



Doing Life Well – NO Dad Jokes Here

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BIG IDEA – Life is tough, but DADS are tougher?

scripture focus - [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.

Life is **hard**. Marriage is **hard**. **Parenting** is so much harder – but **worth it**.

This is NO DAD JOKE - being a decent Dad is the hardest.

The burden of raising children in our culture today rife with divorce coupled with disappearing Fathers makes for a struggling family and a weak nation. The need for good Dads, great Dads goes beyond just guiding their own sons and daughters, it means there are a lot of Fatherless kids looking for a Father's love and a Father's approval. God promised to be a Father to the Fatherless, but God also encourages us to join Him in being a model of good Dad looks like, sounds like and affirms like.

Life is tough, but DADS are tougher!

Just to be clear, Dads are not a joke, but we have monopolized the market with bad jokes, groaners, eye-rollers and such, mostly from jealous millennials who fight the urge to be the epitome of funny.

- **Why don't eggs tell jokes?** They'd crack each other up!
- **I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes.** She gave me a hug.
- **I'm reading a book on anti-gravity.** It's impossible to put down!

Since Proverbs was most likely a curriculum for training young men, I believe **it is a fantastic training manual for fathers to understand their role and responsibility in their part of raising children.**

What does Proverbs say about raising children? A LOT!

Since today is Father's Day, let's look at what God's Word tell us about being a good father.

What do Father's proverbially provide?

Security – Godly fathers protect & provide

- [Proverbs 14:6](#) Those who fear the Lord are **secure**; he will be a refuge for their children.
- [Proverbs 17:6](#) Grandchildren are the crowning **glory** of the aged; fathers are the **pride** of their children.
- [Proverbs 20:7](#) The godly walk with **integrity**; blessed are their children who follow them.

Discipline – Godly fathers teach that love has boundaries

- [Proverbs 13:1](#) A wise child accepts a parent's **(father's) discipline**; a mocker refuses to listen to correction.
- [Proverbs 13:24](#) Those who spare the rod **(shebet: rod, staff, club – same word used in Psalm 23:4*)** of discipline **hate** their children. Those who love their children **care enough to discipline (shachar: to look early or diligently for) them.**
- [Proverbs 19:18](#) Discipline **(yasar: chasten, admonish)** your children, for **in that there is hope**; do not be a willing party to their death **(muth: to die).**
- [Proverbs 22:15](#) Folly **(ivveleth: folly, same word as evil)** is bound **(qashar: in league together, conspire)** up in the heart of a child, but the rod **(shebet)** of discipline will drive it far away.
- [Proverbs 23:13-14](#) Don't fail to discipline **(musar: same as yasar)** your children. The rod **(shebet)** of punishment won't kill them. Physical discipline **(nakah: to smite, smack him)** may well save them from death.
- [Proverbs 29:15](#) A rod **(shebet)** and a reprimand **(towkechah: rebuke)** impart **wisdom**, but a child left undisciplined **(who gets his own way)** disgraces **(bosh: shame)** his mother.
- [Proverbs 29:17](#) Discipline your children, and they will give you peace **(nuach: rest)**; they will bring you the delights **(maadan: dainty, tasty treats)** you desire.

NOTE: There are parents who think that they can just talk to their kids instead of using physical discipline, but according to Proverbs, that is foolishness, pure and simple. **There are parents who stand by and plead with their children as if their children were the ones in authority.** And the question that **these proverbs ask is, "How much do you need to hate your child to *not* step in and discipline them physically?"** – Chris Hutchison

Model for life – Godly fathers want Godly success for their children.

- [Proverbs 22:6](#) Train* up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.
- [Proverbs 3:1](#) My child, **never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart.**

- [Proverbs 23:26](#) O my son, **give me your heart**. May your **eyes take delight in following my ways**.

“Human fatherhood was never an end unto itself. **Human fatherhood was always meant to be an arrow, orienting us to the real Father, our Heavenly Father**, who blesses and disciplines and instructs us.” - **Chris Hutchison**

No father, follower of Jesus or not is in any way the **end all, be all of fatherhood**. All earthly fathers are imperfect. All earthly fathers have faults, cracks, struggles, unresolved issues and should not be idolized!

