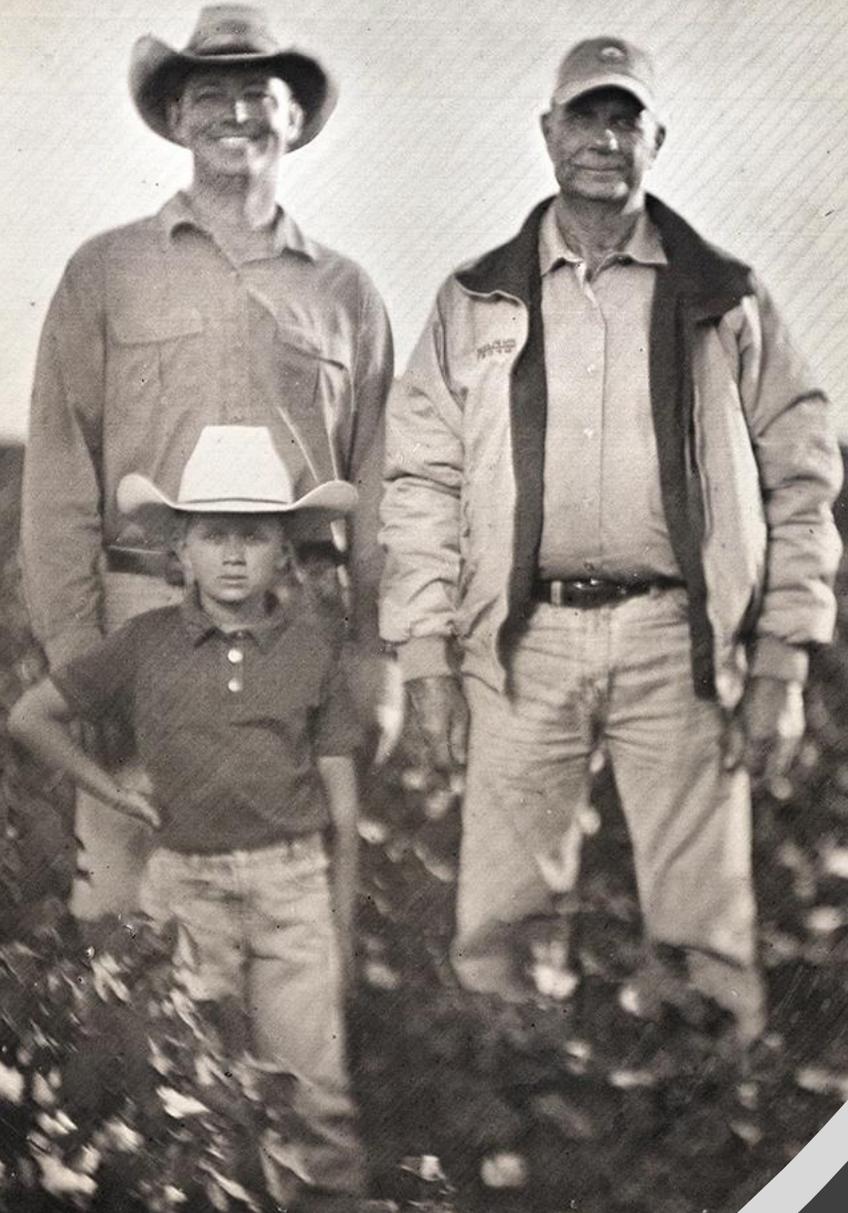


THE POWER OF A FATHER

**A GOOD START DOES NOT
GUARANTEE A GREAT ENDING!**



The Power of a Father!

As men, in a culture under attack, we need an understanding of mature masculinity—a vision and direction we can pursue with our sons! We need tools, methods, and ideas to help us become Godly men and from which to equip our sons. We need to grow up!

