

Father Knows Best When He Knows the Father

Not many of us are old enough to have watched the black-and-white TV show called “Father Knows Best.” It was televised from 1954-1960, starring Robert Young and Jane Wyatt. The title of the show may rub some people the wrong way, because it implies being wiser than the spouse. Stay with me on this. According to the reviews a half century later, the show focused on a family with a “wise earthly father” and a “commonsense wife.” Their family faced the superficial issues that television was allowed to show at the time. The father gave wise answers to solve the issue of each episode. The wholesome family sticks together to support each other, drawing on the dad's advice in the show.

Fast forward to today – Father's Day. Every family has issues to deal with. They aren't as superficial as television in the 50's and 60's. It takes the wisdom of the Heavenly Father to resolve issues and turn us in the right direction. A wise earthly father will know best if he knows the will of the Heavenly Father. God's will, directions, and answers are always perfect. The will of the Heavenly Father knows the ending before the beginning of our issues.

The role of today's dad is to be an example of the Heavenly Father, with the right mix of justice, mercy, discipline, compassion, and grace.

These attributes come from scripture:

- *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).*
- *As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him (Psalm 103:13).*

Some practical tips I came across for being an earthly father (and caring spouse) in a Christian family are:¹

- Pray daily with your children
- Spend one-on-one time with each member of the family
- Have discussions about faith, and allow time for dialogue and questions
- Exercise consistent discipline
- Exhibit servant leadership within the family, prioritizing family time over personal pleasure



¹ Bibleanalysis.com

To be a wise father, you need to seek the wisdom of the Heavenly Father. Spend one-on-one time with Him to seek His counsel. Make the family your priority, balancing work and other responsibilities with the responsibility the Lord has given you for the family.

God knows the end result of your efforts, and He is ready to lead you on a path that will achieve those results. Our hope is to experience Proverbs 22:6, *Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.* In reality, our children are dealing with worldly social influences, and they may not be ready to commit to the Lord, even in our lifetime. Even if they are not fully ready to accept spiritual guidance at the time, they will experience living it. If we follow the steps above, we will plant a seed that will ripen when it is ready.

Happy Father's Day – today, and in your eternal future as a Family of God