

SPIRIT-EMPOWERED DAD

Lesson 4: A Spirit-Empowered Dad Serves with Humility

Main Idea: A Spirit-empowered dad who walks in humility before his family will reap the many rewards God has promised to people who are humble. In this lesson, you will begin to learn how you can serve with humility.



SIGHTLINE: Acquire Your Target

It has long been recognized that organizations tend to mirror the example of their leader(s). In families, this same mirroring can be found. The culture of a family is a product of how parents lead. Godly leadership in a family must be servant leadership.

The key characteristic of a servant leader is humility. A Spirit-empowered dad understands this important principle.

Jesus' humility is the pattern for dads to follow. In Mark's gospel, you can find these words: "But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:43-45, ESV). Jesus' humble life reflects the value God places on humility.

The Old Testament speaks to God's view on humility often. Proverbs 3:34 says, "Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor" (ESV). Proverbs 22:4 says, "The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life" (ESV). Psalm 25:9 says, "He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way" (ESV).

God places a high importance on humility. This humility is required in all areas of life. A Spirit-empowered dad who walks in humility before his family will reap the many rewards God has promised to the humble.





CROSSHAIR: Focus On Your Target

The servant-leader style of leadership has been around for a long time. Jesus himself modeled this style. In 1970, Robert K. Greenleaf brought this style to the modern business world through his leadership writings, saying, “The servant leader is servant first.”

A Spirit-empowered dad will be a servant-leader who will focus on how best to serve his family. Dads who lead their families using the servant-leader model instill important values in how to treat others and each other as a family. These values of servanthood impact a child’s entire life.

True humility is an attitude of the heart. It is having the desire to serve rather than be served. A dad who embraces an authoritarian, dictator-like style of leadership and wants to be “the boss” does not reflect the servant heart of Christ. If you do this, you may create deep resentments and anger, triggering family members to rebel. Children raised in this atmosphere often question their dad’s love for them or develop insecurities. The great Christian writer C.S. Lewis defined humility this way: “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less.” What does humility look like for a Spirit-empowered dad? Consider the following:

- A humble dad knows his own weakness and relies on God’s strength.
- A humble dad knows his are not perfect.
- A humble dad admits his mistakes.
- A humble dad is quick to ask for and give forgiveness.
- A humble dad is transparent and open.
- A humble dad does not mind doing thankless jobs for his family.
- A humble dad does not need to be the center of attention.



BULLSEYE: Zero In On Your Target

- How did Jesus model the servant-leadership style? Give some examples.

- Describe the leadership style in your home as a child.

- Look at the list above of what humility looks like and rate yourself on a scale of 1-4 with 1 being the best and 4 not very good. Write a plan to improve the low areas.

NEXT STEP:

This section gives suggestions for how to turn your new knowledge into an action step. Men's Ministries realizes that not all relationships are created equally. If these action steps seem too difficult, adjust your next step so it will fit into your relationship with your child.

- **Courage:** Read through Proverbs and highlight in yellow every verse that uses the word “humble” or speaks about humility. What are your takeaways?

- **Strength:** Read through Luke and highlight in yellow every verse that speaks about the humility of Jesus. What are your takeaways?

- **Endurance:** Read C. Gene Wilkes' book *Jesus on Leadership: Timeless Wisdom on Servant Leadership*. Write three to five things you gleaned from each chapter.

