

Life Group Notes 6/15/2025

Pastor Mark Warren: When Father's Have Faith

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time.

– *Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.*

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

Please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group.

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 6/15 Father's Day. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. ***The purpose is to minister to one another.*** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnote speaks:

1. **On Abraham and fathering faith.**

Important: At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

Pastor's opening: "Happy Father's day." Take a moment:

1. He introduced his dad. What did you think?
2. How was your "Father's Day?"
3. Do you have a testimony? Memorable Father's Day? Memories?

"So fatherhood is definitely more than just a role. It is a high calling. Dads have opportunity to invest into their kids and into their spiritual kids as well. Today we're going to look at eleven ways that fathers who have faith shape generations."

1. How many can you name?
2. When you say, "fathers have spiritual kids," what is a "spiritual kid?"
3. Look at [footnote 1, below](#). How are we Abraham's spiritual kids?

"There is something so powerful in the Father's presence in a home. I do know that many have grown up without a strong father in the home. You might be saying, 'I wish I had a dad like that.' The reality is: you have a dad. Present or absent, this is your day to pray for them, to respect them...even their shortcomings."

1. Explain.
2. What will your prayer change?
3. Where does prayer begin? What changes first?
4. Did you see the movie *The Forge* that was shown on movie night a week ago? What did you think?

Here is Mark's list of eleven ways fathers establish faith in the home:

1. **The father's devotion to scripture establishes faith in the home.** Look up Deuteronomy 6: 6*These words I am commanding you today are to be upon your hearts. 7*And you shall teach them diligently to your children and speak of them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8*Tie them as reminders on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9*Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates. What are the steps laid out here? Describe the impact this effort will produce.
2. **The father's decision to worship brings forth a song of hope.** Look up Psalm 95: 1*Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout to the Rock of our salvation! 2*Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him in song.
 - a. Describe the impact joyful songs have.
 - b. What does exuberant praise from the heart bring with it?
 - c. Have you ever had anyone model worship to you?
 - d. Pastor says, "You were made and equipped for worship." What equipment is necessary?
 - e. Do you raise your hands in worship? Why does this take courage? (Who's watching you? Whom are you watching in worship?)
 - f. Pastor suggests putting on worship music and getting lost in it. Do you have suggestions?
3. **A father's guiding hand steers his sons and daughters away from sorrow.** Look up Proverbs 22: 6*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*
 - a. What do you see?
 - b. What does it mean to "train up a child?"
 - c. What way should he go?
 - d. Why, "...when he is old...?" Why not today or ever?
 - e. Are you allowed to say, "This is right...this is wrong?"
 - f. Do your children still agree with this? Today?
 - g. Is the world telling your children something different from what you are teaching them?
 - h. Pastor says, "Be intentional in teaching life's lessons. Not just correcting them, but explaining why it matters." Explain.
4. **A father's voice of encouragement carries his children and the next generation.** Look up Ephesians 6: 4*Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath; instead, bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*
 - a. What do you see?
 - b. Compare this verse to the verse in proverbs above.
 - c. Have you ever provoked your children to wrath? What does it take to do that?
 - d. What does "...discipline and instruction of the Lord..." mean?
 - e. Who does the teaching? Who steps back and allows Him to teach? Explain.

