

KENDRICK BROTHERS'

# SHOW ME THE FATHER



**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

## ABOUT FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Focus on the Family is a global Christian ministry dedicated to helping families thrive. We provide help and resources for couples to build healthy marriages that reflect God's design, and for parents to raise their children according to morals and values grounded in biblical principles.

We're here to come alongside families with relevance and grace at each stage of their journey. We support families as they seek to teach their children about God and His beautiful design for the family, protect themselves from the harmful influences of culture, and equip themselves to make a greater difference in the lives of those around them.

No matter who you are, what you're going through or what challenges your family may be facing, we're here to help. With practical resources – like our 1-800-A-FAMILY helpline, counseling and websites – we're committed to providing trustworthy, biblical guidance, and support.

## STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Fathers play an oversized role in our lives. In fact, it's impossible to truly understand the meaning of life and the truth of Christianity without understanding that the center of the whole story of reality is one of eternal love and glory between a Father and His only Son Jesus Christ. That's why it's no coincidence that each one of us has a story regarding our father, and it is often one of great joy or unfortunate pain.

My friends, Alex and Stephen Kendrick have produced an important new film that shows us the Father in a dramatic new way, highlighting the stories of other men (including myself) who have struggled with fatherlessness, but have found it anew through a heavenly Father who never leaves or forsakes us. Because of this, I think it is their most important film to date.”

**Jim Daly**

*President, Focus on the Family*

**This guide contains spoilers, and is intended to use after a group has seen the film.**

# SHOW ME THE FATHER

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This study guide accompanies the documentary, **Kendrick Brothers' SHOW ME THE FATHER**. In this guide, we will discuss various themes, elements, and important topics from the film. Hopefully, these questions will prompt personal reflection and discussion with your family and friends.

### THE FILM

**SHOW ME THE FATHER** invites you to deeply consider your perspective of your earthly father. In doing so, you might also begin to ponder your personal relationship with God, your Heavenly Father.

Everyone has a unique father story specific to their circumstances, situations, and experiences. Chances are...there's joy, there's pain, there's hurt, and there's hope.

The Kendrick Brothers' first documentary film captures the wide range of emotions and feelings surrounding fatherhood, identity, and direction of our lives. Drawing upon testimonies from pastors, ministry leaders, and professional athletes—all of whom are fathers—**SHOW ME THE FATHER** presents a biblical perspective on a father's role in today's society.

In September of 2021, **SHOW ME THE FATHER** was released in theaters across the US. Set aside a time to see the movie with your family or group, and then use this resource to have an informal discussion about it afterward. Take the challenge even further by inviting other families to join you. There's truly something for everyone in this film.

Learn more and see all the viewing options at [ShowMeTheFatherMovie.com](https://www.ShowMeTheFatherMovie.com).

