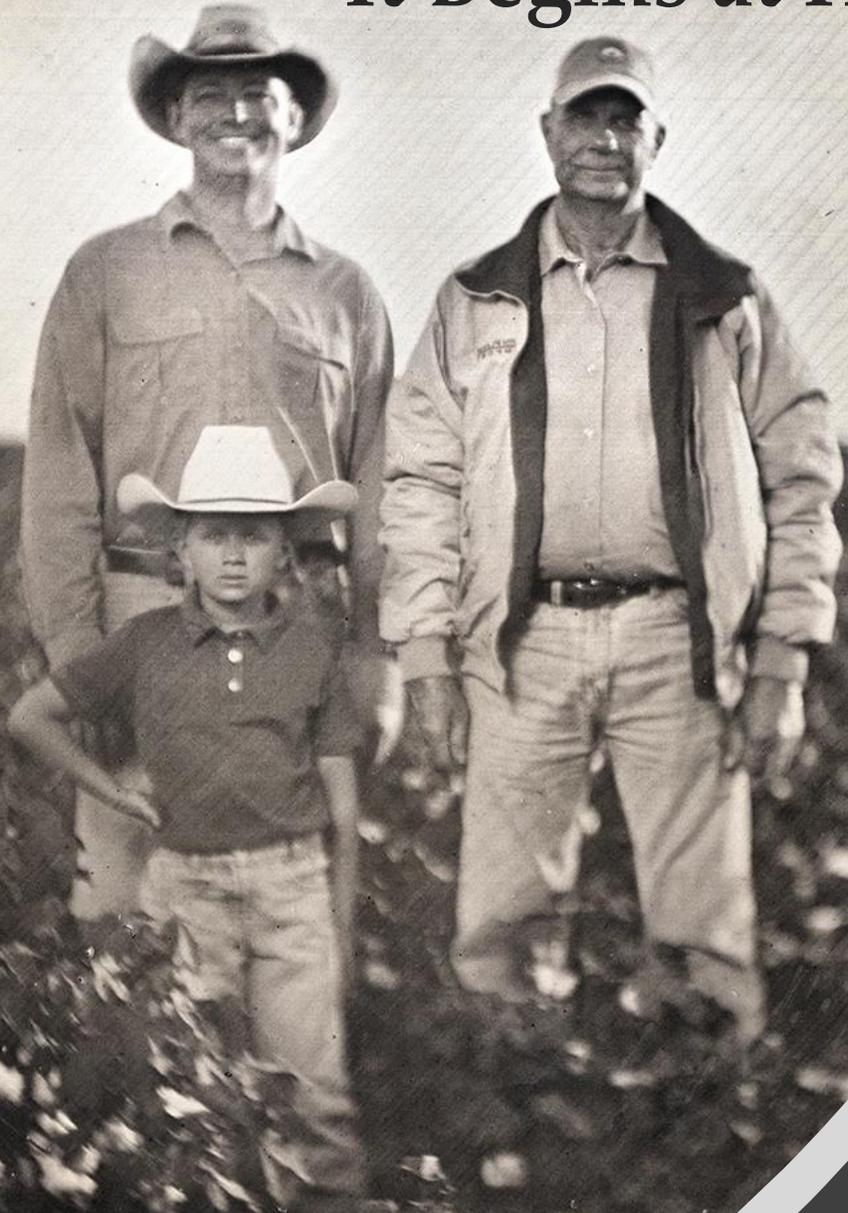




THE POWER OF A FATHER

The Power of a Father: It Begins at HOME!



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!

