

# Outline

## Father's Day: Dads Matter!

I will give out a few prizes of my own to men in the audience:

**Gift 1:** For the man who never underestimates the power of letting your light shine: The Ni River 1 Million Candle Power Spotlight.

**Gift 2:** For the dad who understands the importance of keeping a level head: The Ni River Laser Leveler.

**Gift 3:** For the man who needs the occasional ego booster: The Ni River Stud Finder. When dad places it on himself and it reads "STUD FOUND" He'll be delighted!

It's good to be a man, isn't it, men? "Why?" you women may be asking. Here are the **Top 10 Reasons It's Good to Be a Man!**

10: Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat.

9: A 10-day vacation requires only a carry on bag.

8: When clicking through the channels, you don't have to stall at every rerun of *The Bachelor*.

7: Guys in hockey masks don't attack you ... unless you're playing hockey.

6: The Jonas Brothers don't live in your universe.

5: Car mechanics tell you the truth.

4: You can admire Matthew McConaughey without starving yourself to look like him.

3: Gray hair and wrinkles only add character to men.

2: If another guy shows up at the party in the same outfit, you just might become lifelong buddies.

1: The occasional well-rendered belch is practically expected.

How many know what day of the year are the most phone calls are made on? Mother's Day. On Mother's Day everyone wants to call home and talk to mom... Guess what happens on Father's Day? The most collect Calls. That's ok though. Dads like to be needed... It's all good. What comes around goes around. Just wait till we're in the retirement home calling YOU collect all the time, kids...

Father's Day just doesn't seem to have a very high priority compared to other holidays, does it? In contrast, Mother's Day is a huge deal. Forget Mother's Day and you'll be in the dog house till Father's Day... In that case, it's more like Independence Day.

Mothers are highly esteemed on Mother's Day. As a young boy growing up in church, I remember every Mother's Day was a salute to mothers. But on Father's Day, all the preacher ever did was tell the dads what they should be doing right instead of what they have been doing right. It was more like a boot camp than a day to honor dads. So today, dads, this one's for you... **Dad's Matter! (Give away the Upscale car wash bucket from Autozone)**

Fathers hold a very special place in society... A much higher place than they are given credit for today. For instance, how many of you have seen a commercial that actually makes dads look intelligent lately? Most commercials cast fathers as the family idiot, who can't figure out how to take care of the kids alone, how to run a load of laundry or clean the toilets without specific instructions from mom. Then there are the dads from **Raymond** on *Everybody Loves Raymond* to any of the men on *The Secret Life of an American Teenager* to \_\_\_\_\_, American society seems to see fathers as expendable parts of the family unit: as nothing more than sperm donors and dead beats. In courtrooms, divorced

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dads hardly have a fighting chance of obtaining custody of their kids, or even being allowed to be a significant part of their kid's lives, much less have the opportunity to be the spiritual leader of their household.

Sadly, many men today also neglect to see the importance of their role as a father themselves, which is why the term "dead-beat dad" was originally coined. As a result, their kids are growing up in unbalanced and dysfunctional households. In fact 39.6 % of the children in America are going to bed every night without their biological father in the home. Fathers need to be reinstated to the level of importance that God intended for them! In fact, I've seen very strong evidence which points to the fact that the reason American morality and spiritual integrity is at such an all time low is because of the declining value placed on the role of the father in today's society.

Dads matter! To God and to moms and to healthy, well balanced children! Dads Matter! Look at these facts from some research on dads from [\*\*The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.\*\*](#)

- ◇ Children with involved, loving fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior, and avoid high-risk behaviors such as drug use, truancy, and criminal activity compared to children who have uninvolved fathers.
- ◇ Studies on parent-child relationships and child wellbeing show that father love is an important factor in predicting the social, emotional, and cognitive development and functioning of children and young adults.
- ◇ Children who live absent their biological fathers are, on average, at least two to three times more likely to be poor, to use drugs, to experience educational, health, emotional and behavioral problems, to be victims of child abuse, and to engage in criminal behavior than their peers who live with their married, biological (or adoptive) parents.

When dad is undervalued, so is a right relationship with Abba, our Father in Heaven.

