

# Where the Father is...



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# Father's Day



# Fatherless RSA

A photograph showing the backs of three children of diverse ethnicities. On the left is a child with long, straight brown hair. In the center is a child with a large, dark afro. On the right is a child with long, curly brown hair. They are all looking out over a body of water under a bright sky.

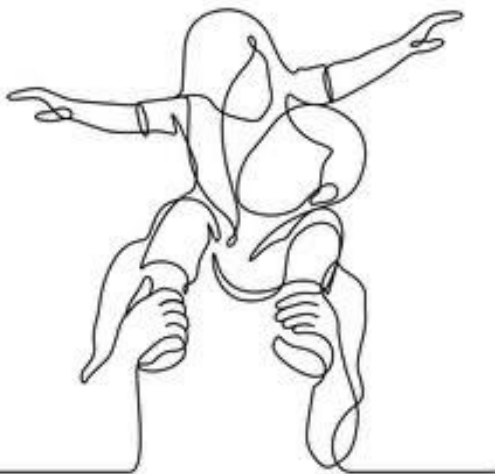
- South Africa has a high fatherless rate. According to StatsSA, around **42%** of children lived only with their mothers. Another **21%** did not live with either of their parents. **Fewer than 4 in 10 children live with their father.**

- According to the Human Sciences Research Council, most children in South Africa — **over 60%** — don't live with their biological fathers. And 20% only have contact with their biological father twice a week.

1. Poverty; 2. Drug and Alcohol abuse; 3. Physical and Emotional Health issues; 4. Lack of Educational Achievement; 5. Crime; 6. Sexual activities & teen pregnancies

**"It is much easier to become a father than to be one."** Kent Nerburn

**"Train up a child in the way he should go—but be sure you go that way yourself."** Charles Spurgeon



**Matthew 3:16** And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is **my beloved Son**, with whom I am well pleased."

**John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become **children of God**, even to those who believe in His name

**SONSHIP** → Biblical sonship is a position in the spirit reserved for those who have God as their Father [believing in Jesus]



Where the  
Father  
is ?



### **3. Where the Father is...:**

#### **3.1 There is Belonging and Identity:**

**1 John 4:4** You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.



## 3.2 There is Surrender:

**Psalm 46:10** “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

**Proverbs 23:26** My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

**Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

- Sonship vs Slavery [orphan mindset]

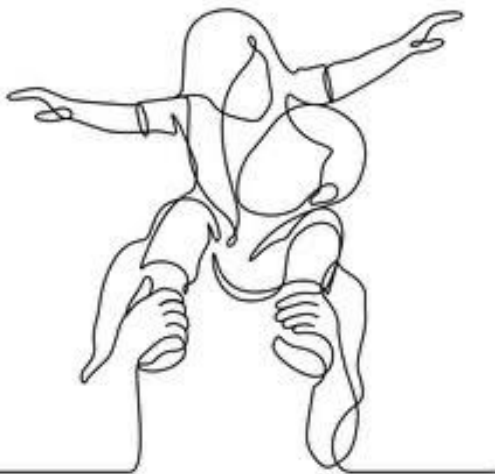
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**“Orphans labor for favor and identity, but a son begins from a place of acceptance”**

— Elias Tan JS



### 3.3 There is Love:

**1 John 3:1** See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

**Romans 8:14** All those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. **15** For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!" **16** The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children...

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### 3.4 There is identity, authority, destiny:

**Luke 15: 17** When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have more than enough food, and here I am dying of hunger! 18 I’ll get up, go to my father, and say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. 19 I’m no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired hands.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. 21 The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I’m no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 “But the father told his slaves, ‘Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Then bring the fattened calf and slaughter it, and let’s celebrate with a feast, 24 because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ So they began to celebrate.



Repentant son gets restored in three areas:

- |     |                  |         |
|-----|------------------|---------|
| (1) | <b>Identity</b>  | Robe    |
| (2) | <b>Destiny</b>   | Sandals |
| (3) | <b>Authority</b> | Ring    |



### 3.5 There is Discipline:

**Hebrews 12:5** And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, **“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”**

7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

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**Romans 8:15** For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father!”

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# Let's Pray

