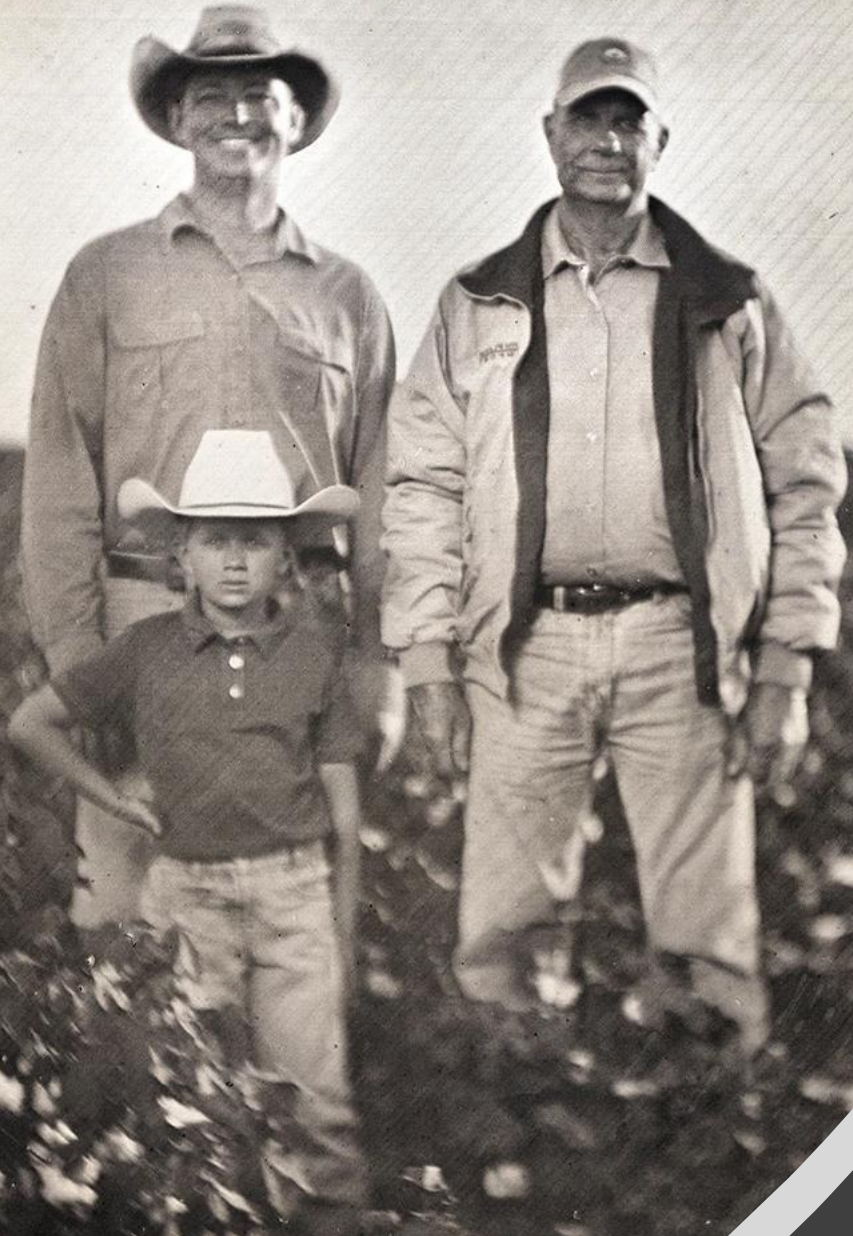


THE POWER OF A FATHER

The Power of a Father: FACING THE FATHER WOUND.



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 Sins (neglect, silence, not just actions) of the Fathers = Dysfunction Junction – Genesis 30:25 – 31:13.