Today, my goal is not to remind our dads of their duties and responsibilities so much as to encourage and remind us all of their importance: the respect and the dignity of the role of a father – **Dads Matter!** Fathers play an extremely important and vital role in our families and in our nation today. **(Give away the Target Plug in cooler chest)**

### **Dads Matter Because God Values Them as Leaders.**

"Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord." Colossians 3:18-20 NIV

And, in 1 Timothy 3, dads, as parents, are urged to manage their children and their household in a respectable manner. So the **father is charged with the responsibility of looking after the best interests of his family: financially, spiritually and socially.** When a man becomes a father, he isn't given some sort of rulebook on how to conduct himself. No one tells a man how to manage his household. It is something he picks up from a few very important sources: **First, from the way his own father treated him:** how he grew up as a child and interacted with his dad, **Second from what he learns from his relationship with God and by the Word of God.**

People so often have the perception that dads don't love their kids as much as mothers, because they aren't as emotional or endearing, but fathers have the capacity to love just as much as any other spiritual being. It's just expressed in different ways. Instead of a tender hug it is often **a strong bear hug**, but

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it always feels good to be loved by dad. Dads are just designed by God to express their love in different ways. They express their love when they guard their family and provide good things to their wife and kids. They love their kids by 'rasslin on the floor, a punch on the arm, playing a game to 11 on the hoop in the driveway, even when they have worked hard and would rather 'veg' in front of the TV. Dads love by calling their sons "wild men" when they do something manly like taking a hit and breaking their nose in a soccer game, but keep on playing. A dad's love shows up with goofy stuff like belch contests, and laughing together over boogers and 'loogies' and such. A dad's love feels great when he hugs his little girl in front of her friends when she is 17 and calls her "Sweets." Good men learn how to be good dads from healthy father-son relationships. **Dads Matter!** (Give away the large tote-along cooler with misc. stuff inside from *Walmart*)

Since almost 40% of kids grow up without dad at home, we know there has to be another source of example for the developing dad, and that's the example we have in Jesus Christ. **The best dads take their example from Jesus Christ and pass the legacy of the Lord on to their family.** The legacy of Christ's love is the greatest gift a father can give, and to be like Jesus in the way we manage our household is the greatest expression of love a dad can give to his family. Recently on the men's canoe trip I talked to a young father who had not been given a good example by either of his parents growing up. They had given him an example of laziness, drug and alcohol addiction, a lack of provision due to the addictions – even the example of thievery and crime that was engaged in to support these things – in and out of jail experiences for both parents. They had spent no time with him or shown him much care at all. I was amazed with his story – amazed that he had not fallen into the same pattern from their example. But no, he was choosing a different lifestyle – he was choosing to take responsibility to give his wife and kids a good home and choosing to live his life opposite of the example given by his parents. He chose to be disciplined and to teach himself character and morals and how to be a good parent. He chose to get involved in church to surround himself with morality and good teaching. When I see this young man and his lovely wife and their children, I see a tenderness that is beautiful and a dad who is engaged with his children, desiring to raise them in morality and love. That is what has to happen in a lot of homes. We dads have to learn how to be a dad and how to be moral on our own, choosing to follow the example of Jesus in the Bible.

When Peter asked Jesus how they were going to pay their taxes, Jesus told him to take a coin from the fish's mouth; this teaches His people that our Father God is a God of provision. When Jesus fed the multitude with a few loaves of bread and a few fish, He provided the example of a father who provides all the needs of His family, and He commands dads today to do the same. **Dads Matter!** Give away the 2 large golf umbrellas from *Costco*

### **Dads Matter Because They Naturally Provide and Protect.**

"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." 1 Timothy 5:8 NIV

In the same way, dads have the awesome responsibility of providing for their family. Our egos are wrapped up in our employment. We're ashamed if we are unemployed. The brunt of the responsibility to provide for the welfare of a family unit rests on the shoulders of the husband. **Dads are always striving to maintain a balance of providing for their family and spending quality time with the family.** And believe me, that is a tough balance for a dad, as he must fight against his ego and desire to work and provide as well as honor his commitment to be a quality family member. Scripture teaches us that there has to be balance in our lives. Because men are hard wired with the desire to provide for their family and make a good home for their children, **there's a constant struggle to maintain a balance between the giving of our time and the giving of our things.** A man constantly has to look to God for direction and example on how to manage his household. God's example is that He always provided for His children, but He never replaces the value of spending quality time with His children by giving them things to keep them busy. So, while the provision is there in abundance, our Father God always places the greater em-

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phasis on the time we spend together with Him. In the same way, a father's duty to provide for his family shouldn't overshadow the importance of spending quality time with them either. [Dads Matter! Give away Championship Paint Ball Course in Hampton VA from Sam's Club](#)

### **Dads Matter Because They Build Character Through Discipline and Role Model**

A father also expresses his love through discipline. When Jesus rebuked Peter saying, "Satan, get thee behind me." He portrayed the power of love through the act of discipline, not wanting Peter to be lost in the old way of thinking. Discipline is difficult, and it is often times received by our children as a bad thing, but it is a primary fruit of fatherly love. Dad has to discipline if he loves his children.

