



A Father's Duty Tom Mullins

Focus All men have been called by God to be a spiritual leader for their families. The challenge for men today is to protect, provide for, and prepare their families to be spiritually strong and successful in life.

Fun What is your idea of a vacation? Would it be roughing it with a tent in the wilderness or staying in a cabin or relaxing in a resort by the beach?

Review Key Scriptures: Ephesians 6:4, 10–18; John 10:10; James 5:16; Proverbs 18:21, 20:7, 22:6

1. To Spiritually Protect

Your family will be as strong as you are spiritually prepared and committed to be. Stand with other men in a prayerful covenant relationship to protect families by spiritual leadership.

2. To Spiritually Provide

Be a source of encouragement and speak life over your children. Influence your family with true character and inspire your children with godly integrity.

3. To Spiritually Prepare for Victory

Model spiritual growth in your own life to strengthen your family, so they will be equipped for the victory God has ordained. Worship, serve, and involve your children with you to pursue the things of God.

Group Dynamics Idea Your group may have varied beliefs about of the Fatherhood of God. Encourage members to seek the compassion of the Father through Jesus. Pray together, and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the depth of the Father's desire to increase His relationship with each member and bless them with spiritual gifts.

Discuss

1. There is a battle for the hearts, minds, and souls of our families. Read Ephesians 6:12 and explain why the struggle is to be fought spiritually.
2. James 5:16 declares that the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. List some ways that this verse will ensure that the man who commits himself and his family to prayer will succeed.
3. Read Ephesians 6:14–18. What is the effect in our family when we take up our spiritual armor and continue to stand in prayer? How do we model each weapon for our family?
4. Give examples of how to maintain a covenant prayer relationship with others. How will this strengthen faith? Why does it decrease vulnerability to the enemy?
5. Read Proverbs 18:21 and Ephesians 4:29. Name some ways to speak encouragement and life over your family. Why is inspiration necessary to build them up? How will godly character influence your children?
6. Your children can capture and follow your passion. Relate this to Proverbs 20:7 that says, “The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children after them.” What are God’s promises in Psalm 112:1–3?
7. How can you continue to grow in the Lord? What changes will your spiritual health promote for your family?

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- There are many people who might be looking to you for spiritual leadership.
- Blessings will follow as we walk with God and pray over and with our families.
- Spiritually prepare your family to experience the victory in life God has ordained for them.
- When you model spiritual growth, you promote it.
- It’s never too late to become the spiritual leader to protect, provide for, and prepare your family for victory.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we want to call out the championship in our family members. Show us how You see each of our loved ones. We commit to stand on Your

promises, to use our spiritual weapons against the enemy, and to lead our families closer to You. We pray from a place of victory through Your blood. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Teach your group how to leave a “road map” for their children and grandchildren. Parents can dedicate a journal or a Bible to write notes of encouragement, inspiration, affirmations, and prayers specific to each child. Relatives who live far away can give you notes or recordings for your children too.