

# LWML *Texas* District

June 19, 2023

Meditation

## Father's Day

There are many biblical examples of fathers. We often hear God referred to as the Father. When Jesus taught His disciples He said, *"Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name"* (Matthew 6:9).

Some examples of fathers in Scripture may remind you of your own, which could be good or bad. You have the high priest Eli in the book of 1 Samuel who was not raising his sons in a way which glorified God, and because of this, honor was removed from the house of Eli. God speaks directly to Samuel and tells him, *"On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever"* (1 Samuel 3:12–14).

In chapter 4, we read about a battle that ends very poorly for the Israelites with the death of 30,000 foot soldiers, the capture of the ark of the covenant, and then ultimately the death of Eli upon hearing the news about the ark. Obviously, modern day fathers are to correct their children when they blaspheme against God, and discipline them in a way which honors God.

What about an example of a good father? The patriarch Jacob has his ups and downs as a father. First, hiding his family to meet his brother alone in order to keep his family safe (Genesis 32–33). Then we have him favoring Joseph, which leads to jealousy, Joseph being sold into slavery, and a faked death, but ultimately God uses even those things to His purpose.

On the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives us this insight into who God is as our Father. *"Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"* (Matthew 7:9–11).

We can be confident knowing that God is the ultimate Father, the Giver of only good gifts, the Creator and Sustainer of Life. And while our earthly examples are flawed, we can cling to truth knowing God always has our best in mind (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:3–4; Romans 8:28.)

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