- f. Look at Proverbs 15: **1***A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.* **2***The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool spouts folly.* How does gentleness help? What does it avoid?
- g. Pastor says, "The world will create a very wide path for your kids. Discipline says, 'This is the way you should go.'" Explain.
- h. Mark added, "I'm appreciating prophecy more as a tool for this practice. Prophecy is different from a word of knowledge about things present. Prophecy is a supernatural look through what is present, that speaks life to what is not currently there, and brings encouragement to those good things that are ahead." Prophecy calls the unseen forth, as good seed sown in a field that is being prepared. (See [footnote 1 below](#).) Explain.
- i. It's like saying, "I see the value that you have. I see your future. I see God's call on your life. They will begin to walk into that life that you have prophesied over them." Do you have a testimony?
5. **A father's prayer reveals that God hears us and sees us.** Look at James 5: **15***And the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick. The Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.* **16***Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power to prevail.*
- What do you see?
 - Why does this apply to fathers?
 - Mark says, "When a father prays, he reveals that God hears us and sees us. When a father prays, he's teaching his children where to turn in times of need. He's teaching his children that God sees them, and hears them." Explain.
 - Mark says he saw his father kneeling and praying beside his bed. "This spoke volumes to me." What impact would that have on a child?
6. **A father's willingness to forgive reveals the heart of Jesus.** Look up Ephesians 4: **31***Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, outcry and slander, along with every form of malice.* **32***Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.*
- What happens if we take these steps?
 - Look at each attitude Paul says we are supposed to get rid of. What fruit comes from each attitude? (What emerges from an attitude of bitterness, etc.?)
 - What changes in our own household if we do this?
 - What does "kind and tenderhearted" look like? What will your children see?
 - To what degree has God in Christ forgiven you? Explain.
 - Do you remember the missteps for which you have been forgiven? Could you list them?
 - Does he remember any? How quick is He to forgive?
 - What does it mean to be "quick to forgive?"
7. **A father's fortitude inspires.** Look up 1 Corinthians 16: **13***Be on the alert. Stand firm in the faith. Be men of courage. Be strong.* **14***Do everything in love.*
- Do you know anyone who follows these precepts? Do you?
 - What are you alert to?
 - What does it mean to "stand firm in the faith?"
 - To what degree is the faith being challenged today? Is it easy to stand firm?

- e. Are there steps to staying strong?
 - f. How does love make it easier?
 - g. How does a man like this inspire others?
 - h. What does this man bow to?
 - i. What does this man not bow to?
8. **A father's peace assures.** Look up Isaiah 26:3 *You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.* Mark says, "Your calm presence reminds your family that God is able, and He's with them and He's in control.
- a. Do you have a testimony?
 - b. How do you respond to stress and crisis?
 - c. Is your mind "stayed on" Him? .
 - d. A father knows how to take a break and rest. Look at Revelation 1: [9](#), *John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance that are in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and my testimony about Jesus. [10](#)On the Lord's day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet...*
 - e. What do you think? Is a "mind stayed on Him," close to being "in the Spirit?"
 - f. Do you know what stressful trials John had been through before his exile?
 - g. How was he spending his Sabbath?
 - h. Have you ever been "in the Spirit..."? Like this?
 - i. Mark says, "It's important to have a sabbath."
 - j. Review this one: why is It important to have a day of rest? List the benefits.
 - k. How important is the Sabbath to you?
 - l. What position does it have among the other nine commandments?
 - m. Mark says, "Dad's need to know that it's OK to rest." Why?
 - n. He related that his family would not mow the lawn on Sunday. "This is a special day. We're not going to be making a lot of noise." What does the sound of a lawn mower on the Sunday do to your rest?
9. **A generous heart speaks louder than words.** Look up Proverbs 13:[22](#) *A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is passed to the righteous.* Pastor Mark reminds us, "Generosity shows your children that giving is a blessing, not a burden." He adds, "Involve your kids in helping a neighbor...giving to somebody in need or showing them what it means to be faithful to God in your giving and tithing.
- a. What is the difference between a generous heart and a stingy heart?
 - b. Describe a generous person's tithe.
 - c. Describe a stingy person's tithe. Explain the difference.
 - d. How loudly does generosity speak? Who hears the generous heart?
 - e. Have you learned from generous people? Do you have a story to share?
10. **A father's laughter brings joy.** Mark says, "There is something about laughter that sets the tone in your home and lets everybody know that it's OK. Look up Proverbs 17:[22](#) *[A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.](#)*
- a. What do you see? Do you have a testimony?
 - b. How does cheerfulness impact the atmosphere in a home?
 - c. How does your cheerfulness impact others?

- d. Pastor says, "Make time to play...to enjoy life with your kids." Do you have a testimony?

