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## Introduction

There is a shortage of real men and good fathers. Real fathers that take responsibility for their actions and take care of the financial, spiritual, emotional well being of their homes. Real fathers serve God, are men of action, prepare their children for adulthood, take responsibility, and are reliable. Today we are going to look at six attributes of good and godly fathers using the acronym F-A-T-H-E-R.

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## F - Faithful

The "F" stands for Faithful. Good fathers are faithful people. They are faithful to God and trust Him with their whole heart, soul, and mind. Good fathers believe in God's promises, that God will preserve their families, and that God will provide their families everything needed for salvation.

Good fathers accept their role as the spiritual head of the household and set the tone for family worship. Good fathers know God's word. They have an active prayer life, attend church regularly with their families, and obey God's commandments.

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## F - Faithful

The Bible lifts up the examples of several faithful fathers: Jesus' earthly father Joseph was faithful when he trusted the angel when he learned that Mary was going to give birth to Jesus. He also faithfully moved his family to Egypt when the angel warned him in a dream.

Abraham faithfully believed in God's promise that his wife Sarah would bear a son at over ninety years of age and he would be the father of a great nation.

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## F - Faithful

God, as our Good Father, is faithful. He is faithfully sustaining all creation. He is faithful to His creatures providing all they need, including Salvation. His faithfulness is not dependent upon ourselves or our abilities but based in who He is.

2 Timothy 2:13 - "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."

God is faithful to earthly fathers. He provides all they need so they can be the faithful leaders in their homes and families!

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# Faithful Action T H E R

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## A - Action

The “A” stands for Action. Good Fathers are People of Action! Most dads like to watch their sports, have a few hobbies, and need some “down time” to relax. However, good fathers are also men of action, especially when their families need them. Good fathers spring into action when the toilets overflow, the garbage needs taken out, or when something important around the house that needs fixing. Good dads know how to get things done. They solve problems, and always rise to the occasion.

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### A - Action

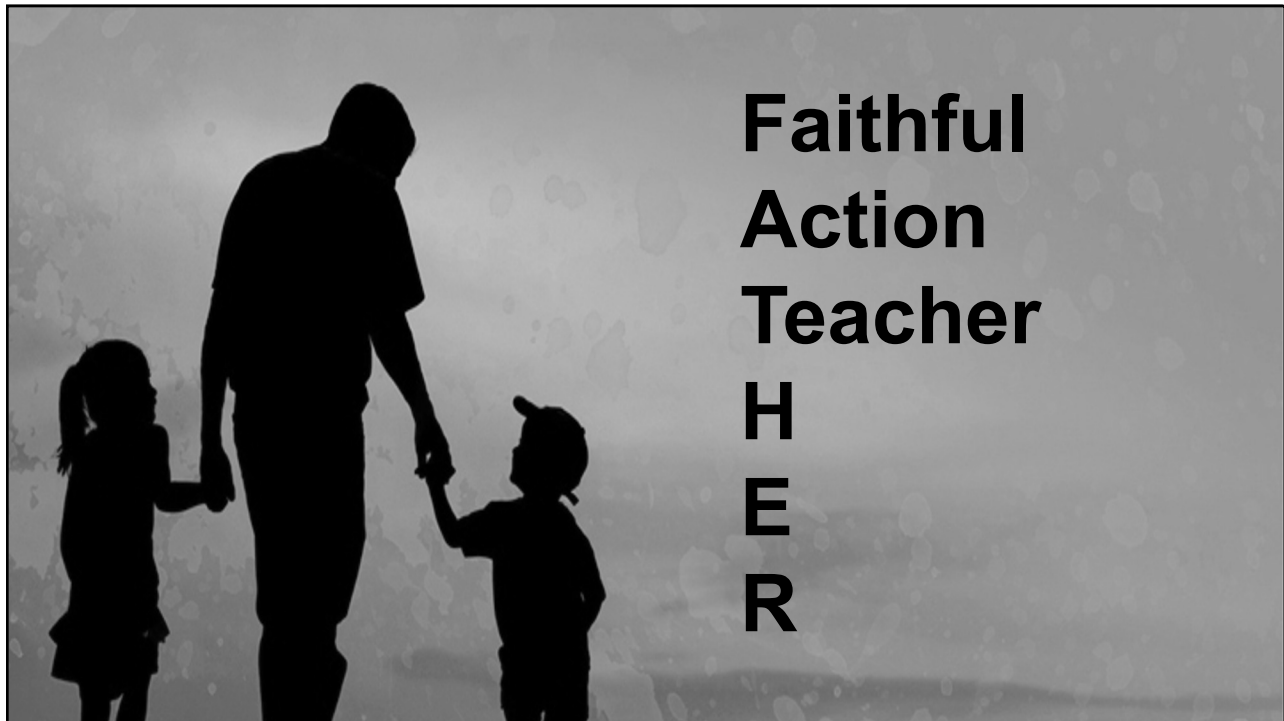
Good fathers also instill a good work ethic in their children and teach by example. Good fathers watch over their children and give them the space they need to try new things learn from the mistakes they make. Good fathers are active and engaged parents.

