

# TRAINING OUR BOYS TO BE MEN (AND MEN OF GOD)

With Jon Dunagan of Harvest Ministry – harvestministry.org

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## 1. REEVALUATE YOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONSE TO FATHERHOOD:

- **Psalm 139:13** “You knit me together while I was in my mother’s womb...”
- **Hebrews 11:3** “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God...”
- If words “framed” the universe, how much more can words “frame” the life of your son!
- **Proverbs 18:21** “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and those who love it shall eat its fruit.”

**Did your initial response to fatherhood (or parenthood) bring “life” or “death”?**  
As a father, you must understand the importance of the words you speak to your son.

## 2. REPENT OF ANY KNOWN SINS (OR FAMILY STRONGHOLDS / INIQUITIES):

- **Isaiah 53:5** “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”

**Transgressions = personal sins**  
**Iniquities = strongholds from generational or habitual sins**

- **1 Peter 1:18** “knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

## 3. THANK GOD FOR THE STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR SON:

- Continually remind yourself and your son that God has a special plan for his life:
- **Psalm 127:3** “Children are a heritage from the Lord. The fruit of the womb is His reward.”
- **Jeremiah 29:11** “I know the thoughts that I have for you declares the Lord, thoughts of good and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”
- Continually pray and speak the words of God (such as Psalm chapter 1) over your son.
- **Psalm 1** “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law of the Lord . . . “

## 4. REMEMBER THE 4 “D’S” OF DISCIPLINE:

- Discipline for 3 “D’s” **Disobedience, Dishonesty, and Disrespect** – (and be consistent!)
- And Dads, the 4th “D” is for you – “**Don’t Provoke Your Children ...**” (Ephesians 4:6, Colossians 3:21)

**Always wait until you are calm. Never discipline in anger. Never discipline for mistakes.**  
**Remind your son that you are disciplining him because you love him.**

- **Proverbs 19:18** “Discipline your son while there is hope; do not be a partaker of his death.”
- **Proverbs 3:12** “For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.”
- **Hebrews 12:6** “...whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.”

## 5. TRAIN YOUR SON TO WALK WITH GOD:

- **Deuteronomy 11:19** “Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

**Informal or Formal Bible Training: (do what works for you): Teach about Creation, Judgment for Sin, Salvation through the Cross, and Wisdom. Use examples from history, the Bible, and current events.**

- **1 Corinthians 11:1** “Follow me as I follow Christ.” (Be an example to your son.)

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## 6. TRAIN YOUR SON TO WORK HARD (AND TO WORK SMART)

- **Colossians 3:23** “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”
- **II Timothy 2:1-10** “Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus . . .”
- Gently train your son to do the job right the first time.

*Note analogies – faithful man, good soldier, competitive athlete, and hardworking farmer*

## 7. TRAIN TO BE RUGGEDLY INDEPENDENT (SELF-DISCIPLINED AND HONORABLE)

- **Self-Disciplined Spiritually:** In daily prayer and God’s Word (reading, listening, memorizing, studying)
- **Self-Disciplined Mentally:** Show personal initiative in education, learning new things, and not being LAZY
- **Self-Disciplined Physically:** Strong, physically fit, healthy, investing time in physical exercise  
69% of USA is overweight. 35% of USA is obese (US Center for Disease Control, 2013)
- **Self-Disciplined to be Honorable and Chivalrous (to your mother, sisters, other women, and girls)**  
Remember, “How you treat your mother is how you will treat your wife someday.”  
Examples: open doors, give a seat, carry heavy items, share a jacket, give flowers, write a note, and be kind
- **Disciplined** to guard your eyes and ears (media, music, movies, internet, cell phones – Guard the Gates!)  
True integrity and character is seen (and tested) by the decisions you make when NO ONE IS LOOKING.
- **Disciplined** to choose good friends (“Show me your friends and I’ll show you, you!”)
- **Disciplined** to honor and respect others (parents, tutors, coaches, adults, leaders, and the lost)

## 8. TRAIN YOUR SON TO LIVE LIFE LARGE (FOR GOD’S GLORY)

- **Train your son have fun, and to live with ADVENTURE** (not just living vicariously through others).
- **Be free to ENJOY LIFE!** (In the Old Testament, God’s feast-days accounted for 21% of average income.)
- **Not just staring at a box – looking at a computer, playing video games, or watching TV.**  
Average in USA = 8 hours per day in front of a TV or computer screen. (New York Times)  
49% of men play video games 2 hours 45 minutes a day. Average buyer: 35 years old.

See “Why Men Are in Trouble” CNN Opinion by William J. Bennett

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/04/opinion/bennett-men-in-trouble>

## 9. TRAIN YOUR SON TO GIVE GENEROUSLY

- **Train your son to be a generous giver** -- to the Lord, to the church, to world missions, and to the poor -- including volunteer service, offerings, and personal attitudes about hospitality and personal possessions
- **James 1:27** “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the father is this, to visit widows and orphans . . .”
- **Matthew 25:40** Jesus said “...when you’ve done it unto the least of these, you’ve done it unto Me...”
- Basic standard: tithe 10%, save 10%, spend 80%. As a Christian, it ALL belongs to God.
- **Deuteronomy 8:18** “It is God who gives the ability to create wealth.”

*“A man may die leaving upwards of a million, without taking any of it upwards.” –William Fetter*

## 10. TRAIN YOUR SON TO LIVE FOR GOD’S GLORY (TO DEVELOP GOD-GIVEN GIFTS)

- Train your son to live with a **HEAVENLY, ETERNAL, and GLOBAL** vision
- To OBEY God’s **GREAT COMMANDMENT** (Love God, Love Others) and God’s **GREAT COMMISSION**
- **Encourage your son to DEVELOP HIS GOD-GIVEN GIFTS** (seek wisdom regarding further education, college, career choices, and kingdom-advancing **LEADERSHIP** . . . all with a servant’s heart.)

*“All men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity. But the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dream with open eyes, to make it possible. This I did.” – T.E. Lawrence*