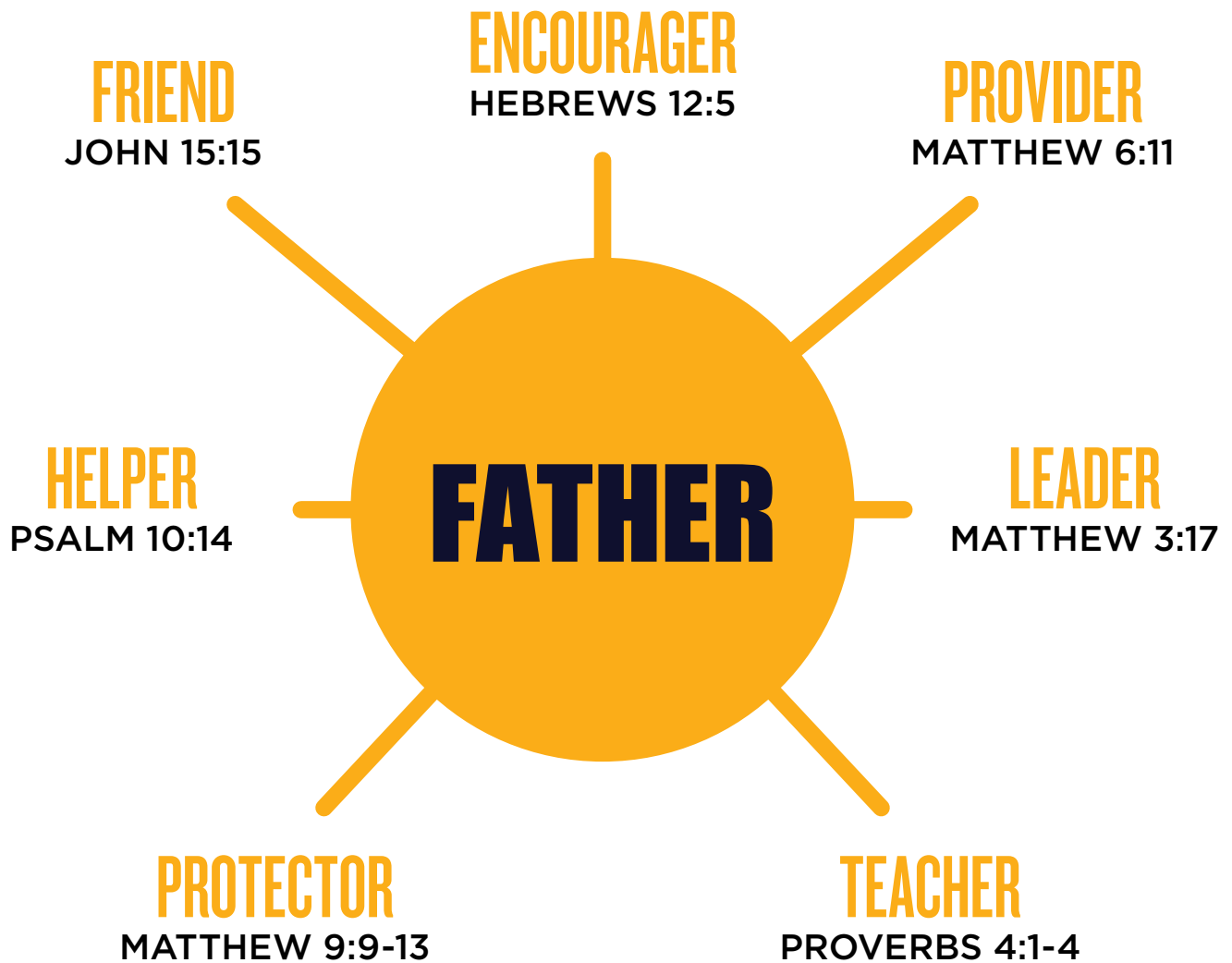
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Quotes used in this guide, unless otherwise noted, are taken from the documentary: **Kendrick Brothers' SHOW ME THE FATHER**.

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# SHOW ME THE FATHER

## BIBLICAL CHARACTER TRAITS OF A FATHER



# I | BIBLICAL FATHERHOOD

“A father is supposed to be a man who has accepted the role and responsibility of transferring the character, person, and purposes of God to his offspring.” Dr. Tony Evans

Take a moment to think about your father or father-figure. Your relationship with your father or father-figure might be in a very healthy, positive place. In some other circumstances, your relationship might be broken or difficult.

Throughout the documentary, the Kendrick Brothers, Jim Daly, Dr. Tony Evans, Sherman Smith, and Deland McCullough share attributes fathers and father-figures can possess.

**Have you ever considered the character traits or defining attributes of your father?**

**Take a moment to think about your father or father-figure.**

- List some of the attributes you see in him.
- What are some of your favorite or most meaningful memories with him?

## SCRIPTURE AND BIBLICAL FATHERHOOD

There's a moment where even Jesus Christ's disciples shared doubts about the Father. Jesus' disciples questioned him and said: *“Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”* (John 14:8).

In his response, Jesus communicates the complete illustration of fatherhood.

*“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. ... Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?’”* (John 14:6-7, 10)

Jesus points us to Himself as the ultimate display of Biblical Fatherhood. His response shows that He is mirroring God the Father as well as providing a path for fathers to embody the characteristics of a godly, earthly father.

In **SHOW ME THE FATHER**, Dr. Tony Evans describes the role of fatherhood in this way:

“A father is meant to be the mirror, the model, and the imprint ... the intermediary between Heaven and Earth to the next generation. The problem is ... that our earthly fathers crack the mirror, so the mirror of the Heavenly Father doesn't come through clearly.”

- Look back to your list of attributes and memories from earlier.
- Are there any ways that you see how your father has revealed cracks in the mirror?
- In what ways might those cracks affect you and your family?

### **SHOW ME THE BIBLICAL FATHERHOOD**

God is our ultimate father. *Father* is not simply a role that God embodies. It is *who* He is. And so, we have been entrusted with the gift of human fatherhood. Coming to know God as your Father, receiving His love for you through Jesus, and then developing His attributes, such as love and compassion, provides you with a powerful foundation for how to lead your family and kids.

*“As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him”* (Psalm 103:13).

