

Noah: A Successful Father

Genesis 6:1–7:7; Hebrews 11:7

Introduction:

A survey of the Scriptures reveals that there are some remarkable stories of the joy and struggles of biblical fathers.

Adam had no earthly father to be an example, yet he did what all fathers must do, he leaned on his relationship with the heavenly Father.

Abraham learned patience through decades of waiting. Chances are that your children or grandchildren are not what you want them to be just yet. God is working, so trust Him, take one step at a time, and be faithful to God.

Job prayed for his children regularly, but his greatest example for them came when he lost everything, including his children. In times of tragedy and disappointment our children probably learn more about God, faith, and us than at any other time.

One father helped King Jehu wipe out Baal worship in Israel and years later the prophet Jeremiah met with some of this man's descendants (the Rechabites) and found they were still honoring him through their lives and commitment to the Lord.

Jeremiah tested the Rechabites by offering them some wine.

They refused on the grounds that it would ruin their testimony and cause them to disobey the command of their ancestor Jehonadab, son of Recab.

God commended this action and instructed Jeremiah to present the Rechabites to the kingdom of Judah and the people in Jerusalem as role models of those who listen and obey.

Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, wanted to do the right thing with Mary, but he was not sure what the right thing to do was until he heard from God.

He listened to the instruction of the Lord concerning Mary, then he put all his fears and concerns behind him.

Though his reputation probably took a shot, Joseph obeyed God.

Jairus did everything he could for his daughter, as a good father would, but she was sick and "at the point of death."

Jairus turned to Jesus for help but received word that his daughter had died.

Amid a challenge of faith, Jesus told Jairus, "Do not be afraid any longer, only believe (trust Me)."

The Savior was ridiculed by the people at the home when He said the child was simply sleeping.

Jairus kept his faith; he kept trusting in Jesus who raised his daughter to life.

Most children accuse their father of being crazy, out of his mind, or ridiculous with his instruction and guidance.

What do you suppose Noah's children thought of him when he said it was going to rain and the earth would flood?

Noah obeyed anyway and he saved his sons and their families from destruction.

This was Noah's greatest accomplishment: his family's faith.

A great father and the father of all now living shows us how to be a successful father.

Raising a family is not easy in the best of circumstances, but Noah raised his family in a challenging time.

Genesis 6:5 says it was in an age of wickedness and evil thinking (v. 5).

Noah was raising his family when the earth was filled with corruption and violence (v. 11).

How did Noah succeed as a father in such a time?

I. Noah Walked with God (Genesis 6:8–9).

Take note of the ingredients in Noah’s salvation from the flood.

The Spirit of God was working in his life (v. 3) in stark contrast to the people, animals, and birds to be destroyed (vv. 5-7). [Read vv. 5-7, then v. 3]

Noah began to seek God (v. 8) and the LORD looked favorably upon him.

His relationship with God was wholehearted (perfect) (v. 9).

“Noah was a righteous man” who conducted his relationships with others according to acceptable standards of morality and justice.

Noah was “blameless in his time,” marked by completeness, perfection, or integrity whereby there were no faults against him.

Noah “walked with God” or lived in a close relationship with God.

He responded to God’s grace with acts of faith (Hebrews 11:7).

“By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”

He responded with reverence.

The Greek text supports the idea that Noah showed his reverence for God in a practical way, by doing what God told him.

Noah was already obeying God (as pointed out in Genesis 6:9) therefore he continued his obedience to God by building an ark when God said, “Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood” (Genesis 6:14).

He prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, delivering them from the destruction of the flood.

By his actions, Noah showed the world was wrong.

Noah was a just man: declared righteous by faith.

God declared or considered Noah as righteous because of how he acted in faith and obedience.

His trust in God led him to build an ark according to God’s specifications.

Noah was consistent in devotional and daily living, thus Noah walked with God.

II. Noah Witnessed to Others (Hebrews 11:7).

Keep in mind Hebrews 11:7, “By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”

Compare God’s descriptions of Noah and his neighbors.

Noah’s neighbors were doing wickedness, thinking evil, corrupt, and violent (Genesis 6:5 and 11).

Yet Noah was righteous (just), blameless (perfect or complete), and walking with God (Genesis 6:8).

Peter says Noah was a preacher (Lit. a herald or proclaimer) of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5).

He told others of their sins and pointed them to God as the historian Josephus recorded in his work “The Antiquities of the Jews” 1:3.1.¹

Noah witnessed to others about righteousness, so his family saw his faithful walk and followed it.

III. Noah Won His Family (vv. 7:1, 7)

Read Genesis 7:1 and 7.

“Enter the ark, you and all your household” (7:1).

The most important thing Noah could have done in life was to lead his family in righteousness.

Noah’s family members were his only converts.

He had no converts outside of his own family.

Think about how discouraging this must have been for Noah.

Nevertheless, he stayed true to God and the work he had been given by God.

Noah was righteous and preached righteousness.

He might not have been a great *evangelist*, but he was a great *example*.

He might not have been a great *facilitator*, but he was a great *father*.

What a day it must have been for Noah as his entire family entered the ark!

Application:

Fathers!

We need to walk with God.

We need to witness to others about righteousness.

We need to win all we can, beginning with our family.

Sons and daughters!

We need to follow the examples before us, godly men, and godly women.

We need to learn righteousness.

We need to devote ourselves to God and righteousness.

Conclusion:

This is not an easy time to be a father.

It was no easier of a time in the days of Noah, thus he is a fitting example for fathers.

God’s grace is sufficient for fathers now as it was then.

By God’s grace, each father can be a successful father!

May God enable us to win our families to Christ!

Let us walk with God.

Let us keep our witness for Christ consistent.

Let us expect our families to follow us in faith [and inform them of the expectation].²

So that a successful father becomes a successful family!

¹ Daniel C. Arichea and Howard Hatton, [*A Handbook on the Letter from Jude and the Second Letter from Peter*](#), UBS Handbook Series (New York: United Bible Societies, 1993), 112.

² Roger F. Campbell, [*Preach for a Year*](#) #2 (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel Publications, 1988–), 101–102.