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### A - Action

God is a Good Father. He is the ultimate active force in all creation. He spoke the universe into existence and is active in sustaining all He has created. He is active in meeting our needs. He provided for our salvation before we realized we needed it. He is active in meeting the needs of His children, and working in the lives of the lost to draw them to Himself! He is actively helping earthly fathers be active!

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### T - Teacher

The “T” stands for Teacher. Good fathers are teachers and prepare their children to enter adulthood and face the tough and sinful world around them. This means that fathers give their children survival skills that will help transform them into successful adults. Unfortunately, most children do not listen to the advice of their fathers. In order to be good teachers, fathers must be credible and earn their children’s trust and love.

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### T - Teacher

Ephesians 6:4 states: “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

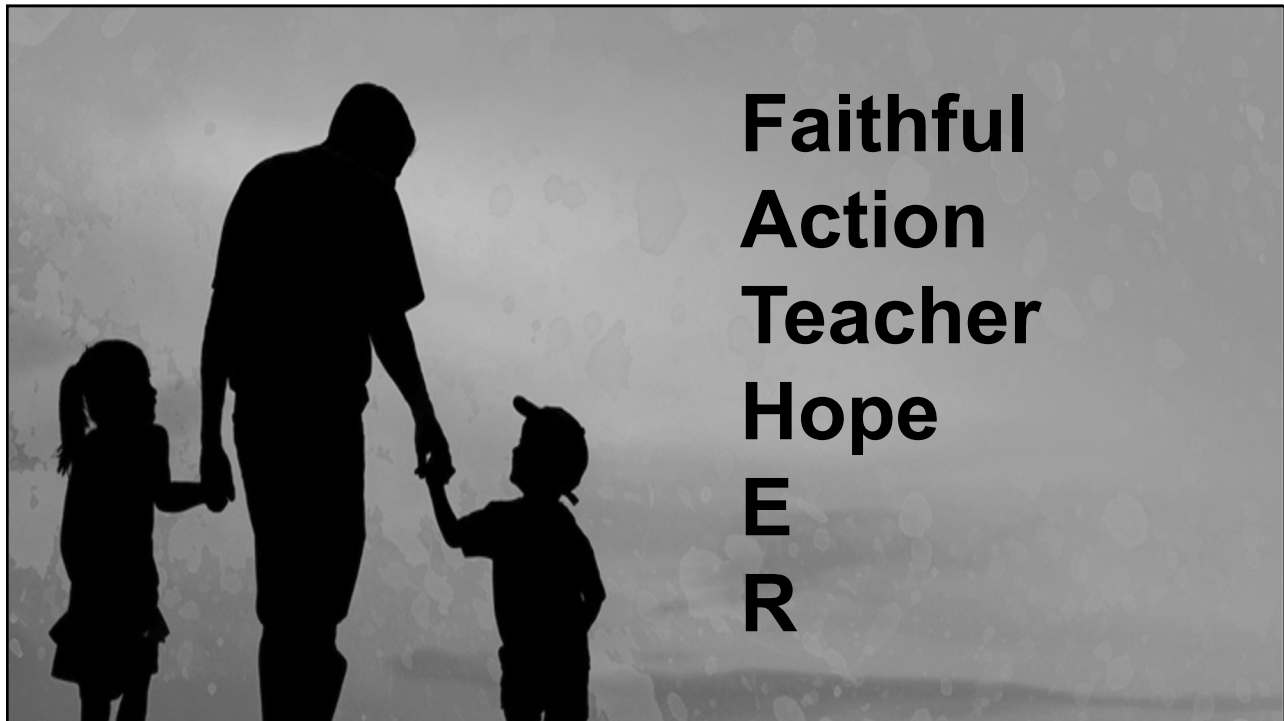
Paul is cautioning fathers not to be critical with their children, but instead focus on teaching them with the same love and understanding that God uses to teach them.

