-2 says *"My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity."* How do we see this verse, how do we apply it to our lives? Is it something that we consider, that we can still grow in knowledge and understanding, or do we feel that we don't need to push any more, that we good enough as is, more or less?
7. What is the biblical definition of success? See Deut 10:12 and Matt 25:14-30 and discuss.
8. How much of our success as parents do we put on our children? How do you think our children feel about this?
9. Discuss your thoughts on the fact that God created everything (Genesis 1), but still knew us before he created of the world, and formed us in our mothers wombs? (psalm 139)
10. How does 1 John 3:1 "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are" affect you as a parent?

Father's Day Survey Responses

Always points you to Jesus.

Love's unconditionally and gives the biggest best comforting hugs.

One aspect of a man's role in society is to provide, protect and procreate.

A father's role is to do this within a family context (esp. the procreation part!), and to pass these values on to the next generation so that men continue to be men and that women can continue to be women.

It is a day that can be celebrated privately by Christians and their families if they so choose. But, not celebrating it as a church is another way we could "not conform to the pattern of this world".

There is an excellent song that came out several years ago, which had the very catchy line that says "...every single day is fathers day".

Fatherhood to me, is of the upmost importance and privilege.

My role and relationship with my children is to love, care, protect, encourage, nurture and bring them up in the ways of the Lord, showing and leading them by my example.

But also allowing them to make their own mistakes, blunders and poor choices and then loving them through it, as they develop into the young men and women God is calling them to be.

I don't always get it right, but every day, I press on.

F – Flexible Guides: offering honest advice and guidance which adjusts to the changing needs of their kids as they grow and develop.

A - Affectionate Carers: demonstrating care and warmth towards their kids and building strong emotional connections with them through love and care.

T – Teachers of Life Skills: teaching practical life skills, such as problem-solving, decision-making, and resilience, which prepare kids for independence and adulthood.

H – Helpful Mentors: being a strong and positive role model, sharing life experiences, helping their kids make informed decisions, and demonstrating values, ethics, and behaviours that their kids can emulate and learn from.

E - Empathetic Listeners: providing emotional support, validating their kids' feelings, and helping them navigate challenges.

R – Responsible Parents: taking responsibility for their kids' well-being, providing emotional and financial support, committed to fulfilling their role as a parent, and being present for their kids.

S – Supportive Nurturers: creating a safe and supportive environment where their kids can grow and thrive, and encouraging their interests, talents, and individuality.

No one is perfect, and being an ideal father doesn't mean always getting everything right. It's about showing love, commitment, and a willingness to grow and learn along with your kids.

Biologically? A male who has contributed roughly half the DNA to someone else.

Socially? A man who is integrally involved in raising one or more children.

Religiously? Perhaps a Priest or someone with a level of spiritual authority.

Fathers - provide, protect, encourage, comfort, discipline.

Fathers can be scary, but still make you feel safe.

I try and be the father our Heavenly Father wants me to be loving , generous and kind and showing the love of God to my children in all circumstances. I want them to know I love them.

A dad loves his children, and their mother, and takes responsibility for their welfare.