



Life Principles Notes™

In a Father's Footsteps

Summary:

A child's first idea of the heavenly Father begins with the earthly one.

Every father needs to realize the awesome influence he has on his child's understanding of God. A loving, attentive, and affectionate parent helps his child to know the God with those same attributes.

In 2 Kings 21:20–21, we read a terrible state-

ment about the legacy of an ungodly father: "He did evil in the sight of the Lord, as Manasseh his father had done. For he walked in all the way that his father had walked, and served the idols that his father had served and worshiped them."

What about your legacy as a parent?

Key Passage: [2 Kings 21:19–22](#)

Scriptural Principles:

1 If your children walk in your footsteps, will they receive Christ early in life?

As a father, ask yourself several questions. First, will you show your children the goodness of God, so that they are ready to accept Him as their Lord and Savior as young people? Will they be eager to seek God's will at a young age, so that they will avoid the mistakes that will cause them pain and suffering? Now is the time to be teaching this lesson.

2 Is your legacy one that will teach your children to live a life of faith?

Will your children see in you the example of someone who focuses on God and depends upon Him to meet every need? Do they see in you the kind of strong faith that trusts Him even in the difficult times of life? They will pay close attention to see how you feel about money and material things. Sometimes children learn through the little things that we hardly notice. What lessons are you teaching?

3 Will your children be industrious and ambitious?

Children learn their work ethic from the father in their home. If you are a hard worker with clear goals, they will strive for those traits, too. On the other hand there is the influence of a father who lacks focus and never makes progress in life. Do you talk to your children about the goals that God gives you?

4 Will your children have the wisdom to live today with tomorrow in mind?

Judgment is coming someday. Some parents never teach that truth to their children. We want our children to have a sense of urgency about life, realizing that every moment counts because it is a gift from God. One of the devil's greatest deceptions is that we should live for today and forget all about tomorrow.

5 Will your children be good stewards, wise stewards of their finances?

Every time a father reaches for his wallet, he makes a statement about his values and his stewardship. Wise fathers teach the importance of setting godly financial goals and money management. Parents today shower their children with gifts, but forget to teach the wisdom of how God wants us to use our resources.

6 Will your children make prayer a priority in their life, part of their daily life?

Some families never pray together. Parents who neglect prayer in their home are damaging the future of their children, because those children aren't being taught to be young men and women of prayer. We don't teach them to pray by sending them to their rooms to pray; we do it by praying with them. Teach your children to pray for specific needs.

7 Will your children have a hunger for the Word of God?

Will your love of God's Word create a desire in their hearts for an intimate relationship with Him? If you want your children to read the Bible, gather the family and open the Word of God together. The dinner table is a good place to study the Bible together, because children can bring their questions and learn how to study the Scriptures.

8 Will your children personally lead others to Christ?

Too many children hear their parents say that leading someone to Christ is the pastor's job. Have your children seen you pray for lost friends? Have they heard you share stories of how you talked about Jesus to someone who really needed the gospel that day? Children pay attention, and when we share our faith, those children know our faith is sincere. In time, you will see them share their faith, too.

9 Will your children faithfully serve the Lord in the local church?

What kind of church members will your children become? The answer depends on the kind of church member you are. Do they see you tithing your income and using your spiritual gifts, or do they hear you gossiping and complaining about other members, or criticizing the staff? If you love the church and give yourself to it, so will your children.

10 Will your children treat their physical bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit?

We want our children to keep their bodies pure, free from the damage of alcohol and drugs. They need to see that our bodies are not our own, but the property of God. The Lord Jesus Christ wants to be glorified through our bodies. Will you teach your children to glorify God by caring for their health?

11 Will your children live and work in the power of the Holy Spirit?

Some parents never teach their children that, on that day when they give their lives to Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live within them. That same Spirit seals your children as God's promise for eternal redemption. He gives them eternal security, and helps them use their spiritual gifts. Will your children understand that the Spirit of God will never leave nor forsake them?

11 Will your children spend eternity in heaven with God?

There is one final question every father should ask. On that day, hopefully deep in the future, when your child leaves this world, what will that child's eternal destiny be? Will they go to be with the Lord in heaven? Your influence as a parent is the single most important influence in answering that question. What will you do today to help your children have the assurance of salvation?

Conclusion:

Every father wants his children to pick up the best habits and cherish the best values.

In today's world, so tragically, we see homes that are broken, and children that are



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rebellious. Fathers make mistakes, just like everyone else. Today, as you read these words, Jesus wants to come into your home and spread His love and healing. He wants to put His arms on your shoulders and take your children by the hand. He can mend every broken heart, and He can make your family whole and healthy. Ask Him to guide you in loving and training your children. 🙏

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