

# DAD'S Letters



**What your child wish you knew**

**Samuel Ufot Ekekere**

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**Dedicated to my late Dad and every great dad out there.**

**T**his writ carries the words your child would love to write to you if they had the opportunity. Based on my experience as a child educator and from the many interactions I have had with young men and women, I have observed the seemingly endless wishes and desires they love to share with their dads.

Children are God's gift to man and fathers are one of the major 'instruments' He uses in ushering children into the world. This is nature. As archaic as it might seem, fathers like to think they own their children. The truth is fathers do not own their children. They are only custodians.

Even this privilege is temporary, just for a little while. They get to play this custodial role from the birth of the child, through adolescence till when the child becomes an adult at about 18-25 years of age.

For a child, this period of development, this stage in the journey to adulthood is fraught with challenges and pain. At times like this, there is

nothing your child needs than a shoulder to cry on and a listening ear.

Faced with uncertainty over how this 'baring of their feelings' will be received, and coupled with the experiences they might have faced in the past, today's child tend to clam up when given the opportunity to share their thoughts.

As a father, your child requires a level of communication, which can rarely be found in many homes. Looking at this from the perspective of your child, you will observe a thirst and hunger that has been left unsatisfied, a neglect of a major part of your responsibility.

As much as you strive to provide your kids with the necessities and bounties of life, the answers they need to their numerous questions have remained unanswered. This has posed a challenge especially in this contemporary world where there seem to be many things drawing the attention of fathers.

Every father has his child's love. The last thing any child would do is to hurt intentionally the feelings of their father. They are also faced with their own struggles and sometimes their feelings and decisions may be at crossroads with your intentions.

This book is for every father out there, Well dad, and every dad reading this, your child will be elated that you are reading this book. Your children want you to understand that they are not intentionally trying to be difficult and constantly at loggerheads with you, this is simply a part of their growth.

As you read this, take the time to look at your own child. Your own child is writing to you. Your children want you to understand them as they also strive to understand you too.

Take your time to read this; you would be glad you did.





# 1

## YOUR PROMISE TO MUM

Dear Dad,

**O**ften times fathers fail to remember the promises they made to their wives on the day of their wedding. Most often, they renege on their agreements thus causing great harm to their kids. Dad I would like you to know that the best you would want to see me be can be achieved when you keep your promise to mom.

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A handful of disasters has occurred in the lives of many kids that could have been averted if their parents were together. Breaking your agreement with mom has had tremendous negative impact on me. Those memories would remain in me, far into the future and I will live with the hurts for the rest of my life.

Dad, I think you and mom are great together and I admire how you both have striven to overcome your challenges. I would love to raise a family in the future that looks like the one you created for me with mom.

Nothing is as good as waking up each morning, to see you two together, the laughter, the feeling of togetherness. As an “*observer*”, I believe am in the best position to tell you that you and mom are happiest when you are together.

You may not acknowledge this little fact but I watch you and I expect you to serve as an example on how best to run a family in the future. I hate to

hear these threats of divorce and I would love always to see our family in one piece.

I want to know you can be a father I can look up to as a role model. I do not like the stigma of having a single dad or single mom. I would hate to be like the grass after two elephants have fought and the tussle for visitation rights. I am looking up to you as a symbol of family unity, a model I will want to copy for my own family too.

My sister wants to think she can have her husband in the future having similar attributes just like you. She wants to look at you and see a model her husband can copy.

I hate to see my parents divided and for sure when parents are divided, the home is divided and the children are divided. I love the unity we can have as one bunch.

I might not have been around to know when and how you made that promise and agreement with mom but I know my siblings and I are the fruits of

such agreement and I am aware your agreement was for better and for worse. I love to know my role model can keep his words.

You promised to love mom forever, through the good and the bad. It is this promise you made that makes me watch your every step and method of handling issues relating to the family.

I know you are doing everything within your capability to see the unity of our family preserved. I am learning conflict resolution from you, and it is my hope you are good enough to tutor me using our family as a model.

Dad, I want you to know divorce is not an option worth considering. You need realize that though, you may have some bad times with mom, there are no problems that cannot be resolved.

I have studied conflict resolution in my school and I would love to see the conflicts in our home resolved amicably, a task I know you are well capable to carry out

God had mandated the marriage union until death do you part. I would love to know that you can respect God's words. In doing this, you are teaching me to have sublime faith in God.

I want to have a family I can always run to for comfort. I always want to feel the warmth of belonging to a family I can call mine where mom and dad are happy being together.

Marriage is honorable. I want to learn this from you and mom. I would love to appreciate the honor that comes with having a partner for life. I will not like to see you abuse mom. It diminishes the honor that marriage brings.

Dad, I believe that your union with mom is P-

- Perfect, worthy of commendation created by no other person than God himself.
- R-Responsibility handed to you from God that involves mom and me

- **O-Order** necessitated by God meant for the continuation of human race
- **M-Mysteries** that can only be described by the creator.
- **I- An Indispensable** necessity in the world.
- **S-Source** of blessing that God has vowed for the union.
- **E-Exemplary** lifestyle recommended and commendable.

Keeping the promise and your promise has enormous effect not just on me but also on the people around you, who are glad and happy you are the keeping the promise you made in their presence. They love to remember that day when you made your vows to mom, to stand by her.

Remember there are many eyes watching you. While some may desire to see you renege in your promise, many others are happy to associate with this promise.

Being a dad is the result of the vow you made to mom. The promise you made that resulted in my coming into the world is a vow that must be kept whatever the case. Realize that as a dad you have the responsibility to keep your promise, not just another promise, but God's promise.

Keeping the promise you made to mom protects you from all those extramarital diseases that hunt the world of promise breakers. HIV\AIDS rampages our streets and keeping your promise to mum protects you from this. I know this dad and I will be proud to have a faithful father who keeps his promises. Keep your promise dad.

*With Love,*  
your son.





# 2

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Dad,

**I**t is not odd to say that many dads have failed in the responsibility God has given them. Every dad has a responsibility and you may fail to realize that I know your responsibilities as a dad towards my siblings, mom and myself.

As dad, your responsibility number one is protection. You have a responsibility to protect our

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