

# Tools for Fatherhood

## 1. Love Unconditionally Like God

The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) paints a powerful picture of God's unconditional love. Despite the son's rebellion and recklessness, the father welcomes him back with open arms, showing that biblical love is neither transactional nor dependent on behaviour. Fathers are called to reflect this love, embracing their children with grace, forgiveness and unwavering affection, even in challenging moments.

## 2. Own Up to Mistakes Like Adam

Adam's encounter with God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3) highlights the importance of honesty and accountability. Though Adam made a grave mistake, he did not hide the truth when confronted by God. As fathers, embracing humility and owning up to errors allows room for God's redemption and wisdom to guide us forward. Integrity begins with honesty, especially in the face of imperfection.

## 3. Submit to God's Lead Like Abraham

Abraham's journey (Genesis 12) exemplifies faith and submission. He followed God's call to leave his homeland, trusting in the promise of a greater future. Though Abraham stumbled along the way, his willingness to pursue God's direction teaches fathers to rely on God's wisdom over their own understanding. Surrendering control and seeking God's guidance ensures a secure foundation for family life.

## 4. Be Brave Like Moses

Moses' story (Exodus 2 and beyond) is a testament to courage in the face of overwhelming odds. He confronted Pharaoh, led the Israelites out of Egypt, and endured hardships with unwavering faith. Fathers often need bravery to face life's uncertainties and stand firm in faith. Moses reminds us that bravery isn't the absence of fear - it's choosing faith over fear and relying on God's strength to accomplish great things.

## 5. Seek Wisdom Like Solomon

When given the opportunity to ask for anything, Solomon requested wisdom (1 Kings 3). God granted him unparalleled insight, which was intended to shape his reign as a just and effective king (though Solomon did not always follow this way). Fathers, too, are called to seek wisdom - not just for themselves, but to guide their families with discernment and understanding. God promises to generously provide wisdom to those who ask (James 1:5) - so let's ask him!

## 6. Have Integrity Like Joseph

Joseph's life (Genesis 37-50) is a profound example of integrity. Despite betrayal, false accusations and hardship, Joseph maintained his principles and faithfulness to God. His character led to reconciliation with his family, favour with Pharaoh, and a role in saving countless lives during a famine. Fathers who prioritise integrity inspire their children to navigate life with moral courage, trusting that God will work all things for good.

