



## Spiritual Father

Adapted from "Surge" series by Rusty Posey

This generation needs godly leaders in their lives. Part of being able to surge into the things of God is developing and training the next generation. One necessity for producing a godly-mature adult is having a godly-mature adult for the younger to follow. No one gets to where they are going by accident. If this generation is to experience a spiritual surge in their life, it will only happen if someone leads them there.

Men in our church today need to become spiritual fathers. Consider this:

Being exposed to a true spiritual father is one of the most refreshing and empowering relationships a person can have. Recognizing a father's heart and receiving what they have to deposit can produce great rewards that carry into generations that follow.

Over my journey, I have noted the blessings that spiritual fathers can bring to those who walk in sonship. (For clarity, I am also speaking of a spiritual mother and daughter relationship as well.)

Let me first say that a true spiritual father does not attempt to be a biological father. When I first taught on the subject of spiritual fathering, I thought this would go without saying, until I witnessed some really weird relationships done in the name of "spiritual fathering."

A spiritual father does not overstep the role of the natural father. In fact, if a natural father is present, spiritual fathers work hand in hand in the development of sons, respecting the role the biological father has. The smartest biological fathers I have interacted with have welcome spiritual fathers to add value to their own fathering.

For my own children, I pray every day that God will send men and women to cross paths with my children who can add to the enhancement of their development that Melissa and I are bringing to their life. If a biological father gets

insecure of a spiritual father's work, he either needs to step it up or deal with the insecurity that robs his children from being mentored by quality people.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mark DeJesus, "Blessings You Can Receive from a True Spiritual Father," September 8, 2016, <http://www.charismamag.com/life/relationships/27505-blessings-you-can-receive-from-a-true-spiritual-father> (accessed July 10,2017).

## COURAGE

**C1:** Describe your dad when you were growing up. Did you ever mimic him? How?

**C2:** Do you believe your life is worth imitating? Why or why not?

**C3:** Read and answer the following.

**1 Corinthians 4:14–16 (ESV)** I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

- What do you glean from these verses about discipleship?

## STRENGTH

**S1:** Read and answer the following.

### 1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)

- What do you glean from this verse about discipleship?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very high and 4 being not very high, rate yourself on how you instruct your children to follow you as you follow Christ. Write out a plan to improve.

**S2:** Read and answer the following.

### Matthew 4:18-22 (ESV)

- What do you glean from these verses about discipleship and being someone worthy to imitate?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very high and 4 being not very high, rate yourself on how well you are a godly leader in your home and in the church. Write out a plan to improve.

**S3:** In the next thirty days, meet with three men to discuss this lesson. Make sure to include some ways you can be a godly leader in your home, church, and marketplace. What did you glean from this discussion?

## ENDURANCE

**E1:** You cannot leave spiritual instruction to the church. The church is a resource to come along side you. However, you are there daily. You are in the trenches with your kids. Read and answer the following.

### **1 Corinthians 4:15 (ESV)**

- What do you glean from this verse about discipleship?
  
- Count the hours your children spend at church in one week. Assume they would be there every time there is something going on at the church. How many hours would that add up to be for the year? What do you glean from this?

**E2:** Read and answer the following.

### **Deuteronomy 11:18-21 (ESV)**

### **Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)**

### **Psalms 78:4 (ESV)**

### **Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)**

- What are four things you glean from these verses about discipleship?
  
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being every day and 4 being occasionally, rate yourself on your daily disciple times with your children. Write out a plan to improve.

**E3:** Read and answer the following.

**1 Corinthians 4:16 (ESV)**

- From this verse, what is needed more than instructing our children?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very comfortable and 4 being not very comfortable, rate yourself on how comfortable you are telling your children to imitate you. Write out a plan to improve.

**Titus 2:6-7 (ESV)**

- What do you glean from these verses about leading your children?

**E4:** In the next thirty days, find three men with which to read and discuss Brian Dollar's book *Talk Now and Later*. What did you glean from the discussions?

**E5:** How can you implement these concepts into the lives of young men who do not have a father in their home?