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### T - Teacher

God is a good father in that He also teaches us to be teachers. He has given us His Word in the Bible so that we can learn His Truth and Wisdom in order to face life's problems and temptations. Fathers must be personally learning and growing in Christ, so they have something to teach. James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

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### H - Hope

The “H” stands for Hope. Good fathers are a source of hope and inspiration for their families. Dads are the family’s pillar of strength, and they are the ones that tell us that things will be all right during tough times. Even though dads complain, good fathers are optimistic and resilient because they trust God.

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## H - Hope

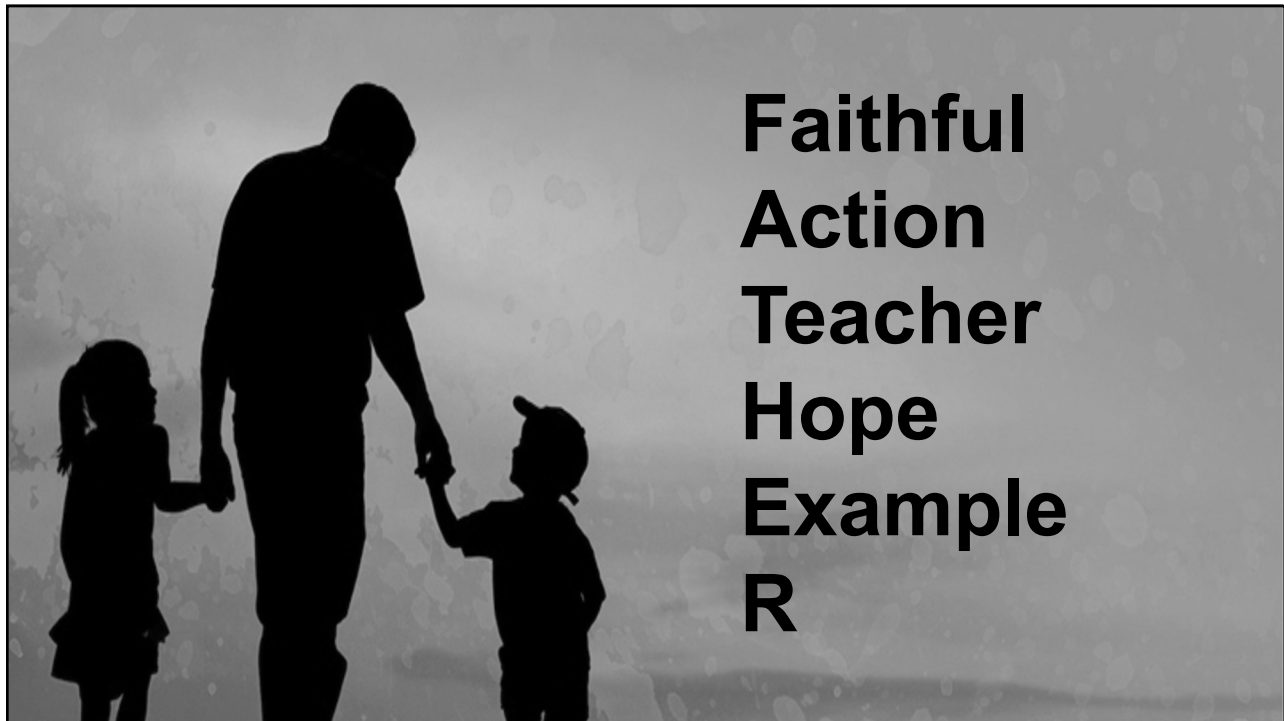
Good fathers also trust their children and constantly encourage them to pursue their passions, fulfill their dreams, and plan for their future. Clare Boothe Luce once said, "Where there is no faith in the future, there is no power in the present." In contrast, good fathers are like the Father found in the Parable of the Prodigal Son; good fathers are forever hopeful and inspire their families to push beyond themselves.

