

## A Father's Day Challenge & Blessing

Flushing Community Church | June 18, 2017

**Leader:** Men of God, we are in the midst of writing our family story, a story that our children will tell their children. This is not a time for casual faith, lazy leadership or weakened love.

But, we are not alone! God has promised his help for us in times of trouble. Our wives, our children, our church and our community deserve more than our best. The challenge before us is not to be better men but to be men who are submitted to God- who can make us the best of men.

**Response:** *God be with us!*

**Leader:** "... the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."

"For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."

**Response:** *God, give us strength.*

**Leader:** We live in a busy world, full of responsibilities, work and the distraction of selfish pursuits. May you be a man who decisively takes time to be present and makes time to invest in others.

**Response:** *Lord, give us Your heart, Your eyes and Your wisdom.*

**Leader:** Our words have amazing power to build and destroy the lives of those who love us most. God's Word warns us that, "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness ... this should not be!"

His word also admonishes us to "not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

With this in mind, may you speak words that lead your family to experience the reality of a loving God.



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**Response:** God, help us lead our homes.

**Leader:** Your sons need to wrestle with you, your daughters need the security of your embrace. May you break through the barriers of your own insecurities to wrap them in loving arms

**Response:** God give use strength.

**Leader:** Work hard to provide for your family... and as you work- let go of your picture of success, refuse to be consumed by the wants forced on you by a culture of selfish consumption.

Jesus told us to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. May you be a righteous man with pure motives and Kingdom priorities

**Response:** Lord, help us to honor You in all we do.

**Leader:** Love is the most powerful thing that can happen between people. Do not be lazy in your love, take advantage of every opportunity through words and actions to demonstrate your love to your wife and children, knowing that your love will lead them to the heavenly father.

**Response:** God help us love as You have loved us.

**Leader:** None of this is easy, but our strength comes from the Lord! We challenge and bless you, with God's help, to be writers of great stories. May your stories be tales of faith, love, courage and peace.

**Response-** With God's help and in His strength, our stories will reveal His love and mercy.

**All Together:** Praise be to God!



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