

## If you know, you know - Week 5

### The Father's Blessing - Jesse DeYoung

June 19, 2022

#### Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

#### // Bible References

Jeremiah 2:13; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:2.

#### // Message Summary

This Father's Day weekend, our Executive Lead Pastor Jesse DeYoung brought the fifth and final message in the series, *If you know, you know*. Titled, *The Father's Blessing*, this message was both an encouragement and a challenge to all of the fathers in our church community. Fathers have been entrusted with an incredibly sacred gift: their children, and the unique part they play in raising them well. God has given fathers a distinctive role in their children's lives. One particular role He has given fathers is that of bestowing a blessing. A blessing is the instilling of belief, trust and responsibility upon someone's life. When a father places his hands on his child in blessing, he is reminding them that what God says about them is true. He is affirming their core identity as part of his family, and reassuring them that they do not have to search elsewhere to find who they are. He is helping them to understand their role in an otherwise confusing and overwhelming world. Perhaps most importantly, a father's blessing secures a child's relationship with their dad, and fastens their knowledge of his love for them.

#### // Biblical and Historical Context

We are blessed to see many examples of Godly fatherhood throughout the Scriptures. Among others, we know that Job prayed regularly for his children and interceded on their behalf (Job 1:5). Noah's obedience saved his children from certain death during the Flood (Genesis 6). Zechariah thanked God earnestly for his son and for the blessing he would be to the world (Luke 1). Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, gave Moses the wise advice he needed to lead an entire nation (Exodus 18:24). And we know that Paul stood in as a spiritual father to Timothy, who seemingly had little to no relationship with his own father.

## // Community Questions

Research shows that mothers and fathers bring special gifts to the role of parenting. What are some fun/interesting/crazy ways you have seen men act in their roles as a dad?

## // Discussion Questions

1. Together, read Ephesians 6:1-4. What questions does this passage raise for you?
2. Paul tells fathers not to “exasperate” their children (other translations say “provoke” or “stir up anger”). Why do you think Paul is explicitly saying this to fathers?
3. When thinking about how many men approach their fatherhood, Pastor Jesse said, “We know how important it is. And we don’t think we have what it takes.”

What does this statement make you think or feel? Why do you think many men might feel like this?

4. Think about the gifts and strengths God has placed inside men in particular. How can these strengths be a special gift to his children?
5. When men actively pursue their positive fatherly role, how does this help a child in their own relationship with their Heavenly Father?

## // Challenge

Pastor Jesse walked us through four steps to bestowing a blessing on our children:

1. Action: a blessing starts with an action (some form of laying on of hands, a gift, or going somewhere significant).
2. Affirmation: a blessing continues by telling the person what you see in them, what is special and what is valuable.
3. Vision: a blessing gives a child a picture of what is possible in their lives, and how the attributes God has placed in them will come alive as they grow.
4. Prayer: a blessing ends with a prayer of thankfulness and a petition for God to continue to bless them and lead them.

For the fathers in our church, your challenge is to give this blessing to your children at least three times this week.

If you are a mother, or involved in a child’s life in any other way, your challenge is to do this at least once.

If you are not involved with children to this extent, your challenge is to take step two, and speak it into the life of a friend or someone else important to you.