

## **“A Father’s Day Message for the Fatherless”**

### **Luke 15**

### **The Big Picture**

Moms get a lot of acknowledgment and attention, and deservedly so, but fathers deserve some attention and acknowledgement too. We may laugh at the things they do, but fathers are the unsung heroes in America today. A husband and father who stands by his wife and children, providing male leadership and influence, is hard to find today. A Christian husband and father, who is a spiritual leader and is there for his children, is needed more than ever. This is because American men today are disconnecting from family life more than ever, and not just because of divorce. It is easy for fathers to get caught up in work, trying to give their children the life they never had. In reality, the best thing men can do for their children is to spend time with them, and lots of it.

### **Key Points:**

**The father loved his son (1 Timothy 5:8, Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 13:22).**

He provided for his household (1 Timothy 5:8), and brought up his children in the way of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Not only did he leave a physical inheritance, but he left a spiritual one too. We can’t make our children believe, but we can model for them what a true Christian should be.

**The son knew the father loved him.**

We read that when the prodigal son returned, his father ran to him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him repeatedly (see Luke 15:20). We need to show our children that we love them, and that includes telling them. A child needs approval and encouragement in the things they do well, every bit as much as they need correction when they do wrong. The prodigal son knew that he was loved by his father and that is why he could return home.

**Everyone is precious to God.**

No matter what your relationship is with your earthly father, you have a Father in Heaven who loves you and longs for fellowship with you. And even if you never had the dad you hoped for, you can be the dad that someone else hoped for. It’s not too late to start anew.

### **Take Action:**

Are you being the father—or mother, for that matter—that God has called you to be? Are you spending quantity time with your children? Are you modeling Christian behavior for them, building a foundation of faith in their lives? Fortunately, just as God can change our lives, we can be the godly parent that our children are hoping for. Let’s love our children the same way that our Father in heaven loves us.