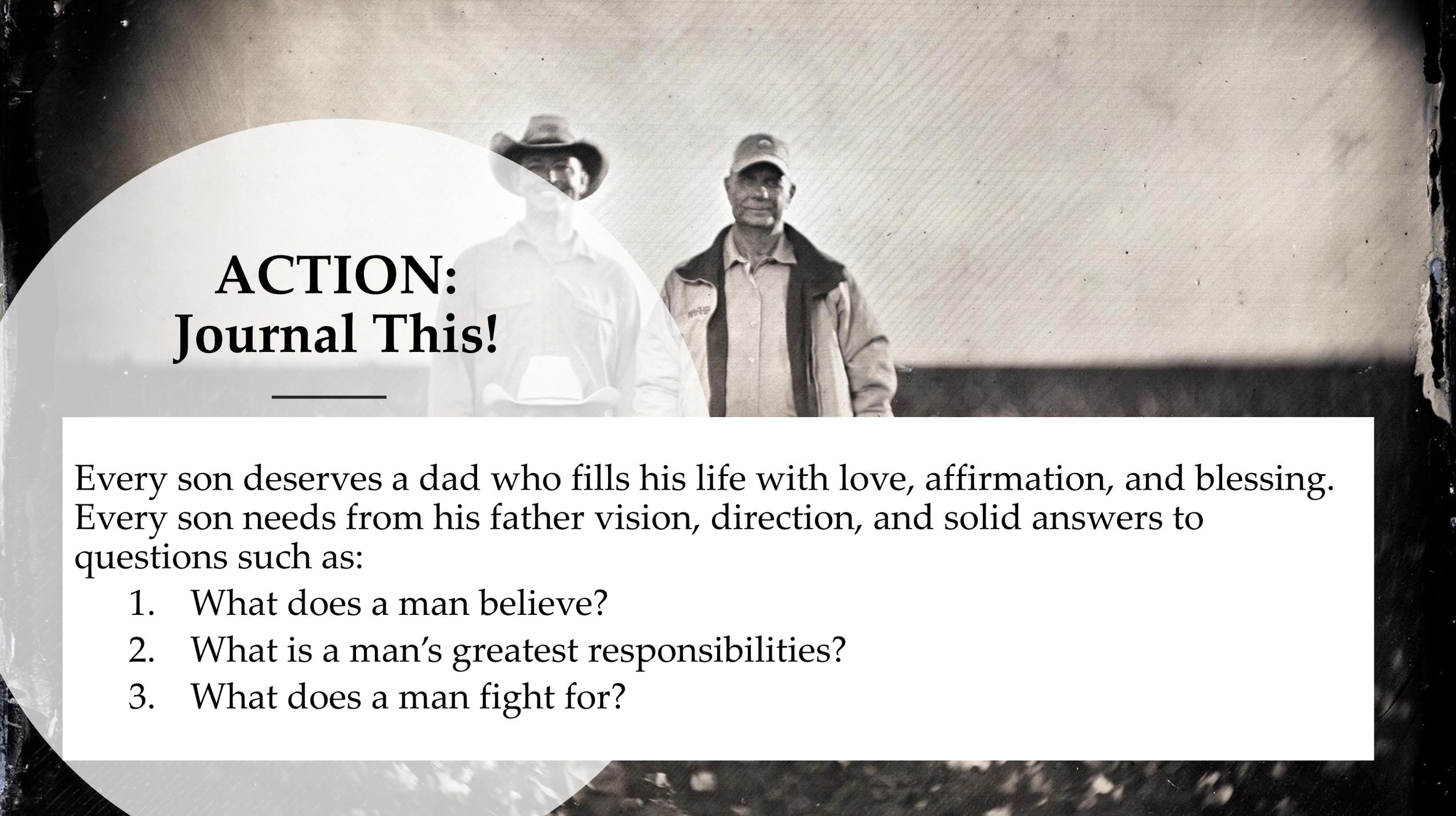
Jacob – the patriarch of Israel – the father of a nation—is a troubling character in the Old Testament. He is a so much like us -- with very human strengths and weaknesses, but a man with a striving for spiritual things. From this imperfect man we learn important lessons of faith. Especially, we learn about God's grace. Time to engage—enjoy the Adventure!

The Power of a Father – FAMILY DYNAMICS – A Lethal Mistake

1. **FAVORITISM** → In the beginning, Isaac and Rebekah learned from their parents' mistakes and relied on God rather than themselves. But, Isaac and Rebekah made a terrible mistake once the boys were born. They consistently demonstrated favoritism. This parental favoritism only added to the problem that already existed between the two boys. God wants us to learn valuable lessons from our models (I Cor. 10:11).
2. Principles to Learn:
 1. **FINISH WELL** → A great beginning does not guarantee a great ending. (I Cor. 10:12).
 2. **STOP GENERATIONAL PATTERN** → Though God warns about the possibility of failure in our Christian lives, He also makes it clear that we need not make the same mistakes as our spiritual forefathers or earthly fathers. (Eph. 6:10-11).
 3. **MODEL BEING A GODLY MAN** → Consistently violating God's will as fathers can lead to devastating results in our children's lives—and in their children's lives. (Col 3:21).

MANHOOD: Don't Let Your Son Leave Home Without it!

1. **Manhood** → Do you know what it means to be a man? When you left home, what did you drive away *with*? A few precious memories? An emotional good-bye? Or possibly — like a select few — you left with THE BLESSING!
2. Three Elements of defining Manhood:
 1. **Ideals** → A set of Ideals embodies a well-defined set of values. Ideals set parameters; they shape a man's identity and motivate him to higher levels of excellence, just as they did for the medieval knight. For a son, these ideals become a moral and spiritual beacon. His chivalry expresses a well-defined set of beliefs and values. He knows what he is fighting for!
 2. **Journey** → A well-defined process allows a boy to pursue knighthood through a clearly marked path. From page to squire to knight—a young man could envision the process, count the cost, and pursue his dream. Sadly, for a boy today, there is no equivalent path on the journey to manhood.
 3. **Ceremonies** → Men need an elaborate ceremony that is powerful and memorable to anchor in the Journey. Men need to be initiated by other men into manhood and its responsibilities.



ACTION: Journal This!

Every son deserves a dad who fills his life with love, affirmation, and blessing. Every son needs from his father vision, direction, and solid answers to questions such as:

1. What does a man believe?
2. What is a man's greatest responsibilities?
3. What does a man fight for?