



This lesson was shared on Julia Bettencourt Blog in June 2021.

The Oh So Human Dad's Club

I thought I'd do a quick little study of some dads in honor of Father's Day. I'm not going to do a whole series with this, just a roster of some of our *Oh, So Human* biblical dads, and then I'll highlight a few of them.

Ready to get started?

Oh So Human

When we say those words, "They are only human", we all know what is meant by that. We mean that everyone makes mistakes. Nobody is perfect. We all have flaws. We all have troubles in life.

Today we will be looking at some biblical dads that were oh, so human! They all had issues themselves, issues with their kids, issues with their wives, or just plain old human issues.

Who is in this club? Let's take a look at the roster. It's in alphabetical order. These are the standing members. I'm sure there could be more.

Oh So Human Dad's Club Roster

- **Abraham**
- **David**
- **Eli**
- **Isaac**
- **Jacob**
- **Laban**
- **Lot**
- **Manasseh**
- **Manoah**
- **Samuel**
- **Solo**

Let's look at a few of these dads a little closer.

Abraham

Abraham is considered the Father of our Faith, but he was human. He questioned God, lied at one point, and he sent his son that he had with his concubine, Hagar, away after he had a child with his wife.

Abraham still obeyed God for most of his life. He had great faith and is mentioned in the faith chapter (Hebrews 11).

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Hebrews 11:8-10

David

David had high points and low points in his life. He had family issues. David's son raped his sister. David also had a son that went against him enough to try to steal his throne. David also played favorites with one of his sons. David felt the agony of a parent too when he went through the pain of losing children.

At times David had a close relationship with God. We see through the Psalms that David wrote how close he was with God and how much he depended on God in his life. I always enjoy reading through 1 Samuel about David's life, his faith in God to defeat Goliath, his friendship with Jonathan, and his struggles with Saul.

I am always inspired with those three verses in 1 Samuel where David tells Goliath how things are going to be in that battle and Who is going to win it right before David smacks him in the head with that stone.

Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands. 1 Samuel 17:45-47

Isaac

Lied at one point just like his father, Abraham. He had some sons that had some sibling rivalry going on between them. It is *oh, so human* to have family members and relationships that are a strain and stressful to us. Isaac was tricked by one of his sons into giving them his brother's birthright and blessing.

No matter how the blessing of the birthright for his boys came about, Isaac is still mentioned for blessing his children "by faith" in Hebrews 11:20.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. Hebrews 11:20

My Final Thoughts:

Yes, these three fathers we took a look at here had some issues. All of them had high points of serving God and also had low points in how they handled some situations. We are all so human.

All of our faith heroes in the Bible are like this. We see them at their most vulnerable. We see them in their struggle. We see them making bad decisions. We see them making good decisions. It's because of the human condition.

Even though we may choose to accept Christ, we are all going to have to deal with the flesh. That flesh is going to be there no matter who we are. Our lives are all about choices.

What I love about looking at the lives of these men is that I see that God uses us humans to carry His Word. He loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us. He can use us no matter where we have been and how broken we are. You know what else? God can use us no matter what our family is like and no matter how our children turn out. God can use us even after we have made some bad decisions in our life. We can still have an impact on the world.

David got caught up in things he shouldn't have, but he is still one of my favorite biblical characters to learn and study from. I learn so much from David's life and it is because he was so human.

Abraham and Isaac weren't perfect, but they are both mentioned in what we consider the *Hall of Faith* (Hebrews 11). Those lives in that chapter of Hebrews have inspired Christians throughout history!

I think the thing to consider is that we must learn from these men and all those stories of people in the Bible. We can learn from their tragedies, their heartbreak, and their oh, so human ways.

Choosing to do the right thing when we are called upon and making better decisions is what it is all about. We just have to keep trying. We humans will fail. We just must get back up, brush off the dust, and live to fight the flesh another day. We must just keep on trusting the Lord and obeying Him. When we do that, we will have some function no matter what the dysfunction may be.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Proverbs 3:5-8

So, if you have made poor decisions in parenting, are entangled in dysfunctional

relationships, or have some of that emotional baggage attached to you, God can still use you. Just cling to His Word and follow His leading. Take life one day at a time by looking to Jesus. Make wiser decisions today and in the future.

Never underestimate what a loving, powerful God can do with a mere human.

I encourage you to look up all of these men in the Bible and read through their stories. There is so much we can learn from them.