



## **STUDY GUIDE**

# **Reversing the Curse of Fatherlessness**

## **I. The “Sons” in the Kingdom**

- A. The lessons from the giraffes in the animal kingdom.
  - 1. Twelve million people watched the giraffe, Tajiri, being birthed live on Livestream YouTube in Harpursville, near New York City in 2017.
  - 2. The *fatherless* giraffes in the animal kingdom.
  
- B. Father God’s plan for sons (and daughters) in *His Kingdom*.
  - 1. His plan began in the Garden.
  - 2. His plan for loneliness, love, and acceptance.
  - 3. He has an eternal plan for family and sonship.

## **II. Million Daily Watch the Results of Fatherlessness on TV and Internet**

- A. **The Pandemic generated a captive live audience to witness the results of fatherless generations.**
  - 1. Injustice, lawlessness, and anger are a few of the results of the lack of fathers leading and mentoring the generations.
  - 2. Fatherlessness is the result of the lack of parental guidance and laying of a solid foundation for a child’s stability.

**B. Fatherlessness is a growing epidemic adversely affecting our social, economic, and political systems.**

1. A phenomenon rooted in false belief systems.
2. The ongoing identity crisis.

**C. Fatherless defined:**

1. Not having a living father.
2. Not having a known or legally responsible father.

**D. The U.S. Census Bureau reports:**

1. 18.4 million children, 1 in 4, live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home. (2022)
2. The father's absence affects our children in numerous unfortunate ways.
3. The father's presence makes a distinct and positive difference in both children and MOTHERS!

**III. Overview of Alarming Statistics Concerning Fatherlessness (From the National Fatherhood Initiative)**

**A. No father present:**

1. 4X greater risk in poverty.
2. More likely to have behavioral problems.
3. Greater risks for infant mortality.
4. More likely to go to prison.
5. More likely to commit crime.
6. More likely to get pregnant as a teen.
7. More likely to experience abuse and neglect.
8. More likely to abuse alcohol and drugs.
9. More likely to be obese.
10. More likely to drop out of school.

## **B. The strengths of a father's presence**

1. Lower risks of infant mortality.
2. Lower risks of low birth weight.
3. Lower risk of emotional and behavioral problems.
4. Lower risk of neglect and abuse.
5. Lower risk of injury.
6. Lower risk of obesity.
7. Lower risk of poor school performance.
8. Lower risk of teen pregnancy.
9. Lower risk of incarceration as juveniles.
10. Lower risk of alcohol and substance abuse.
11. Lower risk of criminal activity.
12. Lower risk of suicide.

## **C. Involved dads are good for moms**

1. More likely to receive prenatal care.
2. Less likely to smoke during pregnancy.
3. Healthier births.
4. Lower risks of post-partum stress.
5. Lower post-partum depression.
6. Lower parenting stress.
7. More leisure time.
8. Higher marital satisfaction.

## **D. More startling statistics**

1. Child mistreatment is higher in fatherless homes.
2. Children who live with their fathers do better in school.
3. Children living without their father in the home are 47% more likely to live in poverty.
4. Men with absent fathers are more likely to become absent fathers themselves.
5. Women with absent fathers are more likely to have children with absent fathers.

6. Infant death within the first 28 days of life is 4X higher for those with absent fathers than those with involved fathers.
7. Individuals from father-absent homes are 279% more likely to carry guns and deal drugs than peers living with their fathers.
8. Father involvement in schools is associated with the higher likelihood of a student getting mostly A's.
9. 92% of parents in prison are fathers.
10. Compared to pregnant women without father support, pregnant women with father support experience a lower prevalence of pregnancy loss (22.2%) compared to 48.1% (without father support).
11. Daughters are less likely to engage in risky sexual behavior when they have consistent contact, and a sense of closeness, with their dads.
12. More than 70% of juveniles right now in long-term correctional facilities are young men who grew up without fathers in the home.
13. Daughters of single parents are 53% more likely to marry as teenagers, 111% will have children as teens, 164% more likely to have a premarital birth, and 92% more likely to dissolve their own marriages.

**E. More HARD facts:**

1. 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes.
2. 90% of runaways and homeless children are from fatherless homes.
3. 80% of rapists with anger issues come from fatherless homes.
4. 71% of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.
5. 75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes.
6. 70% of youths in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes.
7. Girls who live in fatherless homes have a 100% higher risk of suffering from obesity than girls who have their father present.

**F. Synonyms describing the word “fatherless”:**

“Forsaken, unfriended, shattered, godforsaken, dishonorable, demoralized, guideless, immoral, motherless, desolate, unlawful, pregnable, abandoned, orphaned, unlawful, defenseless, deprived and rudderless.”

## **IV. The Unfulfilled Mandate of Malachi 4:5–6**

*“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” (Malachi 4:5–6, KJV)*

### **A. The spiritual charge of Malachi**

1. Malachi addresses the generations—the fathers and sons.
2. The curse upon the generations that we see in operation even today.

