

Five Things Godly Dads Do

1. Godly dads tell their children about God and help them begin a relationship with him.

“Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NLT)

Fathering Tip: *It's never too late to start talking about spiritual things with your family...or start again.*

Fathering Tip: *We must teach our children to love God while they are with us so that they will rely upon him when they are on their own.*

“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6 (KJV)

2. Godly dads embrace being role models.

“For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you. So I urge you to imitate me.” 1 Corinthians 4:15-16 (NLT)

“And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ. I am so glad that you always keep me in your thoughts, and that you are following the teachings I passed on to you.” 1 Corinthians 11:1-2 (NLT)

“Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example.”
Philippians 3:17 (NLT)

Note: Values and habits are caught more than taught.

Fathering Tip: We need to be transparent with our kids about our successes and failures and what God taught us through both.

“Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant... I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him.”

Philippians 3:8-9 (MSG)

Fathering Tip: We need to model a loving relationship with our spouses.

“Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her: ‘There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!’” Proverbs 31:28-29 (NLT)

3. Godly dads take the lead in discipline.

“Discipline your children while there is hope. If you don't, you will ruin their lives.” Proverbs 19:18 (NLT)

“Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.” Proverbs 13:24 (NLT)

Fathering Tip: Discipline is more than punishment. Discipline involves training of the mind or character in order to change an undesirable behavior or teach a life lesson.

- We must communicate our expectations clearly.
- We must discipline through appropriate consequences.
- We must be consistent.

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4 (NLT)

- We must not expect our kids to like discipline. “No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening---it is painful! But afterward there will be a quiet harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.” Proverbs 12:11 (NLT)

4. Godly dads see themselves as booster rockets.

“One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them.” Mark 10:13 (NLT)

“We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders. For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them— even the children not yet born— and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands. Then they will not be like their ancestors— stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God.” Psalm 78:4-8 (NLT)

5. Godly dads pray.

Fathering Tip: Godly dads pray for their kids as often as they can.

Fathering Tip: Godly dads pray with their kids as often as they can.

“God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God, whom I serve with all my heart by spreading the Good News about his Son.” Romans 1:9 (NLT)

“I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly...” Ephesians 1:16 (NLT)

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Discussion questions:

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's lesson on being a godly father was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
2. Describe your father in 15 words or less. What do you appreciate most about your dad?
3. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 & Psalm 78:4-8. What role did your dad play in your spiritual development? How often should we teach our kids about God? When do teachable moments occur? Share a memory from your childhood when your dad seized a teachable moment and impacted your life.
4. What do the following passages teach us about the importance of parental discipline?
 - Proverbs 12:11
 - Proverbs 13:24
 - Proverbs 19:18
 - Ephesians 6:4

What does effective discipline look like in a healthy family? How well did your parents handle discipline? What can you learn from their mistakes?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 4:15-16 & 11:1-2. Why did Paul want his spiritual children to imitate him? Which of your parents do you favor most in the way you look? ...in the way you act? Do you think parents should be role models for their children? Why? Why not?
6. Spend some time praying for your dads as well as any dads in your group. Before you begin, discuss the biggest challenges dads in our culture face. Pray for any specific needs or concerns expressed as well.
7. Discuss the following quotations:

"Fathers and mothers, do not forget that children learn more by the eye than they do by the ear... Imitation is a far stronger principle with children than memory. What they see has a much stronger effect on their minds than what they are told." J. C. Ryle

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." Henry Ward Beecher

"A father's responsibility is not to make the child's decisions, but to let the child watch him make his." Ed Cole

"When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years." Mark Twain