



A Dad and His Influence
Deuteronomy 6:6-9
June 19, 2022

A Word to Every Dad:

Dad, thank you for taking the time to come to the House of God today. You may or may not be a Christian, but your just being in this room today is a big deal to God and me. You have already encouraged your kids, wife, and pastor by being here. So, from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for coming to church this Father's Day.

Dr. David Popenoe, Professor of Sociology at Rutgers University:

"Fathers are far more than just 'second adults' in the home. Involved fathers – especially biological fathers – bring positive benefits to their children that no other person is as likely to bring. They provide protection and economic support and male role models. They have a parenting style that is significantly different from that of a mother, and that difference is important in healthy child development."

Al Mohler:

"As defined in the Bible, manhood is a functional reality, demonstrated in a man's fulfillment of responsibility, influence, and leadership."

I. A Dad of Influence Leaves a Legacy

A. A legacy of long life

Deuteronomy 6:1–2 (NKJV) Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, ²That you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

Takeaway:

How we live as dads today greatly affects our children and their children's children. Three generations of people are counting on dad living out a Godly family faith.

Proverbs 9:10–11 (NKJV) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. ¹¹For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you.

Proverbs 22:4–5 (NLT) True humility and fear of the LORD lead to riches, honor, and long life. ⁵Corrupt people walk a thorny, treacherous road; whoever values life will avoid it.

B. A legacy of organization and not chaos

Ephesians 6:2–3 (NLT) Honor your father and mother. This is the first commandment with a promise: ³If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.

Takeaway:

As a dad reads the Bible, he is investing in the lives of his kids and grandkids. It literally pays a man to read the Word of God. A dad's obedience to the Lord or his lack of obedience goes a long way in determining what your children and grandchildren will know of God's Word in their personal lives. Either you are creating a blessing/legacy for them, or you are laying the groundwork for a life of hurt and sorrow for them.

II. A Dad of Influence Loves Passionately

A. Parents need to love God with a sincere love

Deuteronomy 6:5 (ESV) You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart...

Takeaway:

Our kids already know we are not perfect; they simply want to know that you are legit and sincere. Until our children start seeing parents, especially dad, fully in love with God, we will never steward our parental influence properly. Children are tired of hearing parents speak about the pastor's sermon; they desire to have parents who "live out" the pastor's sermons.

Tom Brady:

"Youth sports, and what I remember from being in youth sports, everything was really localized. There were no travel teams. My parents always exposed us to different things, different sports. It was basketball when it was basketball season. It was baseball when it was baseball season. I didn't play football until I was a freshman in high school. A lot of soccer. There were some camps, but I just played in the neighborhood on our street with all the kids we grew up with. It's just different now, and I'm experiencing it with my own kids with all the organized activities that you put them in. It's just hard because all the parents are doing it, it seems, and the competition feels like it starts so early for these kids."

Let me go a step deeper:

Until our kids start seeing parents that are fully, deeply, and passionately in love with God, they will never buy into God's greatness. Dad, are you presently pushing your children more toward loving sports or more toward loving God? What if all the dads were to get together and say this to their children: "You can play any sport you want to play, and you can play as many different sports that you want to play, but the day that I see that you don't love God more than sports that's the day the sports are gone." Dad, you must stop living vicariously through your children.

B. Parents need to love God with a selfless love

Deuteronomy 6:5b (ESV) You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul...

C. Parents need to love God with a strong love

Deuteronomy 6:5 (ESV) You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Takeaway:

Dad, we cannot pass off what we do not possess to our children.

III. A Dad of Influence Lives Life on Purpose

A. Dad lives a life of conviction

Deuteronomy 6:6 (ESV) And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

Deuteronomy 6:6 (NLT) And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.

Something every parent ought to consider:

Parents, as you make your plans remember this, it's highly unlikely your children will prioritize the things they watch you marginalize. So, make local church attendance a priority in your life as a parent if you desire your children to make it a priority in theirs.

B. Dad lives a life of consistency

Deuteronomy 6:7 (NLT) Repeat them again and again to your children.

C. Dad lives a life of conversation

Deuteronomy 6:7 (ESV) You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

In Other Words:

Parents must talk about God, Jesus, and the kingdom often. Parents must steer their children and their conversations toward spiritual outcomes.

Deuteronomy 6:20–21 (ESV) When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?' ²¹Then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.'

Proverbs 4:10 (ESV) Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many.

D. Dad lives a life of visibility

Deuteronomy 6:8–9 (ESV) You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Psalms 1:1–2 (ESV) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers. ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law, he meditates day and night.