All fathers have done things, said things, out of anger, fear or frustration.

Some of us, many more of us today than ever before have had missing, disengaged or poor dad models and have had to build a married life & a dad life from scratch!

Tale of Three Dads – Checked out, Broken & Intentionally Evil

My first two dads were more like the first couple of words in Proverbs for fools or just simple. But my last dad was so broken, he had become intentionally evil.

Big Glenn – Bio dad.

Corky (Crawford) – Adoptive dad.

Ben – Step dad.

Jesus found me at 15 ½ and from that first Saturday night on Big Bear mountain, I have never been the same.

I had to **face three fears over the next ten years! Those three fears were: One, how to become a man. Two, how to become a husband. And three, how to become a father.**

I knew **nothing** about any of these **blessings and responsibilities** as a male growing up in the United States!

I say blessing because I did not know the amazing changes I would go through to experience **manhood, husband-hood or fatherhood**.

It would take God, my wife Robin and my three, now adult children, to **teach me how to lead myself, my wife and my family**.

I would say it all started with learning obedience, discipline and decision-making from the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

Sure, there were people in my life to look up to, there were men that I looked up to. Men like my father-in-law, Frank, but also men that were right here at this church. Men much older than myself - Al Crabb, Chuck Gaylor and Ken Mallard.

As God as my witness, God does father the fatherless! Why am I telling the church about my struggles and frustration? **Because our culture is in far more trouble than it was in the sixties when I was born!**

With several generational cycles of fatherlessness our young men today face ever bigger challenges!

According to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 17.8 million children, nearly 1 in 4, live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home.

“There is no group in our society that has fallen further faster than young men. Three times more likely to be addicted, four times more likely to kill themselves, twelve times more likely to be incarcerated, two and a half times as likely to be homeless.” – [Carey Nieuwhof](#).

When we think about the massive issues of homelessness, opioid addiction and suicide - What we really have is a **male homeless, a male opiate, and a male suicide problem**, and unfortunately because of the advantage that men used to have for so long, **there really is a lack of empathy for them. And young men are just struggling they're confused in the dating market, postponing relationships well into their 30's. And for both men and women, marriage is almost off the table.**

Some crazy stats on what's going on with our culture as it pertains to young men.

[College Enrollment](#) - In 2021, men accounted for 40% of college enrollments, **down from nearly 60% since 1970.** In the 2018–19 academic year, more than 1.1 million women received a bachelor's degree, compared to fewer than 860,000 men.

[Marriage rate](#) – **Declined by 60% since 1970**, down to 5.1 per 1,000 people in 2020.

Look at where we are in our country, our culture right now. We've got our former president convicted of 34 felony counts of falsifying business records to conceal a hush-money payment to a porn star. And almost simultaneously we've got our sitting president's son convicted of three felony counts for lying on a federal gun-purchase form.

Our country is at an all-time chaotic mess!

What does our country think about all this? Absolutely nothing. It's as if folks don't have a care in the world. How do I know this? One way to gauge what people are thinking is to look at what people are searching for on the web.

Top five searches, June 2024:

- 1. YouTube – 226 Million** (entertainment)
- 2. Amazon – 124 Million** (shopping)
- 3. Facebook – 124 Million** (social snooping)
- 4. Google – 83 Million** (searching)
- 5. Weather – 83 Million** (something to hope for)

This is the day of great opportunity for men of God to step up as godly men, husbands and fathers!

“This is where the gospel actually shines brightest. And so as often as I can say to anybody in this season, I'm saying you were made for the day and the day was made for you.” – Matt Chandler, Pastor of The Village Church in Texas.

You were made for this day and this day was made for you!

And I believe with God's help we can do it!

NOTES

Scriptures

[Proverbs 14:6](#) Those who fear the Lord are secure; he will be a refuge for their children.

[Proverbs 17:6](#) Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged; fathers are the pride of their children.