1. Thoughts - Feelings – Beliefs – Actions → “Dysfunctional Behaviors” are what's passed on generationally and forever alter the way we think and act - until we decide to change it! This was certainly true of Jacob:
2. Jacob was a momma's boy - creates sexual issues down the road!
3. His father (grandfather) Abraham had poor boundaries around the created design:
4. Abraham's sexual relations with his wife Sarah's maid, Hagar, while a case of adultery rather than polygamy, also led to serious trouble. Although Hagar became pregnant with Ishmael at Sarah's behest, Sarah grew jealous and mistreated her, causing her to flee (Gen 16). Hagar eventually returned and gave birth to Ishmael. Later, when Sarah finally bore a child (Isaac), she decided that Ishmael was a threat and had Abraham drive him and Hagar away (Gen 21).
5. He could have been a sex & love addict - working for Rachel for 7 years plus 7 more!
6. Multiple women and half-siblings - CHAOS not the created design:

Jacob had four wives whom he clearly loved unequally: Leah (whom he considered unattractive and felt himself “stuck with”), Rachel (his first love), Bilnah (Rachel's maid), and Zilpah (Leah's maid). Leah bore him six sons and a daughter: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulan, and Dinah. Rachel was infertile for many years, but finally gave birth to Joseph and later Benjamin. Bilnah bore him Naphtali and Dan, while Zilpah bore him Gad and Asher. All these sons by different mothers created tension, the greatest of which surrounded Joseph, whose brothers grew jealous and began to hate him, for their father, Jacob, favored Joseph as Rachel's son. The brothers hatched a plot to kill Joseph, but due to a combination of their desire for monetary gain and the intervention of Reuben, he was instead sold into slavery. At the root of this sad story of this bitter conflict was a polygamous mess. The clear teaching (among others) is this: Don't do polygamy.

The Sins (neglect, silence, not just actions) of the Fathers = Dysfunction Junction – Genesis 30:25 – 31:13.

- Polygamy was common among the Old Testament patriarchs. Here is a “brief” list:

1. Lamech (a descendant of Cain) had two wives (Genesis 4:19).
2. Abraham had more than one wife (Genesis 16:3-4, 25:6 (some were called concubines)).
3. Nahor (Abraham’s brother) had both a wife and a concubine (Genesis 11:29, 22:20-24).
4. Jacob was tricked into polygamy (Genesis 29:20-30) and later received two additional wives bringing the grand total of four wives (Genesis 30:4, 9).
5. Esau took a third wife to please his father Isaac (Genesis 28:6-9).
6. Ashur had two wives (1 Chronicles 4:5).
7. Obadiah, Joel, Isshiah, and those with them had multiple wives (1 Chronicles 7:3-4).
8. Shaharaim had at least four wives, two of whom he “sent away” (1 Chronicles 8:8-11).
9. Caleb had two wives (1 Chronicles 2:18) and two concubines (1 Chronicles 2:46, 48).
10. Gideon had many wives (Judges 8:30).
11. Elkanah is recorded as having two wives, one of whom was the godly woman Hannah (1 Samuel 1:1-2, 8-2:10).
12. David had at least 8 wives and 10 concubines (1 Chronicles 1:1-9; 2 Samuel 6:23, 20:3).
13. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:1-6).
14. Rehoboam had eighteen wives and sixty concubines (2 Chronicles 11:21) and sought many wives for his sons (1 Chronicles 11:23).
15. Abijah had fourteen wives (2 Chronicles 13:21).
16. Ahab had more than one wife (1 Kings 20:7).
17. Jehoram had multiple wives (2 Chronicles 21:17).
18. Jehoiada the priest gave king Joash two wives (2 Chronicles 24:1-3).
19. Jehoiachin had more than one wife (2 Kings 24:15).

