

Managing Life's Transitions
MANAGING THE NEED FOR DAD
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The Big Idea

Men are often called upon to be dads before they are ready. Everybody needs a good dad. Ideally we get that from our family. But frequently that is not the case. So we need to look elsewhere while honoring our dads who gave us life. Today we are going to find out how to be a good dad by having a good dad. And learn how each of us can have a good dad.

1. Use the power of dad.

- You may have thought I would say the power of God.
- But God gave dads great influence.
- A recent poll reveals who **Americans real heroes** are. (See "The Number One American Hero?")
 - #1 Hero: Dad**
 - #2 Hero: Mom**
 - #3 Hero: Husband**
 - #4 Hero: God/Jesus/Religious Figure**
 - #5 Hero: More Family**
- What this poll reveals is that the family – and especially dad – still hold great influence in our society.
- This is God given.
- **Proverbs 17:6**
 - *Grandchildren are the crown of old men, and the glory of sons is their fathers.* NASU
 - *Old men are proud of their grandchildren, just as boys are proud of their fathers.* TEV
 - *Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.* NIV
- Use your dad power carefully. But use it!
 - Don't assume you don't have it.
 - You have more than you think.
 - Your children – and others – need it.

2. Make sure you have a good dad.

- You need a good dad to be a good dad.
 - If we haven't seen it done well, it's very hard to do it well.
- Many dads become dads before they are ready.
 - They may not have been appropriately fathered.
- You need a good dad to be a good dad.
 - He may be your biological dad.
 - Or he may be an adopted spiritual dad.

- God is/makes a great dad.
- **Ephesians 3:14-15**
 - *For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family [from whom all fatherhood] in heaven and on earth derives its name. NIV*
 - *For this reason I fall on my knees before the Father, from whom every family [all fatherhood] in heaven and on earth receives its true name. TEV*
- In the Greek language of the Bible, the word “family” literally means “paternal descent”.
 - In other words, those who descended from a particular father.
- God the Father created a family out of his love.
 - And he wants you to adopt you into it.
 - To show you his generous love for you and power to redeem you.
- You may not see God that way.
 - But you need God that way.
 - And that is the way God is.
- You need to be fathered by God.
 - He is a great dad.
 - **Ephesians 1:3-5** *How we praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we belong to Christ. Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure. NLT*

Song on CD with slides: “Father Me”

At some point we need to transition from just needing a father to being a father.

- You may feel inadequate and ill prepared.
- You may have been fathered poorly.
- But your children need a father.
- And so do the fatherless and those poorly fathered.

3. **Learn** good dad stuff.

Samson’s dad learns how to be a good dad – Judges 13:1-14

Judges 13:8 *Then Manoah prayed to the LORD: "O Lord, I beg you, let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born." NIV*

- **Give your children a sense of **value** and **identity**.**
 - Tell them they came from God, God gave them to you.
 - **Judges 13:3** *The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, "You are sterile and childless, but you are going to conceive and have a son. NIV*
 - The greatest answer to the deception of evolution is dad.
 - Tell your kids the truth about where they came from.
 - Read the Genesis account of creation to them about 40 times.

- **Instill in them the importance of purity.**
 - Samson had a unique calling to be a Nazarite, like John the Baptist.
 - **Judges 13:7** *For your son will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from the moment of his birth until the day of his death. NLT*
 - Purity should have purpose.
 - We belong to our loving God.
 - He created us and redeemed us.
 - So he holds loving claim to us.
 - We are here to please him.
 - **1 Corinthians 6:18-20** *Run away from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Or don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. NLT*
 - Your greatest single weapon to promote purity is your own example of integrity.
 - See "Father Really Knows Best"

- **Inspire in them a sense of purpose.**
 - Samson was a deliverer.
 - **Judges 13:5** *He [Samson] will rescue Israel from the Philistines. NLT*
 - God didn't choose a deliverer.
 - He created one over time.
 - Give them a cause beyond themselves.
 - Instill it in them early.
 - Imagine with them the power of their influence on others.
 - God is still looking for rescuers.

- **Release them to God.**
 - God's Spirit took over for the parents.
 - **Judges 13:24-25** *When her son was born, they named him Samson. And the LORD blessed him as he grew up. And in Mahaneh-dan, which is located between the towns of Zorah and Eshtaol, the Spirit of the LORD began to take hold of him. NLT*
 - Samson was now responsible for his own choices, though they weren't always great.
 - Release means give up control, love unconditionally, respect their choices, and offer encouragement and advice.

4. **Export your dad power.**

- Find some fatherless and poorly fathered.
- Serve them as dad.
- **Deuteronomy 10:17-18** *For the LORD your God...defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. NIV*
- **Psalms 68:5** *A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. NIV*