

i-design - Fathers

God's Design for Fathers:

- created us unique with gender and roles

Don't want to:

- guilt trip the dads
- cause regrets or hopelessness

Do Want to:

- remind of God's design and intention
- encourage Dad to keep on keeping on
- point us in the direction of growth

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1. Learn From the Father

- scripture calls God our Father
- Jesus in teaching us to pray – ‘our father....’
- worship the God of our fathers – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
- 1st – Must have relationship with the Father
 - clear on how to have this relationship
 - clear on entering into this relationship
 - clear on who our Father is

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a) Be Committed to God

- embrace the example evidenced in scripture
- embrace the instruction given in scripture
- embrace the empowerment of the Holy Spirit

b) Claim the Promise

- Proverbs 20:7 ***“The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him.”***
- Proverbs 14:26 ***“He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.”***

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- Proverbs 17:6 ***“Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children “***
- Psalms 127:3-5 ***“Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate.”***
- there is great reward, blessing and promise attached to this privileged role

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c) Embrace the Role

- Created by God to be Fathers – Gen
- be fruitful, multiply, subdue
- difference between being fertile and fruitful
- being fruitful means – cultivate, see produce, tend, care for, use wisdom, give your dedicated time and energy towards
- Col 3:21 ***“Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged”***
- carefully cultivate and raise

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2. Develop the Environment

- bible calls fathers to prepare and develop the environment in which the role is carried out

a) Pursue a Good Wife

- Prov. 18:22 ***“He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.”***

- find someone committed to God’s design, and in agreement with you in embracing it

- honor her, respect her, marry her, serve her

- provide the conditions for her to thrive

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b) Provide for Your Family

- 1 Tim. 5:8 “Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. 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.”

- choose a role in the marketplace – apply yourself
- learn about money, stewardship, finances
- put your house in order for security and stability so far as it depends on your control
- make a stable environment

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c) Invest in a Community of Faith

- Family of God, Household of God, - local church
- model of older investing in younger, wisdom passed on, learning from each other, supporting one another, growth together
- larger community embracing and supporting values
- place to serve, worship, be found faithful
- introduce children to the bride of Christ
- God's design for their growth

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3. Ingrain Pillars for Life

- what you model and teach will become default for how to do life

a) Repentance

- you for sin and failure before God and others
- acknowledge sin, confess, accept, turn from

b) Discipline

- Proverbs 3:11-12 ***“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.”***

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- accept the Lord's love and discipline for you
- reflect that same love for your children

c) Instruction

- Proverbs 311ff *“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed. By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew. My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble; when you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet”*

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- life long learning, turning to scripture for truth and answers, receiving instruction
- life long teaching – passing on knowledge and wisdom, discovery together, learning from

d) Protection

- caring enough to be informed and involved
- claiming God's protection – armor of God, prayer
- providing protection for your home & loved ones
- active in the protection of the defenseless

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So What

Fathers Day – celebrate the privilege, honor those called
In Seeking to Fill the Role

1. Have A Relationship With God

- learn from the example scripture records
- gain the knowledge and instruction provided
- serve in the power of the living spirit of God

2. Cement the Promises

- know why this is an important and honorable role
- experience the blessing promised

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3. Develop the Environment

- prepare to partner and know the roles
- provide for your family
- find a church and dig in

4. Pillars for Fathers to Check

- my practice of repentance – and my extension of forgiveness for others
- my acceptance of a loving fathers discipline – and my willingness to lovingly discipline
- my life long learning attitude – and how I pass this on