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Further Notes for Study

[Your Rod and Your Staff, They Comfort Me](#) The **rod and staff can be broadly categorized as tools of protection and guidance**, respectively. The rod warded off predators; the staff was a guiding tool with a hook on one end to secure a sheep around its chest. Only the two tools together provided comfort to the sheep.

Train up – It has long been believed that the Proverb, “train up a child,” has been taken as a promise, not a principle for raising children. It is now known as two critical components for parenting. One, “the way he should go,” is better understood as “according to his way,” or “in the beginning of his way.” This means that every parent needs to know their child's “way,” their “bent.” No two children are identical, and each child has unique gifts, talents and personality. It is impossible to treat them all the same, teach them all the same and even discipline them all the same. Two, the Hebrew word used in this Proverb has its own beautifully rich background. The Hebrew word, **“chanak: to train up, dedicate” comes from the denominative verb “chek: palate, roof of the mouth, gums.”** The idea is that Hebrew mothers would often **train** the palate of their children by giving them both things they enjoyed as well as things that were good for them. A popular treat given to their babies was crushed dates, rubbed into the upper part of their mouth, where the child's tongue would find the yummy flavor of natural sugars in the fruit. It was like putting little corn syrup on the tip of your finger and letting your little one delightfully find it!

Not all children grow up learning from their parents!

In my case, that's a good thing. In families with healthy parents, it is very painful to see.

Proverbs tell of the deep grief that fathers and mothers bear for their unwise children.

[Proverbs 17:21](#) It is painful to be the parent of a fool (Kesil); there is no joy for the father of a rebel.

[Proverbs 17:25](#) Foolish (Kesil) children bring grief (**ka'ac: vexation, anger**) to their father and bitterness (**marar: sorrow**) to the one who gave them birth.

Are Proverbs promises or principles? Here's some [links](#) that discuss it.

Not only are they Godly principles, but they are also Godly **warnings**.

Key Themes in Proverbs

Here is a general summary of some key themes in the Book of Proverbs:

1. The importance of wisdom and understanding.
2. The contrast between wisdom and folly.
3. The value of seeking knowledge and understanding.
4. The benefits of living a righteous and virtuous life.
5. The consequences of foolishness and wickedness.
6. The importance of humility and integrity.
7. The role of discipline and hard work in achieving success.
8. The significance of good relationships and friendships.
9. The fear of the Lord as the beginning of wisdom.

3 Week Series: Doing Life Well

Week 1: Wise Wit or Wacky Woes?

Week 2: NO DAD JOKES HERE

Week 3: More Walk Less Talk

Matt Chandler And so you look out at the horizon, you've got the election coming here in the States. You've got just a disaster out there. And man, what an opportunity we have. And so, I mean, I'm just saying what an opportunity we have right now. I mean, it is hard and awful out there. **And this is where the gospel actually shines brightest. And so as often as I can say to anybody in this season, I'm saying you were made for the day and the day was made for you.**

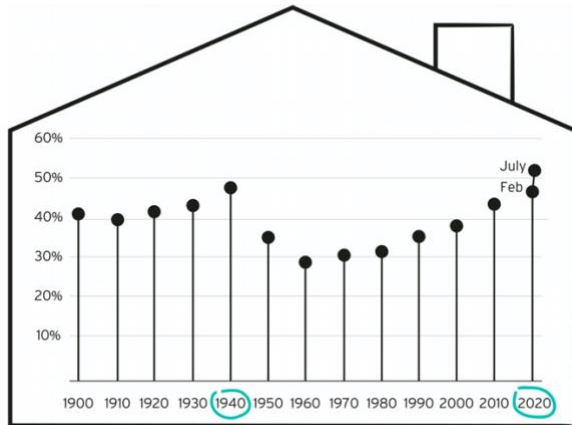
Like, C.S. Lewis isn't coming to bail us out. G.K. Chesterton, he's not showing up to critique our political environment. They had their day. This one's ours. And I, I just believe biblically that we've been uniquely wired for it and uniquely placed for it. And so, the Christian religion does not belong to blue checked celebrity pastors. It belongs to faithful men and women who understand that God wants to profoundly, profoundly, and powerfully use them where they are.