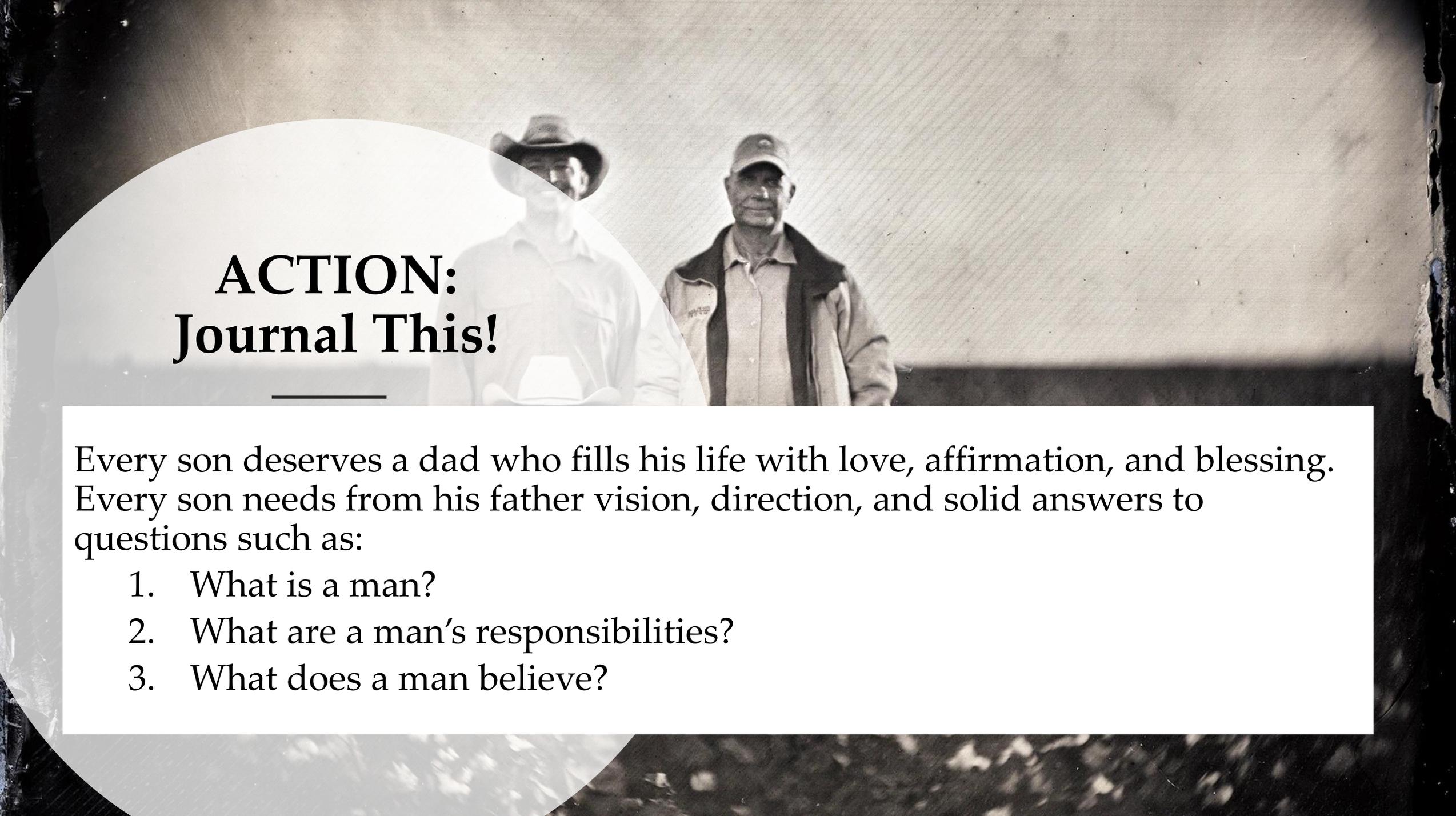
Jacob – the patriarch of Israel – the father of a nation—is a troubling character in the Old Testament. He is a so much like us -- with very human strengths and weaknesses, but a man with a striving for spiritual things. From this imperfect man we learn important lessons of faith. Especially, we learn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

The Power of a Father – FAMILY DYNAMICS – Genesis 25:19-34.

1. **FAMILY** → God designed the family to get all of us moving in the right direction. It forms the basis of our society. However, when the family doesn't function as God intended, it sets the stage for disintegration in all other social arenas.
2. **ISAAC – AN UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT** → Jacob's father, Isaac, knew about God's unconditional promises to his own father, Abraham – that he initially called to be the one through whom God would carry out His divine plan to bless all people in the world (Gen. 12:1-3). Isaac's part in God's great plans is clear – "... through your offspring (Isaac) all nations on earth will be blessed" (Gen. 22:15-18).
3. **ISAAC'S PRAYER** → Years later, Isaac faced a predicament – in fact, one that was almost identical to his father's. Like his mother, Sarah, his own wife, Rebekah was barren. Isaac did what his father failed to do (Gen. 25:21). God answered Isaac's prayer and Rebekah became pregnant. God honors those who pray according to His will (I John 5:14, 15).
4. **REBEKAH'S PRAYER** → No doubt Isaac and Rebekah had often discussed her husband's family experiences. She had to know the mistake her mother-in-law, Sarah made in providing her maidservant as a substitute mother in order to "help God along" in bringing the promised child into the world. Rebekah's encounters with Ishmael – either directly or indirectly – and his sons and their hostile behavior (Gen. 25:18) were constant reminders of what happens when God's children walk out of His will. Rebekah discovered that she was carrying twins – a rather traumatic experience for a first-time mother – but she learned some important prophetic truths. (Gen. 25:23).

The Power of a Father – FAMILY DYNAMICS.

5. **FRATERAL “WOMB-MATES** → Rebekah heard from God (Gen. 25:24). Isaac and Rebekah called their firstborn “Esau” – a name that corresponded to his physical features. Literally, this name means “red,” or “earth-colored.” Esau’s “whole body was like a hairy garment (Gen. 25:25). Scholars suggest that Esau’s hairy body was a sign of “excessive sensual vigor and wildness.” Jacob was born second. He came out of the womb “with his hand grasping Esau’s heel (Gen. 25:26) – symbolic of the power struggle that would characterize his lifelong relationship with his brother. His name would come to mean something that wasn’t complimentary which depicts Esau as an “immoral man.”
6. **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).
7. 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).



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 is a man?
2. What are a man's responsibilities?
3. What does a man believe?