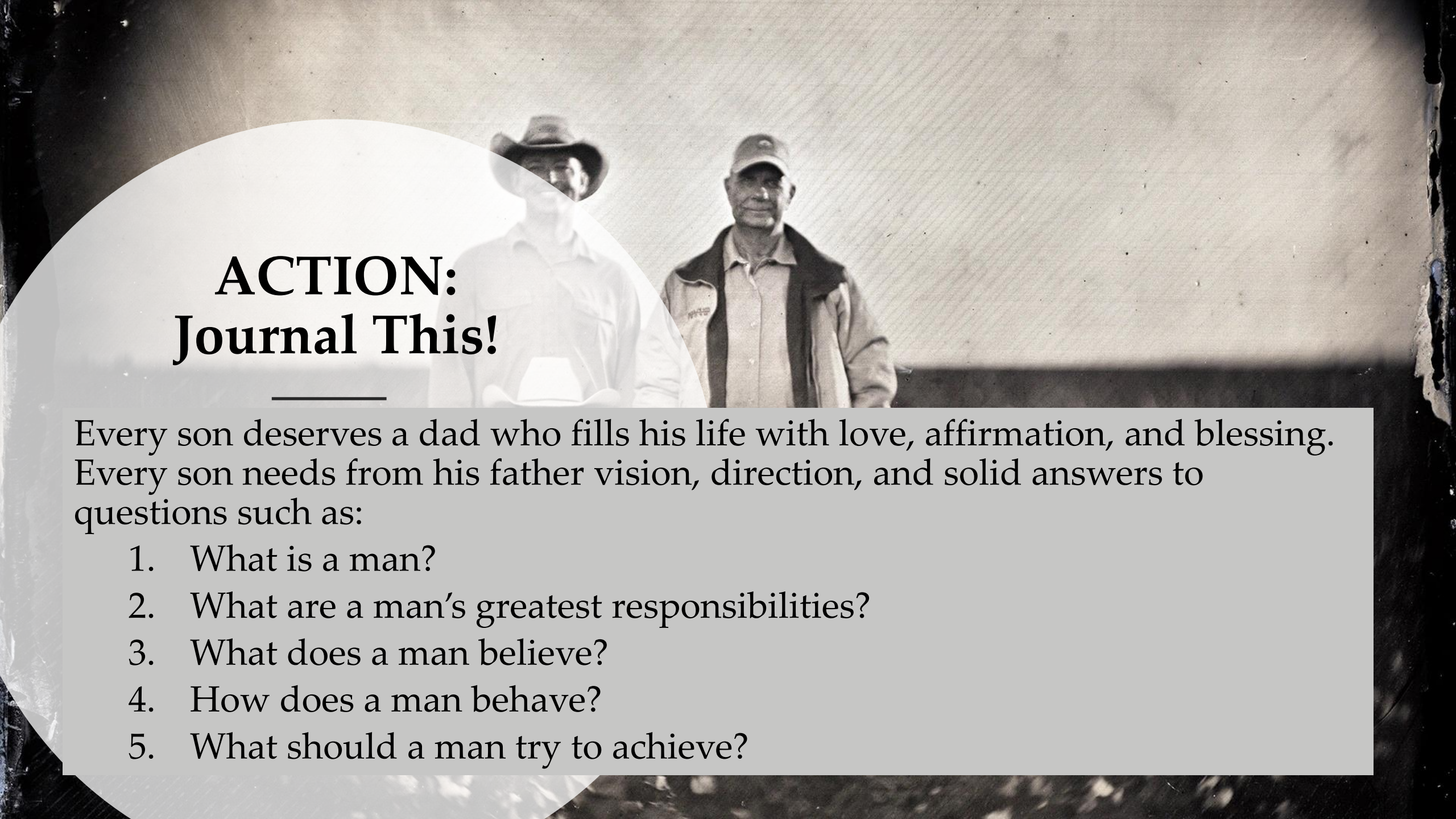
The Power of a Father – FACING THE FATHER WOUND.

- In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus signals a return to God's original plan and excludes divorce. Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, unless the marriage is unlawful, and marries another woman commits adultery (Matt 19:8-9). Have you not read that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate (Matt 19:4-6).
- Whatever one may argue regarding the Old Testament's approach to marriage, Jesus makes it clear that we are going back to plan A: One man and one woman in a stable, lasting, fruitful relationship of mutual support.

The Power of a Father – FACING THE FATHER WOUND AROUND SEXUALITY– Psalm 68:5

**Resource: The Sacred Romance—Drawing Closer to the Heart of God by John Eldredge.
Chapter 3 – The Message of the Arrows.**

- 1. FACING YOUR ARROWS**
- 2. ARROWS FROM YOUR YOUTH**
- 3. THE MESSAGE**
- 4. HOW WE RESPOND**
- 5. THE VOW**
- 6. A WAY TOWARD HEALING**
- 7. RENOUNCE THE VOW**
- 8. GRIEVE THE WOUND**
- 9. REJECT THE MESSAGE**
- 10. IMAGINE A GOOD FATHER & FIND ONE!**



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?