11. **A father's blessing brings honor.** Look up Proverbs 18:[21](#)*Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

- What do you see? How literally should this warning be taken?
- Explain why the gift of prophecy is so important to the church?
- Pastor asks, "Are you blessing your kids? Are you cursing your kids?" Answer him.
- Is it possible to know the difference?
- Have you ever been told, "You'll never amount to anything?" What is the impact of such words on the hearer?
- Instead, Pastor suggests that you speak blessing regularly over your children: "You are a joy." "God has a purpose for you." "I am proud of you." Describe the impact these words might have.

Mark concludes, prophesying, "Father you are more important than you realize. The world has tried to make fathers the buffoon, the Simpsons, the Al Bundys. You are to be great men, spiritual men of fortitude, praying over your family. You've got this. We need spiritual fathers."

- List next steps. What do you foresee.
- List the impact...and the changes ahead. Pray them to life.
- For the fatherless, review Psalm 68: [4](#)*Sing to God! Sing praises to His name. Exalt Him who rides on the clouds—His name is the LORD—and rejoice before Him. 5[A](#)*father of the fatherless, and a defender of the widows, is God in His holy habitation. 6*[God settles the lonely in families; He leads the prisoners out to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a sun-scorched land.](#) What do you see? What do your days ahead look like?*
- Pastor says, "Your heavenly father is your rock." How do you know this is true?
- Pastor then prophesied, "Fathers, you are enough. God has positioned you with all the right tools. Do not allow the voice of the world to say, 'You are not enough.' Do not crumble to the pressures, and think, 'I just have to look after me.' I've learned that when we pour out, God pours in." Do you have a testimony?

Follow up application:

- Use the [Soap study below](#) to pursue your own understanding.
- List the practical steps in Dt 6:6-9. Do each this week. Note what happens.

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Footnotes:

- On Abraham and fathering faith**—Vital to understanding spiritual growth is the knowledge of fatherhood. Abraham is called the "father of our faith?" How do you "father" faith? Avoiding obtrusive lessons in reproduction, we know that a child is conceived when the seed of the father encounters the embryo in the mother's womb and life begins. We know that that single seed that produces a child is one of millions released. Likewise, we hear many words, not all of which bring life. When you realize that Jesus says, "The Word is the seed," speech can become an act of cosmic re-

generation. A single word on which we dwell begins conception in our minds and hearts that leads to new birth and a new way of thinking. With this idea, look how Paul says, Abraham became the father of our faith in Romans 4: **13***For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world was not given through the law, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. 14*For if those who live by the law are heirs, faith is useless and the promise is worthless, **15***because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law, there is no transgression. 16*Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may rest on grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. **He is the father of us all. 17**As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the presence of God, in whom he believed, the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being what does not yet exist. Notice what happened. God spoke. Abraham believed. And the promise comes to pass by faith in this manner: Because Abraham took the word into his heart, he understood and received the fullness of the promise that still stands today, not only on his behalf, but on behalf of all who, like Abraham, take God at His Word. We receive the Word in our heart, and it springs to new life. Keep reading:

18Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." **19**Without weakening in his faith, he acknowledged the decrepitness of his body (since he was about a hundred years old) and the lifelessness of Sarah's womb. **20**Yet he did not waver through disbelief in the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, **21**being fully persuaded that God was able to do what He had promised. **22**This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." **23**Now the words "it was credited to him" were written not only for Abraham, **24**but also for us, to whom righteousness will be credited—for us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. **25**He was delivered over to death for our trespasses and was raised to life for our justification. Abraham believed AND he continued to go into Sarah, without ever wavering in unbelief due to the physical conditions that might have become an ever increasing deterrent, but for his knowledge that God had spoken, so, therefore, all was settled. Abraham had merely to continue to participate in the life God had foretold for him. If you believe God as Abraham believed God, his example and God's word have engendered your faith. Abraham is your father too. Go father the faith of those closest to you. Set the example. Act knowing that what God has promised He will also bring to pass. Others will see and be likewise transformed.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—Write what God is saying. / **P**ray—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Romans 4:13-17
Tuesday: Romans 4:18-22
Wednesday: Deuteronomy 6:6-9
Thursday: Proverbs 22:6
Friday: Ephesians 4:31-32
Saturday: Proverbs 15:1-2
Sunday: James 5:15-16

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.