### **B. Malachi—“the Messenger”**

1. Involved in an era of rebuilding the temple and re-establishing hearts toward God.
2. Prophesied what we are witnessing today—the results of a fatherless generation.

### **C. Biblical Prototypes of New Generation Leaders, Fathers and Sons**

1. Nehemiah.
2. Ezra.
3. Biblical true fathers, both in the natural and the spiritual.

## **V. Elijah, the Curse, and Passing the Baton**

### **A. John the Baptist**

1. The “spirit” of Elijah
2. Turning hearts back to God the Father and rebuilding the altars.

### **B. The relational gap between the generations today:**

1. The lack of fathers in the natural and spiritual. We need “true” fathers!
2. Failing to pass the baton to the next generation due to the lack of fathers.

3. The example of Absalom and King David.
4. True “spiritual” fathers vs. “religious” leaders.

## **VI. Passing on the Legacy**

### **A. Natural and spiritual legacies**

1. Learning to “pass” the baton.
2. “Fumbling” the baton.
3. Staying in the “zone.”

### **B. Spiritual legacies**

1. Plan for “long-term” mentoring so results are long-term.
2. In ***The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership***, John Maxwell gives us four types of accomplishments that need to occur in a leader’s life:
  - a. Achievement comes to someone when he is able to do great things for himself.
  - b. Success comes when he empowers followers to do great things *with* him.
  - c. Significance comes when he develops leaders to do great things *for* him.
  - d. A ***legacy*** is created when a person puts his organization into the position to do great things *without* him.

## **VII. The Orphan Spirit**

### **A. Fatherlessness and the orphan mentality.**

1. Many of the negative effects of fatherlessness occur in an orphan’s life.
2. Identifying the “orphan mentality.”

B. **The orphan mentality checklist.** Signs of struggling with an orphan mentality are:

1. A constant need to measure up to others' expectations.
2. A constant need for recognition and encouragement.
3. Ongoing issues with intimacy and trust.
4. Anger.
5. Shame.
6. Envious and jealous over the success of others.
7. Will do whatever it takes to get to the top.
8. Enjoys being the one in charge and in power.
9. Rebellion and lawlessness.

## **VIII. Most ALL of Us Have Had Father Issues**

- A. The story of the Prodigal Son.
- B. The restoration of the fatherless.

## **IX. Reversing the Curse**

A. (John 16:7) **Jesus sent the “Comforter”** (Holy Spirit—*Paraklete* is the English usage):

1. Greek: *parakletos* (counselor, helper, intercessor, advocate).
2. Advocate: He takes our side (as in a court of law).

B. **In the Passion translation:**

1. Aramic—*paraqlita*.
  - a. *paraq*—the one who destroys or removes.
  - b. *lita*—the curse.
2. 2023 is the year to “remove the curse.”

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3. We cannot be cursed, because the SHOUT of the King is among us!  
(Numbers 23:21)

## X. The Story of Absalom and Fatherlessness

### A. A son of a king—yet dealt with the effects of “fatherlessness.”

1. Had it all, yet had so little.
2. His offense led to his rebellion, which led to his early death.

### B. There is so much to learn from the lives of David and Absalom.

1. We need true fathers.
2. Fathers need true sons.
3. Learning to mentor, to father, and how to pass the legacy to the next generation.

## XI. Healing from Abandonment

### A. The ultimate healing through the spirit of adoption.

*“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but we received the spirit of adoption whereby we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’”* (Romans 8:15, KJV)

1. We have a Father, and we are His sons (and daughters).

*“So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’ So you are no longer a slave; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.”* (Galatians 4:3–7, NIV)

2. As believers, we are never orphans nor fatherless.

3. Each of us is an heir with the full rights of sonship.

## XII. Selected Steps to Healing

- A. Recognize and confess your need for change.
- B. Repent of all sins related to the fatherless and orphan spirit.
- C. Forgive others and self—this will bring a supernatural release in your heart.
- D. Resist all temptation to fall back into any ungodly beliefs.
- E. Keep yourself in the love of the Father every day.

### **A prayer for the fatherless:**

Father God, Your Word declares that You are a stronghold for the oppressed and that You are our stronghold in times of trouble. We are living in troubled times. There are millions of Your children that are lonely, hurting, feeling unloved, rejected and abandoned. Today we lift up the fatherless generations, those whose father has died, divorced or deserted.

Whenever they feel afraid, may it comfort them to know that You watch over the fatherless children. Lord, empower them to stand on Your promises, confident that You are there in the midst of their pain.

Thank You for Your Presence on difficult days. May these children live with hope, knowing that You are there. You say that in You, the orphan finds mercy, and that You give justice to the weak and the fatherless. Thank You, Lord, that You will come to them and to each of us that may struggle with fatherlessness.

**Deuteronomy 10:18** says, “*He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.*” Thank You for divine provision and for healing those in poverty.

