

Fathers' Studies: Father/Child Relationships

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 30 OF 52

SINS PASSED DOWN

LESSON AIM: To realize that sins of the fathers affect their descendants.

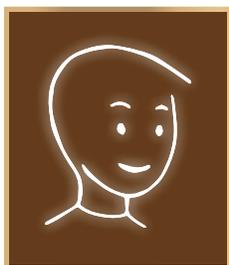
KEY VERSE:

1. **DEUTERONOMY 5:9** How many generations does God say are affected by the sins of their fathers?

2. **2 KINGS 23:37** Jehoiakim was a king of Israel who did what was _____, just as his fathers had done.
3. **NUMBERS 14:33** The Israelite parents were not faithful to God. What affect did their sin have on their children? _____
4. **JUDGES 6:25, 27** Gideon's father worshiped idols. God wanted Gideon to be free of these gods. What did God tell Gideon to do with his father's altar and Asherah pole? _____
5. **EZEKIEL 18:19-20** Even though a child is affected by the sin of his father, God will not punish him for that sin. God punishes a man only for _____ .

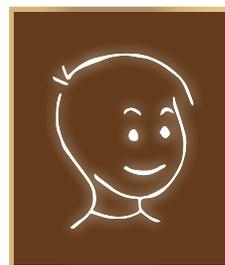
PERSONAL NOTES:

For You To Do



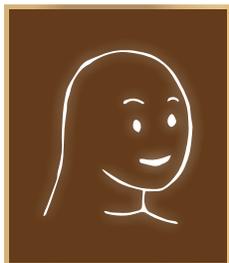
By Yourself

If your family has practiced spiritism in the past, have a special prayer asking Christ to put away all influences from your family.



With Your Children

Let them help you look for things in your home that show Satan, demons, dragons, or occult symbols. Explain to them how powerful these things can be and why you want to get rid of them.



With Your Wife

Ask if she is aware of sins in your life that may come from family practices of your ancestors. If she invites you to share your thoughts about issues in her life, be willing to do so. Be careful to share with real empathy. Pray together for victory over these sins.

SINS PASSED DOWN

LESSON 30 OF 52

Just as good things in the lives of your parents affect you for good, so their faults and sins affect you for bad. If you find sins in your life that came to you from your parents, you must put these away by prayer. Then you can get help from God to break the power of these sins in your life.

The lives of your parents can affect you in these three ways.

SINS The Jews who left Egypt (Exodus 13) sinned. As punishment, God made them travel from place to place in the desert for forty years. Their children, who had not sinned, had to travel with them. In the same way, today the lives of children are made harder by the anger, drinking, abuse, and broken marriages of their parents.

You cannot change the things that have happened in the past. But you can claim God's power to set you free from the effects that these sins have had on your inner being. You can stop doing these things and not pass these sins on to your children.

FAMILY WEAKNESSES Many families have weaknesses that are passed on to their children. Some of these are poor communication, weak leadership by the men, poor money management, and women trying to lead the men. You can give these weaknesses to God in prayer. Then you can take steps of action to make sure they are not passed on to the children.

SPIRITISM Christians whose ancestors have practiced witchcraft, had spiritual helpers, given and received curses should have a special time of prayer. In this prayer they should claim God's power over the evil spirits. When you stand against Satan, expect him to put up a fight. But you can win through the name and blood of Jesus. Spirit practices of the past do not **have to** affect your family.

DEUTERONOMY 18:9-11, LAMENTATIONS 5:7, ACTS 16:16-18, HEBREWS 2:14

I SEND THE SINS OF THE FATHERS UPON THE CHILDREN, THE GRANDCHILDREN, AND THE GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN OF THOSE WHO HATE ME. (DEUTERONOMY 5:9)

If the good of your parents affects you, so does the evil.

Give the weaknesses to God in prayer.

Take steps of action to overcome them.

Put away past family practices in spiritism.

Claim the victory of Jesus.

WINDOW TO LIFE

A certain family had been saved and were members of an evangelical church for over twenty years. One day a family member was hunting and came home with the report that he had seen Grandfather's hunting companion's spirit. It had appeared in the form of a large bird. At that point the father called his family together. With great fear he said that terrible things were going to happen to the family because of this appearance of their dead grandfather's hunting companion's spirit. In the months that followed, a series of terrible things did happen to that family.

What if the father had not told the family these things? What if he had called a time of fasting and prayer with his church brothers, then committed the matter to God? Then he could have come back to his family and said, "Yes, Grandfather's hunting companion's spirit did appear, and this means trouble. But we are Christians. I met with the church, and we have put away Satan and his power over my family. I've asked God to cover our family with the blood of Jesus." Things could have been much better. But because this was not done, that family still lives in much spiritual defeat.

