

The Father Factor
(Judges 2:7-13)

The **people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua** and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel. Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of a hundred and ten. And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. **After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.** Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. **They provoked the LORD to anger because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.**

“Hail Mary passes don’t work in fatherhood. Fathering is all about a Dad moving the ball forward in his relationship with his child, one yard at a time, day in and day out.” –Mark Merrill

I. The **importance** of a Father cannot be overstated. (Judges 2:7)

The people served the LORD throughout the **lifetime of Joshua** and of **the elders who outlived him** and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel.

1. The **Absentee** Father affects the family. (Psalms 68:5)

“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.”

2. The **Anemic** Father affects the family. (2 Chronicles 30:7)

“Do not be like your fathers and brothers, who were unfaithful to the LORD, the God of their fathers, so that he made them an object of horror, as you see.”

3. The **Abusive** Father affects the family. (Colossians 3:21)

“Fathers, **do not embitter your children**, or they will become discouraged.”

II. The **Influence** of a Father has lasting results. (Judges 2:10)

After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, **another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done** for Israel.

1. A Father’s **actions** have a lasting influence. (2 Kings 15:9)

He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as his fathers had done. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit.

2. A Father’s **attitude** has a lasting influence. (2 Kings 17:14)

But they would not listen and were as **stiff-necked as their fathers**, who did not trust in the LORD their God.

3. A Father’s **ambiguity** has a lasting influence. (2 Kings 17:41)

Even **while these people were worshiping the LORD, they were serving their idols.** To this day their **children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.**

III. The **Involvement** of a Father is critical to the family. (Joshua 24:15)

"But as for me and my household, **we will serve the LORD.**"

1. A Father must be involved daily with his children. (Gen. 5:21-22)

When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, **Enoch walked with God 300 years** and had other sons and daughters.

2. A Father must be involved in disciplining his children. (Heb. 12:9)

Moreover, we have all had **human fathers who disciplined us** and we respected them for it.

3. A Father must be involved in devotions with his children. (Eph. 6:4)

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, **bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**

"Leading a family is the hardest job a man can ever have."

—Dave Ramsey