

FATHERING ON PURPOSE

INTRODUCTION

Many of us live lives directly influenced by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers. In this study, John Woodall addresses the risks of being unintentional with your kids.

USING THIS GUIDE

1. Print a copy of the guide for each member of your group.
 2. Watch the video as a group and use the guide to follow along and take notes.
 3. Complete the discussion questions when prompted by the video.
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PART I

VIDEO NOTES

Teach consistently, model authentically, and pray without ceasing.

TEACH

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NIV)

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.
Deuteronomy 6:6 (NIV)

Children aged 0-10 have a complete dependence on their parents. As they separate from that, they need to grow in their dependence on God.

MODEL

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:7 (NIV)

Can you look your boys in the eyes and say, “I want you to follow exactly the way I am following”—with no exceptions?

PRAY

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving . . .
Colossians 4:2 (NKJV)

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. According to John, a child's belief system is established in the first decade of life. What thoughts and feelings come to mind when you hear that?
2. In the message, John said what your kids are seeing is more important than what they're hearing. He goes on to say that, whether intentionally or unintentionally, you are already modeling something. Using the questions below, take a few minutes to reflect on what you are already modeling to your children. Then, share your thoughts with the group.

How would my kids describe me professionally?

Do I travel or spend late nights at the office?

Am I frequently stressed about work?

Does my work schedule allow for flexibility?

How would my kids describe my personal life?

Am I active?

Do I have hobbies?

How do I spend my weekends and free time?

How would my kids describe me relationally?

Am I affectionate with family members?

Am I approachable or attentive?

How would my kids describe me spiritually?

Am I actively involved in church?

Do they see me reading my Bible?

3. John's father demonstrated humility by asking his family to forgive him for the moments when he "blew it." Was humility demonstrated in your family? How?
4. The idea of telling your kids to follow you with no exceptions is pretty convicting, isn't it? When John said that, what were the exceptions that came to mind?
5. Colossians 4:2 (NIV) reads: Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Consider your current season of life. Does being watchful and thankful in prayer come naturally? Why or why not?