

What I've Learned About Being a Father

AT Snacks- June 17, 2024

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Monday:

There's a great joy in finding out that you're going to be a father, and there's a joy along the way, of watching them grow up, too.

God doesn't just give us our kids so that we can teach them and train them. I'm more convinced that God gives us our kids so they can teach us and train us.

If you really want to do something really significant for your kids, be good to their mom. That gets you a long way down the road. On Mother's Day or Father's Day, you can't give all the credit to either one, because it's a teamwork thing.

Tuesday:

It's one of the greatest responsibilities that we face in life, being a dad. It's also one of the most rewarding things.

You are going to make a lot of mistakes, but as long as you love, the Lord just seems to kind of fix it.

A lot of dads really make the transition from being not a very good, or mediocre, dad, to being a really, really good dad. I've learned that God has made kids extremely resilient.

Wednesday:

You can really mess up with your kids in one way or the other, but you know what? If you'll love them, they'll snap back and they will be fine.

It's a challenge. We'll make a lot of mistakes, but if you love genuinely, God will fix it. "*For love covers a multitude of sins*".

We make pretty good use of our time with our kids. Everything we always did, we did as a family and we have absolutely no regrets that way.

Thursday:

For you people with kids still in the household, you better wake up and make your kids a priority. Make good use of your time and enjoy the rewards.

Dads want their kids to do better than they did. I think that's something about the Father. It keeps you on the path to achieving and doing better, and thinking better, and communicating

better, and handling people better... and especially handling your kids better.

Discipline matters. My dad got the revelation that when you spare the rod, you spoil the child. I always joked with him and said, "*if that child abuse thing would have been a big deal back then, you would be on death row*". His come back was, "*Well, at least you ain't.*"

Friday:

Please take the time to read Hebrews 12:3-4 before reading the rest of this message.

Discipline is a necessary ingredient of agape love, and God disciplines His children.

There is no substitute for discipline in love. It needs to happen. Discipline is an extremely necessary ingredient in agape love. It really matters.

You never stop learning as a dad or a father. Another thing that my dad will often say is, "*when you think you know it all, you're as smart or as good as you're ever going to get*".

Never stop learning, because if you do stop, you kind of get stagnant.

Saturday:

With your older kids, you can give them advice, but don't over-advise. You have to give them space. I think that, with love, you should be cautious not to get domineering, controlling or anything like that. And if you'll follow that advice, they're going to come to you when they want advice. This works for all ages, all sizes, all life transitions. Always be there.

Always make them a priority and be ready. Always be there. As an example, everyone knows that if I get a call from one of my kids or my wife, no matter what meeting we are in, I always step away to take the call.

You don't have to have had a good dad to be a good dad. But you do have to be a good son, to be a really, really good dad.