

06-19-2022, COTR Texarkana

Title: Mentoring Children of All Ages

Purpose: Provoke people to learn from Biblical character's how to be a better dad, parent, or influencer of kids.

Truth for Today: Truth for Today: Children need an involved father or father figure to live their best life.

Text: Genesis 2:24

Topic: Mentor, Father's Day, Children, Words, Role Model

Series Title: Mentor Me

Series Purpose: Provoke people to learn and apply life lessons, good and bad, from Biblical characters.

## Mentoring Children of All Ages

### I. Introduction

A. Review series: Mentor Me. It's about learning life lessons from Biblical mentors.

B. Today is Father's Day, a day we celebrate dads. Dads influence kids but so do moms, grandparents, coaches, teachers and even neighbors. Our Biblical mentors today will help not only dads but anyone who cares about children.

1. Today we'll learn from 3 Biblical mentors: (1) Our Heavenly Father will show us the power of encouraging words, (2) Eli will show us what happens when we don't teach kids right and wrong and don't correct them when they mess up, (3) Mordecai will help us have a heart for kids without a dad.

C. Title: Mentoring Children of All Ages

D. Truth for Today: Children need an involved father or father figure to live their best life.

### II. God's ideal plan for a family

A. [Genesis 2:24 (NCV) So a **man** will leave his **father and mother** and be united with his **wife**, and the two will become **one body**.] God's ideal plan for family is a female mom and male dad raising kids. Research supports this. New Research on Same-Sex Households Reveals Kids Do Best With Mom and Dad. Published research employing the New Family Structures Study (NFSS), the ECLS (Early Childhood Longitudinal Study), the US Census (ACS), the Canadian Census, and now the NHIS all reveal a comparable basic narrative, namely, that children who grow up with a married mother and father fare best.<sup>2</sup>

B. There are no perfect families or perfect dads. We've all messed up as parents and many kids carry wounds in adulthood because of a father wound. Lots of us are single parents and some of us don't have a great relationship with our kids. Don't feel condemned because of what of what you've done or not done with kids in the past. Let's find encouragement from our Biblical mentors for the future.

### III. Mentor us Heavenly Father by showing us the power of encouraging words

A. Mark 1:9–11 (ESV) ...Jesus...was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "**You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.**"

1. Imagine what His Heavenly father could have said to the crowd. (1) This is the Savior of the world; believe and follow Him. (2) Imitate his life and the world will be a better place. (3) Follow Him and you'll see miracles happen. But His Father didn't speak to the people but spoke encouraging words everyone could hear to Jesus. I wonder why? Maybe it's because every person has a need to be affirmed by people we respect, especially dads or a father figure.

B. The words we say impact kids in good and bad ways. [Proverbs 18:21 (NIV) **The tongue has the power of life and death...**(MSG) **Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose.**] E.g., Kid strikes out with winning run on base. If you tell him he's clumsy and slow and isn't near as good as you were, he'll probably quit. However later, with a sonic freeze trying to make a smile, dad says you barely missed that ball. Let's go to the batting cage this week and next week you'll hit it. I'm very proud of you! You kept your head up. You're a winner!

1. Jesus was 30. If grown kids need words of encouragement how much more do young children. E.g., Me at 12 winning regional PPK bringing my trophy to dad in the field. I needed affirmation from dad. Then at 62 I asked dad if he was proud of what I've done with my life. Kids of all ages need to hear words of encouragement. It's never too late to start.

2. The 3 most powerful words a dad or influential adult can say to a child are I love you. The 2<sup>nd</sup> most powerful words are, 'I'm proud of you'