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## H - Hope

God is a Good Father in that He gives us a message of hope. He promises us that regardless of the situation, we are never alone. He has promised never to leave us or forsake us. He offers strength to do the tough jobs in life. The greatest hope is that our sins are forgiven, and we have the blessed hope that we will rise from the dead and/or meet Jesus in the air to live with Him forever. Fathers have Hope because God is the source of our hope!

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**Faithful  
Action  
Teacher  
Hope  
Example  
R**

19

### E - Example

The “E” stands for Example. Good impressions are important and good fathers are positive role models to their families. Children tend to imitate and adopt their parent’s behaviors; therefore, fathers must be good husbands, live moral lives, and treat all people with respect and dignity.

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### E - Example

As the home's spiritual leader, good fathers take an active part in their children's spiritual development. While mothers also play an important role, the importance of the father's role cannot be underestimated.

Paul's advice to the Corinthian Church holds true in I Corinthians 11:1 –

“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”

The most important example that a father can make to his children is to love God and others.

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### E - Example

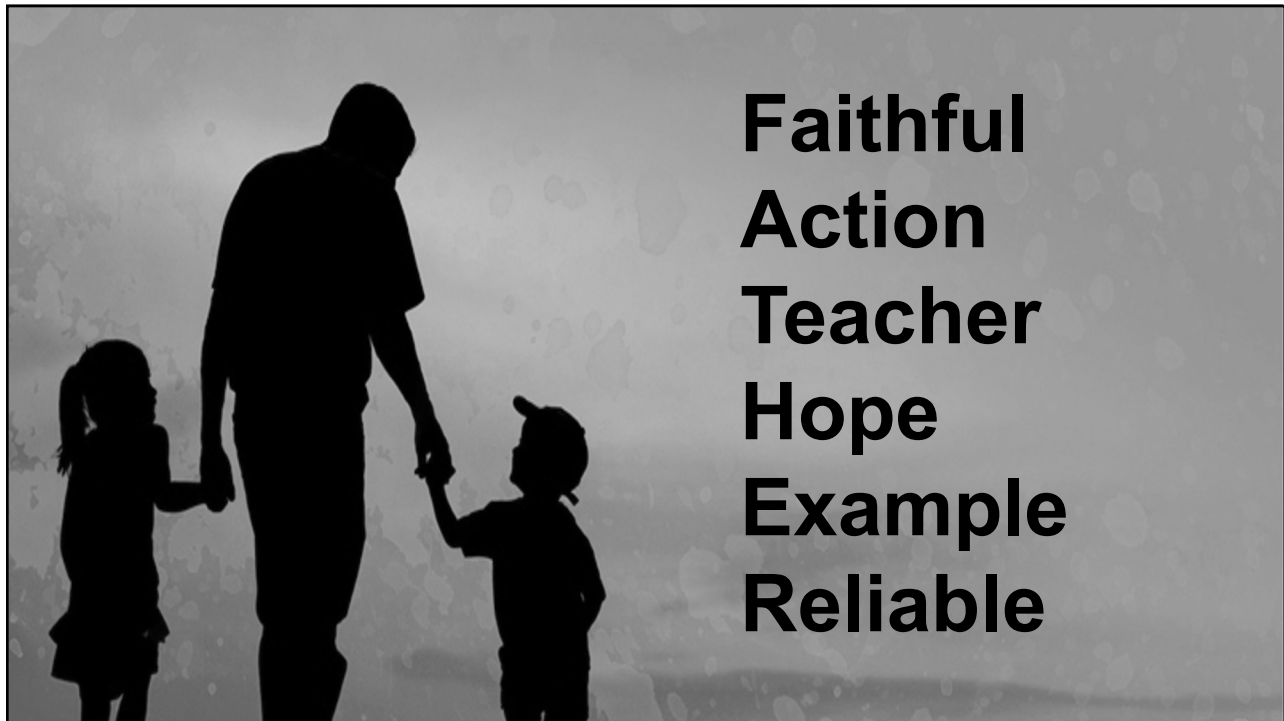
God gave us many examples to follow.

He gives us the lives of Abraham, Moses, David and many others

(Hebrews 11). The greatest example of all is Jesus. He came into this world and lived as God intended man to live.

