



**Haven Community Church
Pastor Jack D. Cohen – June 20, 2010**

"Therefore be imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]. And walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us...."
– Ephesians 5:1-2a (NIV)

Average Joseph: Yo' Daddy to Joe Daddy

I. Overcoming the early skeletons

- *Dad's always said:*
 - Do as I say not as I do
 - Ask your mother
 - I brought you into this world I'll take you out
 - Money doesn't grow on trees

• *Father know best*

"When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished by how much he'd learned in seven years." – Mark Twain

Types of Dad's

II. Joseph copes with his past for the future

"⁵¹Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh [d] and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." ⁵² The second son he named Ephraim [e] and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."
– Genesis 41:51-52 (NIV)

- *Not dealing with the past will steal our future from us*
 - We end up...burying it; blaming others; blaming ourselves
- *Only God helps us forget troubled times*
"Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because God has made me forget..." – Genesis 41:51a (NIV)
- *Overcoming well for success*
"The second son he named Ephraim and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."
– Genesis 41: 52 (NIV)
 - Keep giving God the credit
 - Let go of the past

III. The Goditude Father-tude

"Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it."
– Proverbs 22:6 (AMP)

• *Love your wife*

"In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself."
– Ephesians 5:28 (NIV)

- How you treat her creates a pattern for your children

• *Enjoy your children*

"Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him."
– Psalm 127:3 (TNIV)

- Affirm their value & accept their uniqueness

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."
– Psalm 139:13-14 (TNIV)

- Trust them with responsibility

"For we are each responsible for our own conduct."
– Galatians 6:5 (NLT)

- Correct them without condemning

"Discipline your children while there is hope. Otherwise you will ruin their lives."

- Listen to your children

"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning..."
– Proverbs 1:5 (KJV)

• *Love your children unconditionally with God's parental love*

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life... will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
– Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)