



Back on Track
Genesis 17
Week 7 of 14

A 1994 Swiss study explored how religion gets passed from one generation to the next. In other words, what causes a child to adopt his or her parent's faith? The results pointed to one critical factor: the father's involvement in practicing his faith. The results included the following statistics:

- If both father and mother attend regularly, 33 percent of children will become regular churchgoers, and 41 percent will attend irregularly.
- If only the mother attends regularly and the father attends sporadically, only 3 percent of children will become regular churchgoers, and 59 percent will attend irregularly.
- On the other hand, if a father attends church regularly but the mother is irregular, 38 percent of children will become regular attenders.
- And if the father attends church regularly but the mother doesn't attend, the percentage rises even higher: 44 percent of children will become regular attenders.
- When neither parent practices their faith, to nobody's surprise, only 4 percent of children will become regular attenders and 15 percent will attend occasionally. In other words, without mom or dad's regular participation, 80 percent of children will drift away from the faith.



northeast daily reading

February 20, 2011



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Abraham אברהם

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Although the study certainly challenges fathers to participate in church involvement, it also offers some hope for faithful moms. Even when a father attends irregularly there are some extraordinary effects. And the Swiss study didn't account for many other factors: the spiritual vitality of the church attended, the power of a praying mother (or other family members), and the influence of a church that mentors children whose fathers are less involved. [Robbie Low, "The Truth About Men & Church," *Touchstone Magazine* (June, 2003)]

This week's Daily Bible Reading will illustrate the legacy left by parents in their children.

- DAY ONE – Genesis 17
 - DAY TWO – Genesis 37 & 50
 - DAY THREE – 1 Samuel 2:12-36 & 4:12-22
 - DAY FOUR – 2 Samuel 15 & 18
 - DAY FIVE – Luke 1:5-25, 57-80, 3:1-20
- legacy**

Memory Verse:

"But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear Him, and His righteousness with their children's children—with those who keep His covenant and remember to obey His precepts."
(Psalm 103:17-18)



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