

# Session 3: Rocking the Dad Role

Dads make a critical difference.

The children of fatherless homes account for...

- 63% of youth suicides
- 70% of kids in state institutions
- 71% of high school dropouts
- 75% of teens in chemical abuse centers
- 80% of rapists
- 85% of behavioral disorders
- 85% of youth in prisons
- 90% of runaways

(Anchor Man, Steve Farrar, Nelson Publishers, ©1998)

Kids look to dads for spiritual guidance.

Church attendance of parents as a predictor of children's future attendance:

Parents		Kids	Kids	Kids
<u>Father</u>	<u>Mother</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Irregular</u>	<u>None</u>
None	Regular	2%	37%	60%
Irregular	Regular	3%	59%	38%
Irregular	None	25%	23%	
Regular	Regular	33%	41%	25%
Regular	Irregular	38%	25%	
Regular	None	45%		

<http://www.fisheaters.com/menandchurch.html>

Dads form a child's default understanding of God.

Parenting is not just for women. God has made you the head of the family and holds you responsible.

1 Corinthians 11:3 Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. NIV

1 Samuel 3:13-14 "For I [, God,] told [Eli] that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'" NIV

**Men want to be called to something great. This is something great that you are already called to. Step up and be the family manager.**

1 Timothy 3:4-5 [An overseer] must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) NIV84

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. NIV84

**Practical ways to lead out:**

**Manage your life such that you are home a lot.**

John 16:24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. NIV

**Help your wife be at home as much as possible.**

Titus 2:3-5 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup>Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup>to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. NIV

**Prayerfully consider home schooling.**

**Set the pace in church involvement.**

**Set the pace in family devotions.**

**Set the pace in Bible memorization.**

**Set the pace in evangelism.**