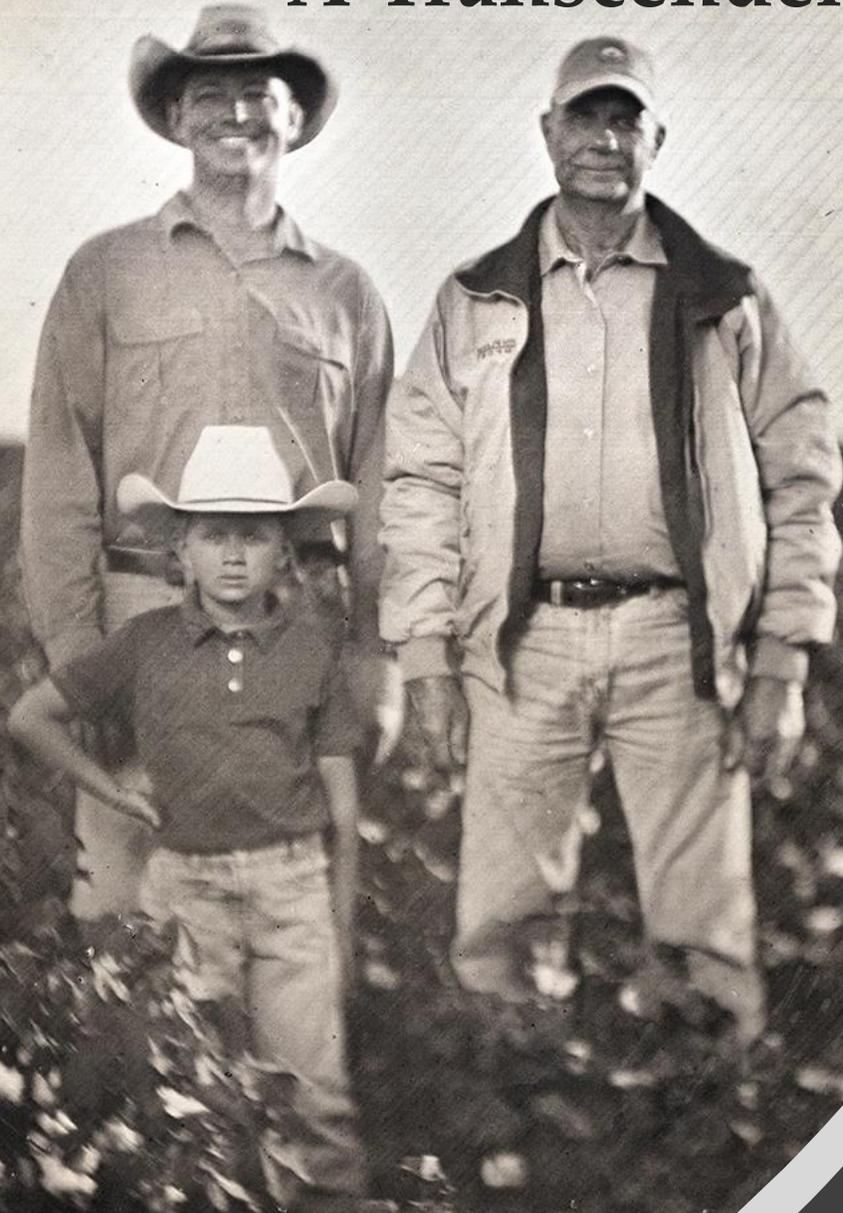




THE POWER OF A FATHER

# The Power of a Father: A Transcendent Cause.



## 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 and our daughters. We need to grow up!

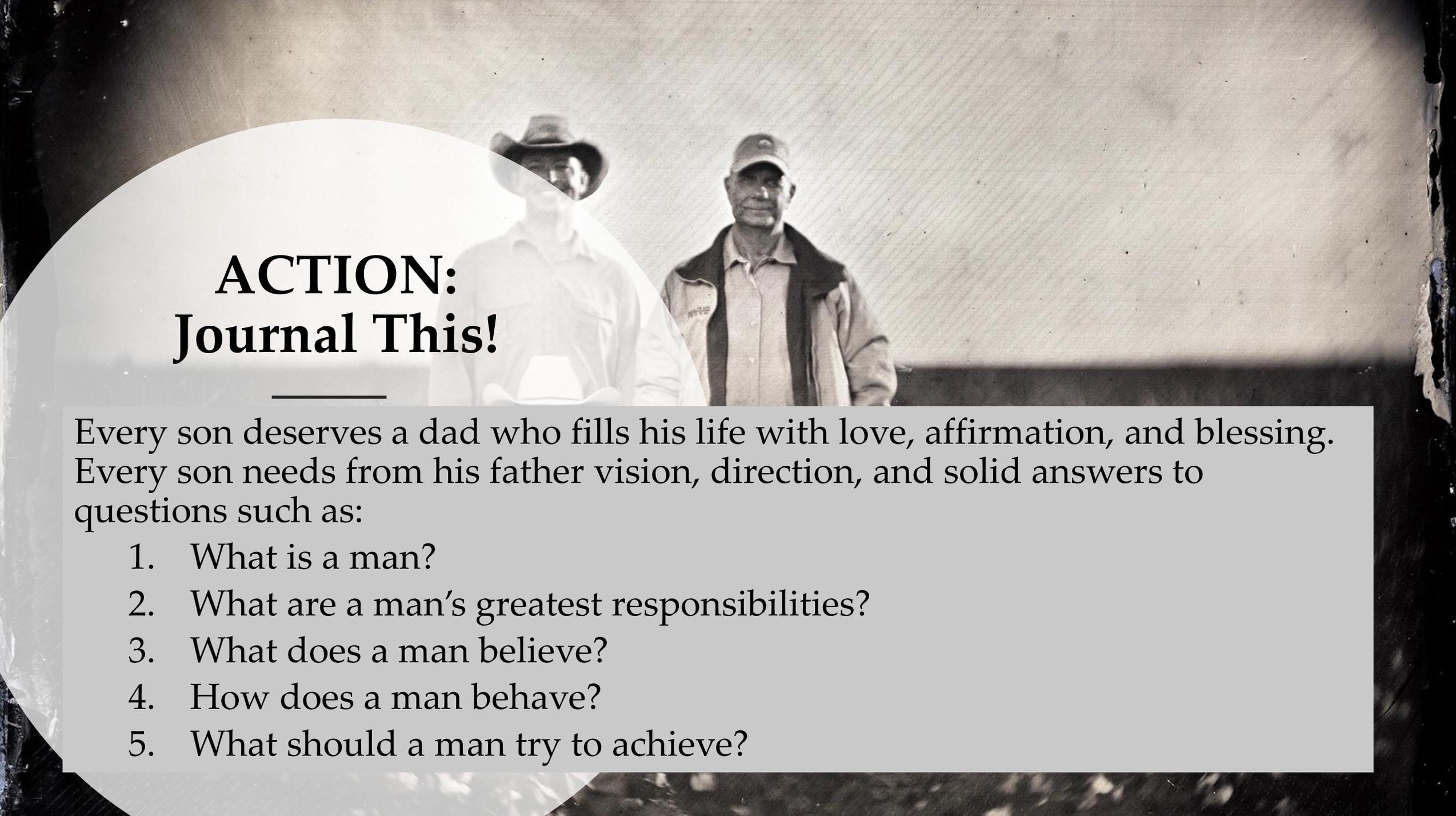
Jacob – the *patriarch of Israel* – the *father of a nation* – is a troubling character in the Old Testament. He is conniving and he is spiritual too. He has moments of strong faith as well as of fear. His family is sometimes in disarray, and yet at the end he is the one who sets it straight. Jacob, whose very name suggests "deceiver," is renamed by God as "Israel" -- "one who has struggled with God." And an entire nation is named after this patriarch -- the nation of Israel. Jacob is a bit too 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 – A BORN-AGAIN EXPERIENCE – Genesis 28:10-22

1. **HEART CHANGE** → Jacob had a “head knowledge” regarding “the God” of his grandfather, Abraham, and of his father, Isaac, but little, if any, “heart knowledge.” Jacob had a personal encounter with the living and holy God. Jacob vowed to two tangible expressions of his new faith experience:
  1. **REMEMBER** → He would always worship God in Bethel. He would never fail to remember what happened there.
  2. **TO GIVE** → He committed to giving a tenth of all that God gave him.
2. Live in REALITY:
  1. **SALVATION MUST BE PERSONAL** → All men everywhere—no matter what our family heritage, our religious background, or our righteous or unrighteous acts—need to experience God’s redemptive grace in order to “enter the gate of heaven. John 1:11, 12. Ephesians 2:8, 9.
  2. → Can you remember a “Bethel experience: in your own life? Romans 6:23. **WE NEED A BETHEL EXPERIENCE**
  3. **CHANGED LIFE** → True conversion results in a changed life. If we neglect personal and public worship on a consistent basis and neglect being generous with our time, talents, and treasures—especially when we know what God’s will is for His children—we need to take a careful look at our relationship with God.

# The Power of a Father – A TRANSCENDENT CAUSE – Colossians 1:15-18

1. **MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT** → A transcendent cause is a mission that lifts us beyond ourselves, a passion that stirs us to self-sacrifice and causes us to contribute to the larger community. A transcendent cause is not something we do in addition to everything else; instead, it is the one factor that motivates everything we do. Put in the simplest terms, we want our lives to count for something important.
2. Three characteristics of a transcendent cause:
  1. Must be **truly heroic** → a noble endeavor calling forth bravery and sacrifice. Therefore, fathers need to give sons conviction, rather than marketplace competence.
  2. Must be **timeless** → It contains significance beyond the moment. Therefore, fathers need to give sons spiritual significance, rather than social success.
  3. Must be **supremely meaningful** → It pulsates with meaning. Therefore, fathers need to give sons the best things, rather than good things.



## **ACTION: Journal This!**

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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?