- IV. Mentor us Eli and show us what happens when we don't teach kids right and wrong and don't correct them when they mess up (Eli is an ex. of a bad dad.)
- A. Context Eli was a priest, and his sons were also. [1 Samuel 2:12–25 (NCV) **Eli's sons were evil men; they did not care about the Lord...** 17 **The Lord saw that the sin ...was very great because they did not show respect for the offerings made to the Lord.** 22 Eli...heard about everything his sons were doing...and how **his sons had sexual relations with the women who served at the entrance to the Meeting Tent.** 23 Eli said to his sons, **“Why do you do these evil things?... But Eli's sons would not listen to him...**] and he didn't stop them/ remove them from ministry, i.e., lack of correction/ discipline was probably a pattern in their lives. Because dad didn't discipline them, God did, and it cost their lives.
- B. Sometimes good Christian parents have kids that turn away from God, but usually, kids become what they've seen modeled and taught. I wonder how they were parented in early life. I wonder how much time dad or other significant adults spent with them teaching them about a personal relationship with God and right and wrong?
1. Stats: Children in fatherless homes have a higher rate of criminal activity and have a higher rate of incarceration based on the *2017 U.S. Census Bureau*. The percentage of a rapist with rage that came from a fatherless home 80% (*National Institute of Justice*). 70% of minors housed in state facilities are from fatherless homes (*U.S. Dept of Justice, 1988*). 39% of inmates housed in jail are from homes with an absent father (*U.S Dept of Justice, 2002*)<sup>1</sup> Having a dad in a child's life or a significant male figure makes a difference.
  2. Discipline/ correction is one of the greatest gifts we can give our kids. The longer we wait to discipline/ correct kids the worse it will be. [Proverbs 5:22–23 (NIV) The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast. 23 For **lack of discipline** they will die, led astray by their own great folly. 13:24 (NCV) If you do not punish your children, you don't love them, but **if you love your children, you will correct them.** 22:15 (NCV) Every child is full of foolishness, but **punishment can get rid of it.** 29:17 (NLT) **Discipline your children, and they will give you peace of mind and will make your heart glad.**
- V. Mentor me Mordecai...help me have a heart for kids in need of a dad or loving adult

- A. [Esther 2:5–7 (NLT)...there was a Jewish man...whose name was Mordecai...6 His family had been among those who...had been exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. 7 This man had a very beautiful and lovely young cousin, ...called Esther. When **her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her into his family and raised her as his own daughter.**]
- B. America is in a crisis of fatherless kids. 33% of all children live in a home without their birth father (*Census Bureau*). In 1960 only 9.1% of children were living with a single parent; The percentage of children without a father in the United States is 43% (*Census Bureau*) 90% of runaway and homeless children are from fatherless homes (*National Institute of Justice*). 71% of all high-school dropouts are from a fatherless household (National Center for Education Statistics) The percentage of minors in prison who grew up without a father is 85% (*Texas Department of Corrections, 1992*) Kids with fathers who are involved in their lives are more likely to do better in school than kids who don't have a father in the home ( *DHS*) Girls are more likely to have children as a teenager if they grow up without a father.<sup>1</sup>
- C. What's the solution: Some dads need to step up and be a dad; your child needs you. For kids without dads, we can help: **STAND** (1) Adoption, fostering kids, (2) Profession works with kids: teacher, coach, healthcare or a counselor (3) Involvement in community groups targeting kids, after school programs, school volunteer, etc. (4) KZ and PH volunteers being role models and mentors, (5) Neighbors befriending and helping. (6) I'm not helping kids now, but I want to start. **THANK YOU!** Any adult can listen, care, impart values and helping their spiritual life,

## VI. Conclusion: Practical application

- A. If you're married, keep loving your spouse. A stable, happy home with mom and dad is the greatest gift you can give your kids.
- B. What if you feel like you failed as a dad? Ask God and ask them to forgive you. It's never too late. Start telling them you love them and are proud of them. Pic Drumline
- C. What if you're too busy to be involved in your kids' activities. Cut something out. Nothing says I love you louder than by spending time with them.
- D. What if you're raising your kid alone? Seek trusted Christian role models who are willing to be involved in their life. Get your kids connected in KZ

and PH. \*\*\*I'm praying someone would start a mentoring ministry for fatherless kids at COTR.

- E. What if you're kids are grown or you're a grandparent, and you want to help children? Volunteer in KZ, PH, Celebrate Recovery, Grace House, etc. Mentoring in church can be life changing.
- F. What if you carry a father wound that affects you today? Forgive them and give a child what you never received. Your giving may open the door to your healing.

## VII. Response

A. Prayer/ Souls

B. Gift bags at door/ car show and food trucks

## VIII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. <https://parentspluskids.com/blog/fatherhood-statistics-trends-and-analysis>
2. <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2015/02/14417/>