And I wish the church wasn't so anxious and afraid right now and would live into the gospel as is our opportunity. And that that's what the book's about on May 7th. That's what my God, I mean, that's everything I'm talking about right now is this reality that we were made for this day and it was made for us. And that's

why I'm most pumped about Gen Z starting to take over the church, because this stuff's intuitive to them in a way that it's scary for us.

Charts

U.S. Share of 18- to 29-Year-Olds Living With Parents



Source: Pew Research Center.

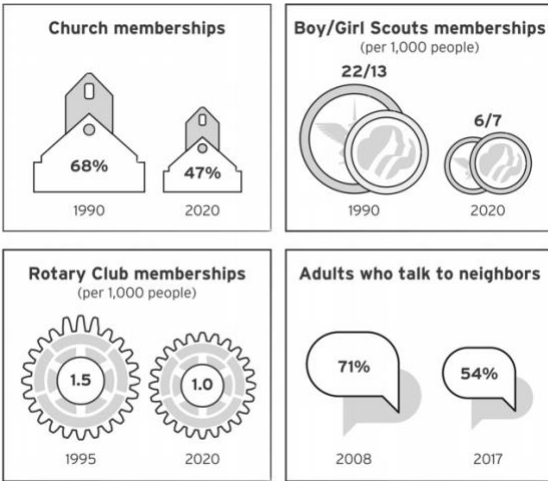
Marriage Rates

Per 1,000 population



Source: CDC.

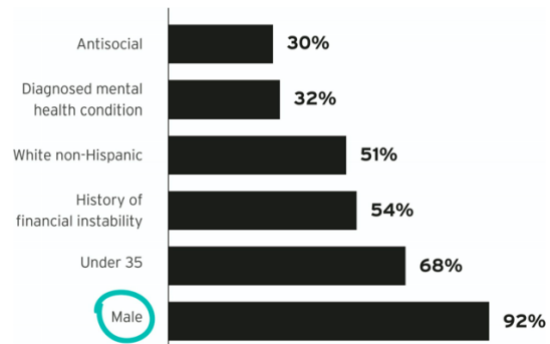
Decline in Community-Based Activities in the U.S.



Sources: Analysis of data from Gallup, Senate.gov, U.S. Census via AllCountries, AP News, Baraboo News Republic, and Word on the Street.

Demographics of Mass Shooters in the U.S.

2017–2019

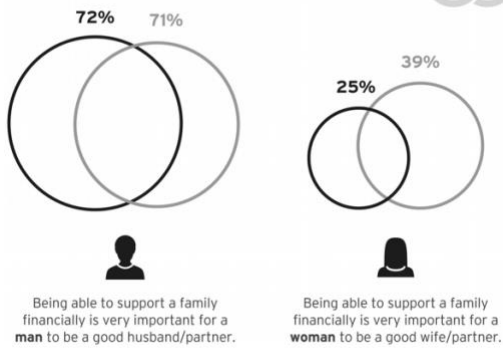


Source: U.S. Secret Service.

Importance of Financial Security in Partners

Men who agree with statement

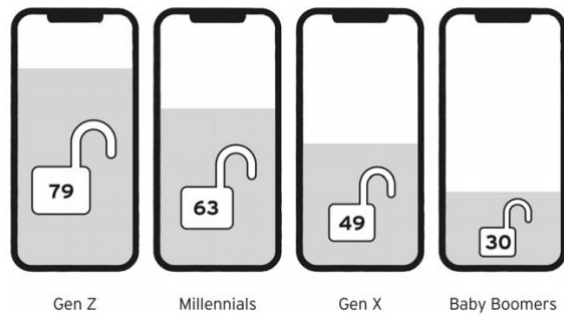
Women who agree with statement



Source: Pew Research Center.

Average Unlocks per Day Among U.S. Smartphone Users

2018



Source: Verto Analytics via Statista.