

A Man & His Children

January 12, 2005

“When they had reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said, “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” Genesis 22:9-12

SUMMARY:

Children are a blessing from God. The man who has children is not any more blessed than the man who does not. God’s blessings come in many ways – children are one of them. The man who has children is called to be a good steward of God’s blessing. This is a man who realizes his children are not ‘his property’ but God’s creation, and is willing to offer them back to God.

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: Does your understanding of being a father include the idea of being a steward of God’s blessing? In what way?

Discussion:

- How has a child(ren) been a blessing to you?
- What role does a father’s faith play in raising children?
- What commitment of time, energy and interest is required of a parent?
- If you do not have children, what are some of the feelings you have?

APPLICATION:

- Discuss with your wife how the two of you view your children.
- Consider prayerfully offering your children back to God.
- Acknowledge that children are God’s gift and make a list of how you can go about being a good steward of the gift.
- Encourage men who have children to be good stewards of their blessing.

ON YOUR OWN...

Scriptures to consider:

- Genesis 22
- Psalm 139:13-14
- Deuteronomy 4:9 & 6:4-7
- 1 Samuel 1:9-11 & 21 – 28 (story of Hannah & Samuel)
- Ephesians 6:4