He is a Good Father and the best example we can follow. Good fathers learn from the GOOD FATHER and pass that legacy on to their children.

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### R - Reliable

The “R” for Reliable. Good fathers are reliable, responsible, and consistent. They work hard to provide for their family’s needs. Good fathers are also reliable in times of crisis.

Sadly, many men today are not consistent in their fatherly duties and neglect to see the importance of their role as a father themselves.

Fathers are undermined and ridiculed throughout society, and we see the breakdown of the family and society. We need to reinstate value on fatherhood and being a good father.

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## R - Reliable

In order for children to grow up into responsible adults they need a stable and reliable role models. Good fathers are consistent in how they meet life's challenges. Good fathers are of proven character, they are faithful to their calling, and are reliable to those that need them.

Good fathers are involved in their children's lives and look out for their best interests. Dads must make hard choices and realize that popular decisions are not always the best decisions. Good fathers are able discern and develop their children's hearts, souls, and minds.

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## R - Reliable

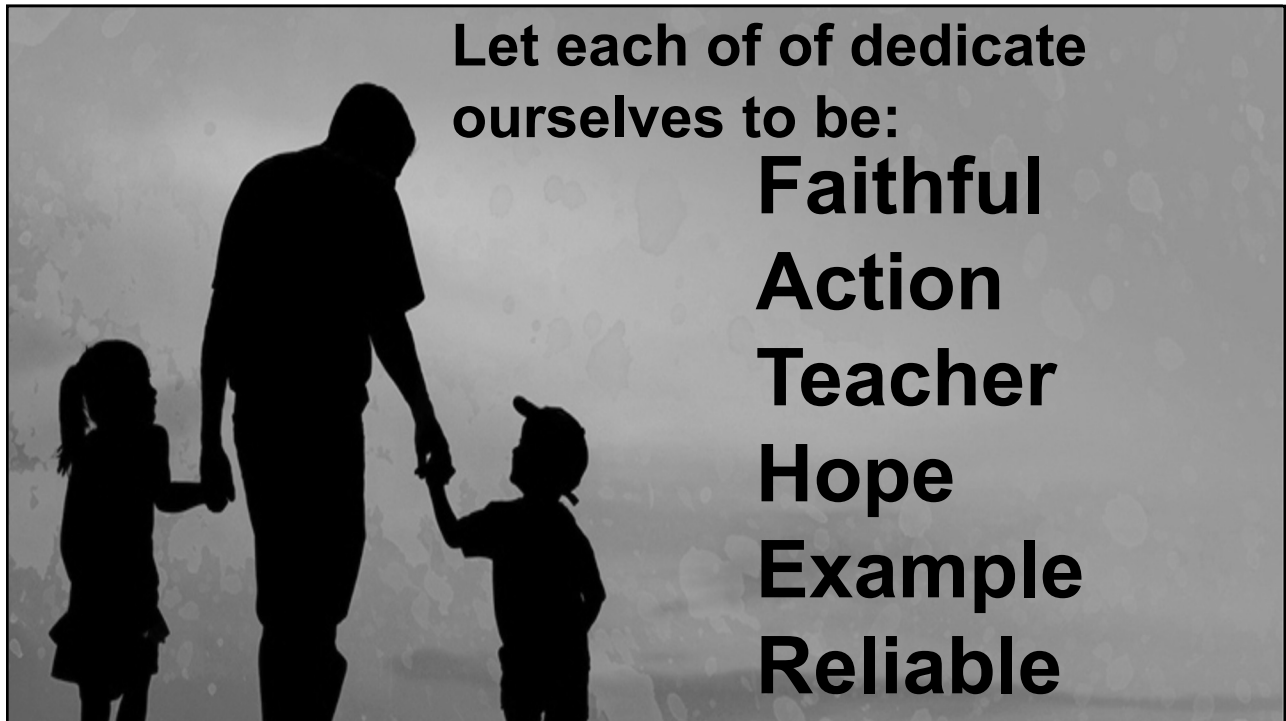
God as our Good Father is reliable. He is always there and never changes.

James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus

Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God is reliable and we do not need to fear what mood He is in today. God helps good fathers to be reliable as they learn to trust Him.

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Let each of of dedicate  
ourselves to be:

**Faithful**  
**Action**  
**Teacher**  
**Hope**  
**Example**  
**Reliable**