*“See what great love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God!”* (1 John 3:1)

- Conclude this discussion with reflection on how your father or father-figure displays love, compassion, and wisdom to you and your family.
- Think and Talk about your father’s qualities. Remember the memories that you’ve shared with your father. Take time to encourage your father or father-figure.
- What are some ways that you can display gratitude to your father?
- How can you show your father that you care about them?

Check out the following resources for more information on **Biblical Fatherhood**:

**Fatherhood: The Core of the Universe**

**Fatherhood: How to be the Dad Your Family Needs**

**Helping Men Prepare for Fatherhood**

## 2 | ADOPTION AND FATHERLESSNESS

“It was chaos ... that place was not healthy. I’m thinking ... do adults tell the truth? Do fathers tell the truth?” - Jim Daly

Jim Daly’s relationship with his father was marked by pain and hurt. Jim watched his father tear apart his life, family, and future. There were moments where Jim didn’t have hope at all.

But God had a plan for Jim’s life. And more specifically, we see that God had a plan for Jim’s understanding of the role of a father.

- **Think about those around you that may be without parents, a father, or a father-figure.**
- **How would not having a father or father-figure make you feel? Or how does not having a father or father-figure in your life make you feel?**
- **What stood out to you about the film’s discussion of adoption and fatherlessness?**

### SCRIPTURE, ADOPTION AND FATHERLESSNESS

Even though the absence or loss of a father can be overwhelming and cause deep pain and hurt, there is hope in the Lord’s plan. In an earthly sense, adoption can be viewed as a Plan B to solve problems for couples battling infertility or kids without a home.

However, God has a much bigger view of adoption.

In fact, He created the whole idea.

*“But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).*

*“In love, he predestined us for adoption as sons and daughters through Jesus Christ according to the purpose of his will” (Ephesians 1:5).*

The Lord is our Father. In this sense, adoption reflects the unifying reality that followers of Christ are all adopted into the family of believers.

And this is only made possible by the display of the Lord’s love for us that while we were still *children of sin*, He loved us so much that He sent His own son as a sacrifice. So that, we might become *children of God* and adopted into the Lord’s Family.

## SHOW ME THE ADOPTION

“The same way that Jesus became the visual image of the Heavenly Father ... man should become the visible image of that Father as modeled by Christ to those that need a father.” Dr. Tony Evans

After finding a father-figure in his football coach, Jim Daly discovered an even greater gift the Lord had planned for him.

The gift of salvation in Jesus Christ! When Jim surrendered his life to Jesus Christ, then God became Jim’s spiritual Father. (John 1:12) Have you ever given your life to Christ? By placing your faith in Him, then you too can experience the spiritual adoption that He longs to give you.

In the documentary, we also see the powerful story of Stephen and Jill Kendrick’s adoption of their little girl, Mia. From barely surviving her first few months of life to arriving at a new place with a loving mother and father, Mia experienced God’s provision despite difficult circumstances.

Through the Lord’s guidance, Jim, Mia, and so many others like them experience God the Father’s divine plan. During adoption and fatherlessness, God never lost His role as Jim and Mia’s Heavenly Father, even when they didn’t have earthly fathers.

In processing Mia’s adoption story, Stephen Kendrick shares the thought that, “God didn’t just create Fatherhood. He is a Father ... for you.”

This is the beauty of adoption. God created adoption to play a part in His story. Take a moment to consider how God might be using adoption or fatherlessness in your life.

- What parts of Mia’s adoption story stick out to you?
- How does Mia’s adoption story reveal God’s plan and path for her life?
- What does it mean to be adopted into God’s Family?
- What does it mean to view the Lord as Your Heavenly Father?

Check out the following resources for more information on **Adoption and Fatherlessness:**

**Breaking the Cycle of the Absent Father**

**Advice on Fatherlessness**

**Fathers Matter: The Importance of a Father**



## 3 | REDEMPTION

“Even as we were growing up, Dad was dealing with all kinds of issues. He was shielding us from his own internal battles and struggles.” Stephen Kendrick

Fathers make mistakes. Fathers mess up. Fathers can damage special relationships.

But Fathers also have the power of restoration. Fathers contain the ability to redeem broken relationships. Yet, this is only because of the source of their power: God the Father.

Throughout **SHOW ME THE FATHER**, we learn about moments where fathers failed to embody the character of God. However, there is hope for the father who seeks redemption in his relationship with the Lord and his relationships with his family.

- How might a father’s personal problems affect his family?
- List some of the main ways your father or father-figure might have hurt you.
- If that happened, how has your father sought redemption in either their life or in your relationship?

