

1. Fathers are to be the heads of their homes in the way the Lord instructed (see Doctrine and Covenants 121:41–45).

2. Fathers have the responsibility to physically provide for and protect their families (see Doctrine and Covenants 83:2, 4–5).

3. Fathers love their children and teach them the gospel (see Doctrine and Covenants 68:25–28).

4. Fathers who hold the priesthood have the right and responsibility to—

- Give blessings of comfort to their wife and children.
- Administer to the sick in their families.
- Receive inspiration and revelation for their families.
- Name and bless, baptize, confirm, and ordain their children, under the direction of the bishop.

5. Fathers encourage eligible family members to serve as missionaries and receive temple blessings.

6. Fathers keep the commandments and set good examples for their children.

7. Fathers are worthy companions to their wife.

8. Fathers counsel often with their families and maintain good communication with family members.

Look for these qualities in the young men you date, so your future husband can bless your home with righteous priesthood power!

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THE PRIESTHOOD BEARERS IN YOUR HOME?

THE PRIESTHOOD CAN BLESS MY FAMILY

“God has revealed through his prophets that men are to receive the priesthood, become fathers, and with gentleness and pure, unfeigned love they are to lead and nurture their families in righteousness as the Savior leads the Church (see ≈Eph. 5:23). They have been given the primary responsibility for the temporal and physical needs of the family (see D&C 83:2)”

(M. Russell Ballard, Ensign, Nov. 1993, p. 90).

Let's be honest: he is probably going to give you his advice whether you ask for it or not, but it just works so much better when you ask! Ask for his advice on Church activity, on classes, on friends, on school, on dating, on sports or other hobbies. Ask for his counsel on your Church assignments, on preparing for your mission, on decisions or choices you have to make. Nothing shows respect for another person as much as asking for his advice, because what you are really saying when you ask for advice is, "I appreciate what you know and the experiences you have had, and I value your ideas and suggestions." Those are nice things for a father to hear from his daughter. In my experience, fathers who are asked for advice try harder to give good, sound, useful counsel. By asking your father for advice, you not only receive the benefit of his input, but you also provide him with a little extra motivation to strive to be a better father and a better man. He will think more carefully about whatever it is that he advises, and he will work harder to "walk the talk." Young Women, ask your dad for advice!

AND THIRD, ASK YOUR FATHER FOR ADVICE.

Ask about his job, his interests, his goals. How did he decide to do the work that he does? What was he like when he was your age? How did he meet your mother? And as you learn more about him, you may find that his experiences help you to better understand why he responds the way that he does. Watch your dad. Watch how he treats your mother. Watch how he performs his Church callings. Watch how he interacts with other people. You will be surprised what you learn about him just by watching him and listening to him. Think about what you don't know about him and find out. Your love, admiration, and understanding will increase by what you learn. Girls, be interested in your dad's life.

SECOND, TAKE AN INTEREST IN YOUR FATHER'S LIFE.

He is not perfect, but he loves you and would never do anything he didn't think was in your best interest. So talk to him. Share your thoughts and feelings, your dreams and your fears. The more he knows about your life, the better chance he has to understand your concerns and to give you good counsel. When you put your trust in your dad, he will feel the responsibility of that trust and try harder than ever to understand and to help. As your father, he is entitled to inspiration on your behalf. His advice to you will be heartfelt expressions of someone who knows and loves you. Your dad wants more than anything for you to be happy and successful, so why would you not want to trust someone like that? Girls, trust your dad.

FIRST, TRUST YOUR FATHER.

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 121:41-45
What are the leadership qualities that priesthood holders are to develop?