["My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in." Proverbs 3:11-12](#)

A dad has to discipline because he wants the best for his children. The discipline of a father sets the whole course of his family's lives on fire. Children raised in the discipline of a strong and loving father have greater discipline as adults, and disciplined adults make greater contributors to society.

A young man was making poor grades in school, particularly in math. His parents tried various things, none of which seemed to produce the desired improvement. Finally, they decided to enroll him in a private school. At the end of the first grading period, the young man came home and proudly presented his report card to his parents. They were shocked to find that all of his grades had improved significantly. Most noticeably, he had received his first-ever "A" in math. His parents were overjoyed and began to question him to determine what it was that had finally produced the improvement they had sought. "Was it the non-traditional teaching methods in the private school?" No. "Was it the smaller class sizes and more individual attention?" No. "Well, what WAS it then that caused such a big turn around?" they asked. "Well," the son replied, "when I walked into that school on the first day and the first thing I saw was that man nailed to that plus sign, I KNEW I'd better take math seriously here."

Discipline is the act of a father urging his kids to live the right way, for the development and growth of his family. In the movie, "Remember the Titans," the coach pushed those students to the brink of their abilities. Some accused him of trying to ruin them and break their spirits. But by pushing them - he made them stronger. It prepared them for a difficult season of football - and in the end they went undefeated and won the championship because of their discipline. If he hadn't pushed them, they never would have pushed themselves. In the same way, a family is made by a father's discipline. And so, like a coach that pushes his players - the father disciplines and urges his children, to make them stronger. [Dads Matter! Give away the Washington Nationals Tickets from Sam's Club](#)

### **Dads Matter Because They Are Protectors – Ephesians 5 - 6**

[Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives....](#)

[Children, do what your parents tell you. This is only right. "Honor your father and mother" is the first commandment that has a promise attached to it, namely, "so you will live well and have a long life." Fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead](#)

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them in the way of the Master.

Dad expresses his love through protection. A dad places himself in the way of trouble to protect his family. Jesus applied the example of the greatest love possible when He laid down His life to save us, His people. In the same way, a father is charged with the duty of laying down his life, his desires, his personal interests for the sake of his family. Dads are the first line of defense for their family, and are often the first area where Satan attacks, because the enemy knows if you can take the leader out, his subjects are soon to follow. Dads protect your heart because you matter

But the grand prize of being a Dad is what I will end with: the grandest prize you can give your kids and the grand expression of love from a dad is the legacy of Jesus. The great legacy a dad leaves behind is the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. It's true, when a parent dies, their children expect to receive an inheritance. Sometimes that inheritance involves riches and sometimes it doesn't. But there is no greater inheritance than the legacy a father leaves concerning eternal salvation. Let me put the Ephesians 6 passage back up and in another version.

### **Dads Matter Because They are the Key to Their Kids Loving Jesus!**

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4 NIV

A dad who loves his family will do his best to lead them in the way of the Lord. Our views of God are set by the teaching and examples of our fathers since God so often refers to Himself as our Father, our Abba (Daddy). I know for my own life, I have struggled with the idea of God as my Father so much for I have struggled loving my own father. I have not felt accepted or unconditionally loved for much of my own life and it has caused me to struggle with God's unconditional love, grace, and forgiveness. Dads are so key to their kids loving and accepting God. I am proud to say here in the latter part of my dad's life and just this year, God has given me and my dad the opportunity to come to understand each other a little better and for the first time in my life I have felt my own father's pride in me and love for me and acceptance for me. It feels really good and it has helped me with my relationship with God...But why did it take 67 years? I know for me and my kids it won't. They will experience a father's unconditional love and acceptance often and in very demonstrative ways. They will know a father's love so that they can really have a leg up on knowing The Father's Love. **Dad's Matter!** And so the grandest prize of all will be given out at this time in honor of our Father who provides us the most beautiful example of Dad, our Heavenly Father! **Give away the Golf get away in Norfolk @ The Sheraton Waterside Hotel. Green fees/Meals/Room included. Compliments of Sams Clubs**

Let's end today by praying for our fathers.

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