### SCRIPTURE AND REDEMPTION

“Has your father let you down? Has your stepfather let you down? I’m going to introduce you to someone that will never let you down and that’s Jesus Christ.”

Jim Daly paraphrasing the words of an FCA Camp speaker

Despite the pain an earthly father might have caused, there is hope for restoration through God the Father. In Jesus Christ, God extends the gift of redemption regardless of your circumstances or situation.

*“And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers ...”* (Malachi 4:6).

*“See how great a love the Father has given us that we would be called children of God and such we are”* (1 John 3:1).

Through Jesus’ sacrifice and example, the option for redemption exists for everyone. For a father, the opportunity is there to seek redemption in your personal relationships with your children and God.

For those of you without fathers in your life, there is an opportunity to cultivate a relationship with your Heavenly Father through your relationship with Jesus.

Fortunately, Jesus's gift of redemption and grace is not just talk. It is active. It is authentic. It is real. And you can share the same type of redemption within your life.

### **SHOW ME THE REDEMPTION**

In the documentary, Dr. Tony Evans walks us through portions of Jesus's "Sermon on the Mount" from Matthew chapters 5-7. Throughout the sermon, Jesus almost exclusively refers to the Lord as "Father."

Why is this?

Take a moment to read through the "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew chapters 5-7. Consider the following questions and discuss with your family or friends.

- Find each moment where Jesus says the word "Father."
- Why do you think Jesus uses the word "Father" instead of other descriptions of God such as "Lord" or "King of Kings" or "God the Powerful"?
- What does it mean for God to be Our Father?
- What does emphasizing God's role as Father mean for you here on Earth?

Check out the following resources for more information on **Redemption**:

**First-Time Dads: Learning from Your Father's Mistakes**

**How and Why Dads Should Connect with Their Kids**

**How Fathers Help Kids Grow**

*\*Disclaimer: as currently constructed, this discussion point is primarily "father-specific" although it can be fashioned for a conversation with mothers and children as well\**

## 4 | BLESSING

“In the Bible, the blessing was everything. That blessing was the covenantal transfer of the favor of God for the future of the child.” Dr. Tony Evans

Have you ever given a blessing? Have you ever been blessed?

And no, this doesn't refer to a “blessing” for dinner.

This type of blessing comes directly from God and His design for humanity. Blessings can encompass elements of love, spoken affirmation, and unique encouragement from a father to their children.

- Describe what comes to mind when you hear the word “blessing”?
- What do you think it means to give a blessing? What about receiving a blessing?

### SCRIPTURE AND BLESSING

Have you ever thought that blessings seem outdated?

If you have, you're not alone. While blessings contain roots in ancient history, they still serve a purposeful role in our world and even in your life.

In modern times, a father's blessing echoes the original blessing from God the Father to humanity. God intends for part of a father's blessing to mirror one of His first blessings to the Father of Israel: Abraham.

*“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed”* (Genesis 12:2-3).

More specifically, God has blessed everyone within this world. In the book of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul describes how God blesses each of His children through Christ.

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”* (Ephesians 1:3).

To receive blessing from God the Father is no small thing. But do you always feel like you have received God's blessing? Do you sometimes feel like God's favor might be missing from your life?

- Think back to the verse from Ephesians.
- What do you think are the implications of God's blessing for your life?
- How has God shown blessing within your life?

### SHOW ME THE BLESSING

After learning about the origin of a father's blessing and the modern-day implications mentioned throughout the documentary, consider creating a Blessing for your family and children. This would be a time when you verbally share with them how much you love them, how you see unique talents in them, and how you are praying for God to bring His best in their lives towards a greater future.

Blessings can take multiple forms and be given in a variety of mediums. When creating your blessing, remember to keep your child in mind. Think about how your child receives affirmation and love, so that you can create the perfect blessing for them!

If you need guidance on how to create your Blessing, consider incorporating the following steps!

- **Acceptance:** Think about who your child really is. Instead of viewing your child through your own perspective, consider how they are made in God's image. Let your child know they are accepted both by God and by you.
- **Adoration:** Express your love for your child. Communicate how this love is unconditional and unable to be taken away. Find a way to illustrate your love to your child in a way that is unique and meaningful.
- **Approval:** Provide complete assurance of your child's gifts. Let them know that you approve of them, their talents, and their interests. Gift your children positive encouragement and deep compliments as a representative of the love of God the Father to them.

Check out the following resources for more information on **Blessing**:

[Fathers Encourage Identity Development](#)

[Hooray, Dad!](#)

[What Every Dad Should Tell His Son](#)

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