



## 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 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!

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable  
[www.MensTable.com](http://www.MensTable.com)

**THE POWER OF A FATHER – CEREMONIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**  
We need an understanding of mature masculinity—a vision and direction  
to help us become Godly men

May 18, 2023

**Bible Verses:** Genesis 29:28-35; Genesis 30:1-24; Ephesians 4:22-24

**Music:** James Blunt – Monsters - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTFbGcnl0po>

**Video:** Show me the Father

**Resources:** JACOB – *Following God Without Looking Back* by Gene A. Getz.

*Raising A Modern-Day Knight – A Father's Role in Guiding His Son to Authentic Manhood* by Robert Lewis.

### The Power of a Father – FAMILY DRAMA – Genesis 29:28-35 & 30:1-24.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Laban's deception set the stage for the worst kind of favoritism, jealousy, competition, and lack of trust—all of which led to enormous unhappiness, tension, stress, anxiety, and anger. As the curtain falls on the final act, Rachael's sad and final words serve as an epitaph that characterized her married life.
2. Live in Reality (see Ephesians 4:22-24):
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Jacob's life suffered when he got involved in a polygamous relationship. Being involved sexually with more than one woman in our lives in any form other than marriage is not God's design. God intended that a man have one woman in his life and one woman only—his wife. When we violate God's perfect will in this matter, we will suffer the consequences—and so will our children.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ → God can create something beautiful out of something that is ugly, sinful, and sad. Leah experienced answers to prayers even though she lived her life in a loveless marriage. Rachel eventually bore two sons that brought her joy in the midst of her feelings of disgrace.

### The Power of a Father – CEREMONIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Create a ceremony that is an experiential process. Men need to be initiated into the circle of manhood.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → Ceremonies produce an unexpected surprise. Imagination is awakened and restored when we are surprised. Wonder is restored. Without wonder we approach life as a project. *"Without wonder the motivational energies for living well get dominated by guilt and anxiety."* - *The Soul of Spirituality* by David Benner.
3. Key passages in a Boy's Journey:
  1. **Puberty** → that great transition at the start of adolescence when a boy's body wreaks havoc with his mind.
  2. **High School Graduation** → when, for the first time, a young man experiences unbridled freedom.
  3. **College Graduation** → when a man must face the world and begin providing for himself.
  4. **Marriage** → when a man assumes responsibility for a wife and the leadership of his family.

### 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 greatest responsibilities?
3. What does a man believe?
4. How does a man behave?
5. What should a man try to achieve?



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**Bible Verses – The Message**

**Genesis 29:28-35 - 28** Jacob agreed. When he'd completed the honeymoon week, Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. **29** (Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her maid.) **30** Jacob then slept with her. And he loved Rachel more than Leah. He worked for Laban another seven years. **31** When God realized that Leah was unloved, he opened her womb. But Rachel was barren. **32** Leah became pregnant and had a son. She named him Reuben (Look-It's-a-Boy!). "This is a sign," she said, "that God has seen my misery; and a sign that now my husband will love me." **33** She became pregnant again and had another son. "God heard," she said, "that I was unloved and so he gave me this son also." She named this one Simeon (God-Heard). **34** She became pregnant yet again - another son. She said, "Now maybe my husband will connect with me - I've given him three sons!" That's why she named him Levi (Connect). **35** She became pregnant a final time and had a fourth son. She said, "This time I'll praise God." So she named him Judah (Praise-God). Then she stopped having children.

**Genesis 30:1-24 - 1** When Rachel realized that she wasn't having any children for Jacob, she became jealous of her sister. She told Jacob, "Give me sons or I'll die!" **2** Jacob got angry with Rachel and said, "Am I God? Am I the one who refused you babies?" **3** Rachel said, "Here's my maid Bilhah. Sleep with her. Let her substitute for me so I can have a child through her and build a family." **4** So she gave him her maid Bilhah for a wife and Jacob slept with her. **5** Bilhah became pregnant and gave Jacob a son. **6** Rachel said, "God took my side and vindicated me. He listened to me and gave me a son." She named him Dan (Vindication). **7** Rachel's maid Bilhah became pregnant again and gave Jacob a second son. **8** Rachel said, "I've been in an all-out fight with my sister - and I've won." So she named him Naphtali (Fight). **9** When Leah saw that she wasn't having any more children, she gave her maid Zilpah to Jacob for a wife. **10** Zilpah had a son

for Jacob. **11** Leah said, "How fortunate!" and she named him Gad (Lucky). **12** When Leah's maid Zilpah had a second son for Jacob, **13** Leah said, "A happy day! The women will congratulate me in my happiness." So she named him Asher (Happy). **14** One day during the wheat harvest Reuben found some mandrakes in the field and brought them home to his mother Leah. Rachel asked Leah, "Could I please have some of your son's mandrakes?" **15** Leah said, "Wasn't it enough that you got my husband away from me? And now you also want my son's mandrakes?" Rachel said, "All right. I'll let him sleep with you tonight in exchange for your son's love-apples." **16** When Jacob came home that evening from the fields, Leah was there to meet him: "Sleep with me tonight; I've bartered my son's mandrakes for a night with you." So he slept with her that night. **17** God listened to Leah; she became pregnant and gave Jacob a fifth son. **18** She said, "God rewarded me for giving my maid to my husband." She named him Issachar (Bartered). **19** Leah became pregnant yet again and gave Jacob a sixth son, **20** saying, "God has given me a great gift. This time my husband will honor me with gifts - I've given him six sons!" She named him Zebulun (Honor). **21** Last of all she had a daughter and named her Dinah. **22** And then God remembered Rachel. God listened to her and opened her womb. **23** She became pregnant and had a son. She said, "God has taken away my humiliation." **24** She named him Joseph (Add), praying, "May God add yet another son to me."

**Ephesians 4:22-24 - 22** Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything - and I do mean everything - connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life - a God-fashioned life, **23** a life renewed from the inside **24** and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you.

**"Monsters" By James Blount**

Oh, before they turn off all the lights  
I won't read you your wrongs or your rights  
The time has gone  
I'll tell you goodnight, close the door  
Tell you I love you once more  
The time has gone  
So here it is  
I'm not your son, you're not my father  
We're just two grown men saying goodbye  
No need to forgive, no need to forget  
I know your mistakes and you know mine  
And while you're sleeping I'll try to make you proud  
So, Daddy, won't you just close your eyes?  
Don't be afraid, it's my turn  
To chase the monsters away  
Oh, well I'll read a story to you  
Only difference is this one is true  
The time has gone  
I folded your clothes on the chair  
I hope you sleep well, don't be scared  
The time has gone  
So here it is

I'm not your son, you're not my father  
We're just two grown men saying goodbye  
No need to forgive, no need to forget  
I know your mistakes and you know mine  
And while you're sleeping I'll try to make you proud  
So, Daddy, won't you just close your eyes?  
Don't be afraid, it's my turn  
To chase the monsters away  
Sleep a lifetime  
Yes, and breathe a last word  
You can feel my hand on your arm  
I will be the last one  
So I'll leave a light on  
Let there be no darkness in your heart  
But I'm not your son, you're not my father  
We're just two grown men saying goodbye  
No need to forgive, no need to forget  
I know your mistakes and you know mine  
And while you're sleeping I'll try to make you proud  
So, Daddy, won't you just close your eyes?  
Don't be afraid, it's my turn  
To chase the monsters away

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