

# Becoming the Dad You were Created to be!

Deut. 11:18-21 John 3:14-21

## Video: I'm Watching You Dad

Dad's the video is accurate - your children and grandchildren are watching you. What do they see? Let's explore what Jesus wants you to be!

Men, help me out this morning:

**Picture of a Race Horse—was created to do what?**

**Picture of a Billy Graham-was created to do what?**

**Picture of an Apple tree-was created to do what?**

**Picture of DADS, you were created to train up your children to know Jesus Christ and become his life-long disciples.**

*Deut. 11:18 “You shall therefore **lay up** these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*

**It is a Command:** *You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and soul.*

“Lay up” an action that requires us to do something intentional.

What is that something? To intentionally put within us the Word of God.

To put the Words of Jesus into our mind and hearts so that they become the DNA of who we are.

First and foremost men you need to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

**What does that mean?**

To know him means that we deeply love him, want to be like him and he has become our reason for living.

He is more important than sports, fame, success, power or money.

Knowing Jesus-means knowing the truth about him and living for him becomes the pursuit, the focus of our lives.

**BUT....You cannot pass along what you don't have!**

Many men are good providers, protectors of the their families, hard working and truly care about their wife and children.

On the day of judgment Jesus will say to many of these men-“you did a good job in all areas but you failed in the most important.”

‘The most important was for you to represent me to your children training them in the truth and equipping them to love me as their lord and savior.’

The reason many of these good men fail is due to the fact that most of them have never truly submitted their lives to Jesus Christ.

Men, the most important thing you can do in life is to bow before Jesus and submit your life, your family, your job, your goals, your eternity to him and him alone.

The tallest man in the world is the man on his knees before Jesus.

If you want to be the father and husband Jesus created you to be then you must begin by submitting to Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

This is where we must all begin:

**Men-I am going to ask you right now to make a decision to publicly commit yourself to Jesus Christ and seek to know him with all your heart.**

**I am going to ask you to pray with me these words:**

- 1. Jesus, I admit that I am filled with guilt and shame.**
- 2. Lord, I admit that you, Jesus are the only Savior.**
- 3. Therefore I now confess my shame and guilt to Jesus.**
- 4. I now receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior.**
- 5. I commit to becoming his life-long disciple.**

**Pray the prayer for commitment.**

Congratulations to those men who just had the courage and resolve to confess Jesus and make a life-time commitment to him.

I want you to tell me today that you made that commitment when this service is over.

As men who have committed themselves to Jesus what do you do now?

You begin a process of intentionally raising your children and grandchildren to know Jesus.

*19 You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 20 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 21 that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.*

**These verses point out how Dad's need to be intentional and have a plan for sharing the reality and truth of Jesus with their children.**

Dad's, you are the best foundation for your children and grandchildren when it comes to Jesus Christ.

Study after study after study has shown that when Dad's speak openly about their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ more than 90% of their children become lifelong disciples of Jesus.

## **Eight Ways to Share Jesus with your Children.**

### **1. Tell them your life story of Jesus and teach them about Jesus through your stories.**

Kids love to hear stories about your childhood. Weave in some truth or experience about Jesus. It's especially effective at bedtime, when there are fewer distractions. They'll fall asleep with the story swirling around inside them.

I tell the story to my children and grandchildren of how Jesus came looking for me when I was just a child. How did he come looking for me?

My Mom has kept all my grade cards from K-college.

My kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Threalkill, wrote these words on my grade card, May 1956. "Tommy has a very strong faith in God."

How did I get that strong faith? Jesus was drawing me to himself.

### **2. Live your own life according to your faith in Jesus—walk the talk.**

Kids learn by imitating, especially at a young age. They're very adept at seeing the match between what you say and what you do. Don't give them confusing signals; follow your own values every moment.

Especially true when you lose your emotions and become angry. Stop, say to your children, daddy is wrong to get so angry. I have sinned against you and Jesus by my anger. "Jesus forgive me and give me peace."

### **3. Tell Your Children that You Love Them**

Dad's are the primary reality of Jesus to their children. When you tell them verbally, "I love you." and say it often you are building inner peace and security into their lives.

#### **4. Ask your kids questions that will stimulate dialogue about Jesus.**

Telling your kids what values they should have won't be very effective, especially when your kids get older.

Asking them "curious" questions will allow discussions that will eventually lead to values.

#### **5. Watch TV with your children and ask them questions about what they are seeing and hearing.**

Most of us are not going to toss out our TV's. If you have God bless you. For the rest of us we need to know how to use the media to our advantage.

How? What the shows your children watch. Sit with them, talk to them about the show. Don't permit a lie, a misleading idea to slip by without bringing your faith and values to play.

Beau, isn't that a silly idea they are talking about? They are saying everything came into existence by chance. They don't know that Jesus made everything do they?"

#### **6. Involve your kids in helping others because of Jesus.**

Kids learn values when they experience them. Allow them to experience helping others by donating a portion of their money to the needy, or by getting involved in charity work. When your kids can see first-hand their faith in Jesus producing a blessing for other, an important value will be established for a lifetime.

#### **7. Have frequent conversations about Jesus in your household**

Don't make the mistake of only talking about Jesus when something goes wrong. Your kids need to hear your faith reflected often in conversations. It's another way for them to know that it's important.

## **8. Have high expectations for your kids' faith and biblical values.**

Your kids will tend to rise to the level of your expectations. Their faith and worldview will often reflect yours, as long as you expect them to make it an important part of their life.

When your kids are making a decision, ask them to consider how their decision fits into their own faith in Jesus and their Christian values.

### **One more thought for the dads and:**

During the Vietnam war a good number of our American pilots were held prisoners of war by the Vietcong.

Some of them were severely beaten and tortured like **Senator John McCain**.

The biggest problem was not the beatings but the boredom. Day after day after day with nothing to do, nothing to read, nothing to see.

One soldier, raised as a Christian, decided to recall all the scripture passages he had learned as a child.

He soon discovered that beyond John 3:16 and Psalm 23 his memory was void.

Dads, make a game out of memorizing the following five scripture verse.

Offer a treat when your children or grandchild can recite it back to you.

Here are the five I am teaching my grandson:

### **Beau, Jesus has a Purpose for You:**

*Jeremiahs 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

### **You Have a Savior-Jesus**

*John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

### **Jesus is the One and Only!**

*Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

### **Jesus has Work for you to Do**

*Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

### **Eternal Life has Already Begun**

*John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

Once you put the Word of God in their heart two things happen.

1. The devil cannot take it away.
2. The Holy Spirit has fertile ground for guidance, correction and encouragement for their daily life.

### **Yellow Card**

**\_\_\_\_\_ I will read Deuteronomy 11:18-21 everyday this week asking Jesus to make it my way of life.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ I will consciously move Jesus to the top of my list in order to communicate him to my children.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ As a man, I will take the primary responsibility before Jesus Christ, to teach and train my children/grandchildren in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