**Psalm 68:5–6 declares this about You,** “*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, He leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.*”

Lord, heal the rebellious hearts, heal the pain that opened the door to lawlessness and rebellion. You will make a way for Your children to know YOU. You will strengthen them.

**Psalm 10:17 declares,** “*O Lord, You hear the desire of the afflicted; You will strengthen their heart; You will incline Your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.*”

We pray for those whose earthly fathers are absent, not as a result of choice, but by circumstance. Where disease, accidents, natural causes, or violence has resulted in fatherlessness, we pray for Your comfort to come in promised measure on hurting children. Minister in the midst of grief that is fresh, and grief that is extended.

We pray You would give us all a deep empathy for the fatherless ... an empathy that leads to active involvement in their lives. Show us Your heart to the fatherless so that they see You in us as we reach out to them.

Give each of us divine grace, understanding and wisdom as they speak out of their devastation and trauma. Let us never minimize their pain or ignore their story. Provide the fatherless, through us, with models and mentors who You use to fill the deep and painful holes left by father-absence.

As a perfect Father, You are a Helper, Comforter, a Rescuer, and a Redeemer. You always offer hope, and our hope is in You. As Healer, we pray that the fatherless would come to find their identity in You rather than in their crisis and disappointments. Lead them into the freedom that comes with being forgiven and choosing to forgive. Fill them with Your overflowing and never-ending love so that they would fully experience You as Father. Let the name *father* be redeemed, not provoking them to pain and devastating memories, but a sense of great love and joy.

Let them know that in You they are loved and that they are not—as so many have come to believe—unlovable, ruined, hopeless, and abandoned. Amen.

*We commit to being part of the solution, which is to give of our time and energy to help and mentor the fatherless. Help us learn more about Your heart toward the fatherless. In Jesus' name, amen.*

***My prayer for each of you—lift your hands and receive healing:***

*Father God,*

*I want to now lift up those on this webinar with me. Some who are listening are fatherless. Some joined this webinar because of their pain and they are looking for answers. Some are pastors or religious leaders who have rebellious sons, and they need help as to how to reach out to them. Some are natural fathers that have angry children or have rebelled in some way such as using drugs or alcohol. They need your help with their families. Others listening are business owners who desperately want to mentor others to become successful. You know what needs mending today.*

My prayer is that they know that You promise to be a Father to the Fatherless (Psalm 68:5). May they find their identity in Christ and not their crisis. May they not live or walk in shame (Psalm 34:5). May they know Jesus Christ not only as Father but as their Savior early in life. May they desire a close relationship with You despite the loss of dad. May they follow You in their childhood, teen, and adult years of life (Mark 10:14–15, Luke 2:52, 2 Timothy 3:15).

Lord, I also pray that they begin to know You as their strong Redeemer, Deliverer, and Judge who is forever pleading their case (Proverbs 23:10, Psalm 82:3, Deuteronomy 10:18 and 27:19). May they know that You hear their cry (Psalm 10:17–18, Exodus 22:22–23). May they know You are their stronghold in times of trouble (Psalm 9:9).

May each of them be strengthened to fight temptations. Without a father, they will look to fill a void in their lives, but there is no substitute for You—no substance but Your living water will satisfy. I ask for divine help from the Helper of the fatherless (Psalm 10:14).

Prove to them that You promise to rescue them and provide for them.

May they have godly mentors in their lives. Send those who will pay attention, listen, instruct, and love them. Each of Your children needs guidance and direction, so thank You, Lord, for providing what is needed.

No more will they listen to lies from the father of lies. May deceit be far from their mouths (John 8:44, Psalm 34:13).

May they find compassion from You and learn from You as You heal their hearts and lives. May they trust the promise that You are working everything together for their good, and Lord, please give them Your eternal perspective (Romans 8:28–29, 2 Corinthians 4:15).

May the boys and young men direct their focus to You as Father who will satisfy their deepest longing and hunger. May the girls and young women who do not have a dad as defender and protector put their trust in You, who will satisfy their deepest needs. The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but You came to bring abundant life. Help them to live in this daily.

Empower the pastors to mentor spiritual sons and to be a loving spiritual father who sees their potential. Empower the business owner to move past his fears of betray and mentor the next generation. Help the father and the mother reach out in unconditional love to the children, raise them according to Your Word, and lovingly lead and direct them in life.

Today we reverse the curse of fatherlessness! This is the day that the curse is broken. Those that are fatherless or even affected by it in any way are free from the past, free from pain and anger. This is the day of breakthrough for you!

For those called to be true fathers—and spiritual mentors—the curse that has held you back from fathering others or receiving the fulness from Father God is reversed and broken!

Our advocate, Holy Spirit, fights on our behalf and speaks forth freedom on our behalf.

Lord, just as Your Word says, we cannot be cursed. This is because we have the shout of the King in us and among us!

We release a shout in faith, believing the curse is reversed!

(Now release a shout of victory!!!!!!)

These things I ask and pray in the majestic and mighty name of Jesus Christ, Amen.