



Men's Discipleship Night

Pre-Reading Devotionals

September 2025

Devotional 1 - A Father's Call to Nurture

Bible Reading: Ephesians 6:1-4

Key Verse: *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."* - Ephesians 6:4

When we think about our influence on those we lead, it is worth asking how our words and actions shape their hearts. Have you ever noticed how a sharp tone or unkind remark can linger far longer than intended? Sometimes, without realizing it, we can stir frustration or discouragement in others.

The apostle Paul wrote directly to fathers, urging them not to stir anger or resentment in their children. Instead, they were to take an active role in nurturing them "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Discipline here isn't harsh control, but steady, loving guidance toward what is right. Instruction means weaving God's truth into the rhythms of everyday life, in conversations, decisions, and even in how we respond when tensions rise.

This call isn't just for fathers. Anyone in a place of influence, whether teachers, mentors, leaders, can ask: Am I leading in a way that encourages rather than discourages? God invites us to model His patience and kindness, pointing others toward Christ not just by what we teach, but by how we live.

Reflect & Pray

- 🕯 In what ways could your leadership cause frustration in others?
- 🕯 How can you intentionally weave God's truth into your daily routines?
- 🕯 Who might need your spiritual mentoring today?

Prayer: *Lord, teach me to lead with patience and love. Help me discipline with grace and instruct with truth so that others may be drawn closer to You.*

Thought for the Day: *Godly leadership shapes hearts through love, not control.*

Devotional 2 – The Father to the Fatherless

Bible Reading: Psalm 68:1–10

Key Verse: *“Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.”*

— Psalm 68:5

Loneliness can be one of life’s heaviest burdens. For some, it comes through the loss of a parent or spouse. For others, it’s the absence of someone who should have been there but never was. In those moments, it can be deeply comforting to remember that God is not distant or indifferent.

The psalmist describes God as “Father of the fatherless” and “protector of widows.” He steps into places of absence with His power and compassion, offering protection, provision, and the assurance that we are never truly alone. This is not just a poetic description — it is a revelation of His heart. God’s care for the vulnerable is not occasional; it is part of His very nature.

As His people, we are invited to mirror that same heart. Who in our lives might need to experience God’s fatherly care through our presence, encouragement, or help? Whether through a listening ear, a meal shared, or standing alongside someone in a difficult season, our actions can reflect the God who defends and nurtures those in need.

Reflect & Pray

- 🕯 Where in your life has God shown Himself as a Father when you felt unsupported?
- 🕯 Who around you needs to experience the love of a father through your actions?
- 🕯 How can you reflect God’s heart to the vulnerable this week?

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank You for being my protector and provider. Shape my heart to reflect Your love to those who feel alone, so they may see You through me.*

Thought for the Day: *When you step in for someone in need, you reflect the heart of God.*