

A Model Father

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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Fatherhood is a gift, a mission and a journey. As they say any man can be a father but it takes someone special to be a "dad." Filipinos call our father "haliging tahanan" a pillar in the family. He takes the main responsibility of providing for his family. Moreover, he has to rear/nurture faith, develop fear of God, to protect/care for his family, to guide/discipline his children. Hence, a model father has certain characteristics with biblical allusion and a reference to God our father.

A. Some characteristics of a father:

1. A father loves his family without showing it.
2. A father introduces the world to us.
3. A father gives us a living and makes sure we know the value of starving.
4. A father personifies responsibility.
5. A father teaches us to get up from a fall and to learn from our experiences.
6. A father reflects reality.
7. A father's love is known when you become a father.

B. God as our Father

Our Heavenly Father also has a heart of a mother. He is beyond gender categories far from human comprehension. Our belief in God is professed in

1. God as Father is our Creator (Isa. 64:7)

We are the work of His hand. He is the potter and we are the clay.

2. God as Father is our Provider (Lk. 11:11-13)

God loves to feed us and God himself is our food through the Eucharist

3. God as Father is Faithful (Ps. 136)

Let us give thanks to the Lord for His steadfast love that endures forever.

C. Model fathers in the Bible

1. **Adam** trusted God and became the Father of Humanity (Gen. 1:4)
2. **Noah** trusted and obeyed God to build the arc though there was no imminent danger at the

moment (Gen.6:8). His trust spared his family from the flood.

3. **Abraham** relied on God's plan and waited patiently to have a son despite their old age to fulfill His promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:21).

4. **Job** showed testimony of faith despite the numerous loss he had including his family (Job 1-2).

5. **Jehonadab** defended the believers of Yahweh and fought against Baal (2 Kgs. 10:15-17; Jer. 35).

6. **Jairus** trusted Jesus who resuscitated his daughter despite his attempts to revive her (Mk. 5:21-43; Mt. 9:18-26; Lk. 8:40-56)

7. **Joseph** (earthly father of Jesus) obeyed and trusted God. He and his family (Mary & Jesus) fled to Egypt (warned in a dream) and to escape Herod's plan to kill all first-born sons (Lk. 4:22; Jn. 1:45; Mt. 2:13-23).

Conclusion:

A model father truly loves his children. That is why he punishes and corrects them whenever they had done wrong. Our **Father** in heaven too has encouraging words for us, for He doesn't want us to suffer eternal damnation when we sinned: "My child pay attention when the Lord corrects, and do not be discouraged when He rebukes you. Because the Lord corrects everyone He loves, and punishes everyone He accepts as a child" (Heb. 12:5-6).

Reflection:

1. As a model father, what legacy will you leave your children?
2. As a model father, have you set a good example to your children as a guide to their journey in life to righteousness?

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