

Thanks to our Speaker Today  
*Barrett Hoffman*

Welcome New Member  
*Elizabeth Medina*

### Father's Day Inspiration

*"One night a father overheard his son pray:  
Dear God, Make me the kind of man my Daddy is.  
Later that night, the Father prayed,  
Dear God, Make me the kind of man my son wants me to be."*  
Author Unknown

### June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador

### June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman 9 Sue Tanner

# Indio Informer

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## A Father's Day Homily

By Kenny Chumbley

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

"From his own father," C. S. Lewis wrote, George MacDonald "first learned that Fatherhood must be at the core of the universe." Few things strike me as more profound than this. To learn the ultimate reality is not some cold, blind natural force, or a glorified man/Olympian god, or a devil, or some other abstraction, but a Father who is flawlessly loving, good, and kind is, indeed, one of the greatest revelations given man (Matthew 6:9, 7:11).

**Faith and Fathering:** If faith is to be anywhere, it's to be in families, and in Hebrews 11:20-22, it's seen in three family relationships: father/son (v 20), grandfather/grandson (v 21), and brother/brother (v 22; Genesis 50:24). I'll admit my surprise that Isaac's fathering is cited as an example of his faith, for his parenting skills in Genesis 26-27 seem more marked by failure than faith. But God can spot faith even when it's hard to see—and doesn't that say something lovely about our God? In v 20, three considerations show the essentials in a father's faith.

**A father's obligation:** By faith Isaac blessed. Blessing has to do with the enhancement and enrichment of life. Its opposite is cursing (Deuteronomy 30:19), involving the destruction of life (Deuteronomy 23:5). Fathers bless their children when they love unconditionally, not demanding the child earn their love, or withholding love when the child fails. Conditional love causes children to react rather than act and usually leaves deep scars of anxiety, regardless of how much spiritual/moral teaching the child received. A father's faith should lead to fatherly love.

**A father's complication:** Jacob and Esau. The challenge of fatherhood is proportional to the difference in children. Isaac had

#### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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two sons—one was a man’s man, the other, a momma’s boy; one was profane (Hebrews 12:16), the other faithful; etc. When it comes to parenting, “one size doesn’t fit all,” and there’s no better illustration of this than the twins, Jacob and Esau. But despite their differences, Jacob blessed them—acted in their best interests—even when Esau didn’t realize it, understand it, or agree with it (Genesis 27:38, 41; Hebrews 12:17).

**A father’s orientation:** concerning things to come. Faith, says Hebrews 11:1, pulls the future into the present so as to affect the present. On a practical level, this could mean that a father isn’t interested in how a child feels and reacts now as much as how he will feel and react as an adult. True faith (and love) deals with a child with a view to the future (Hebrews 12:11). Note that in 11:20–22, each instance of faith involved a dying faith (for Isaac, see Genesis 27:1-2, 41). A person’s response to dying reveals their depths; and for Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, what they did showed their faith in God’s continuing purpose. Maybe these words from Paul get to the nub of Hebrews 11:20–22: *“For I know the one in whom I have placed my confidence, and I am perfectly certain that the work he has committed to me is safe in his hands until that day”* (2 Timothy 1:12, Phillips). The God who begins a good work will complete it (Philippians 1:6).

The greatest forces in the world are not thunderbolts and earthquakes but fathers and mothers who quietly and tirelessly live by faith in their home.

## Our Heavenly Father’s Day

By Doug Dingley

What comes to mind when you consider the term “Father’s Day?” Time spent with family reminiscing what wonderful things your dad did for you growing up? How he worked to love, guide, protect and provide for you? Is the first thing that comes to mind perhaps the Sunday celebration of “Father’s Day” where you take/took the time to travel to his house and present to him your gifts of love, gratitude, and appreciation? Maybe it’s a special meal as you and your siblings all gather around the same table to eat, enjoy, and celebrate? Now, granted, for some, there may be a far sadder stigma attached to “Father’s Day” because their dads were

somewhat less of a father than God desires that they should have been.



However, no matter what it is that may come to mind for you when you hear the term “Father’s Day,” one thing is for sure: If you are a blood-bought and adopted child of the living God (Galatians 3:26-27), your perfect, loving, and adoring heavenly Father is certainly worth celebrating every day in every way – but especially and in a special way on this, His special, “Father’s Day!” He brought us forth because He wanted, and it was His will to have us (James 1:18). Every good thing we have is from Him (Matthew 7:7-11, James 1:17). Every good thing heaven has to offer we have been given by our heavenly Father in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3-10). He guides, provides, nurtures, protects, strengthens, comforts, leads, teaches, matures, directs and disciplines us – all for our own good, growth, and godliness. But He does so with mercy, pity, and compassion, remembering our frailties (Psalms 103:8-14). He is truly *“our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace”* (2 Thessalonians 2:16).

And so, we celebrate Him. We come together with His other blood-bought children – our spiritual siblings in Christ – bearing our gifts of love, adoration, and appreciation, as we gather together within His house (2 Peter. 2:4-5; 1 Timothy 3:15). It is there that we sing His praises and give Him thanks (Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16-17; Hebrews 3:15). It is there, on His specially set-aside day, that we present Him with our gifts (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). And it is only and especially there and on His special day, that we have the privilege of sharing in the most sacred, special, and meaningful meal ever provided, as we gather around the table of the Lord together (1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 11:23-25; Acts 20:7).

You see, after all He’s done for us, our heavenly Father is far too special to celebrate only occasionally or annually. Every first day of the week is our heavenly Father’s Day! Let us be determined not to miss it for the world!