

## SESSION 28 – SONS

### I. INTRODUCTION

How a man \_\_\_\_\_ a boy directly affects who he will grow into as a man.

Fathering a son is much more akin to \_\_\_\_\_ a tree than it is to constructing a building.

There is a \_\_\_\_\_ we can use when it comes to nurturing our sons.

### II. FRAMEWORK FOR FATHERING SONS

1. \_\_\_\_\_

- We've identified five stages of boyhood:

The Explorer (ages 2-4)

The Lover (ages 5-8)

The Individual (ages 9-12)

The Wanderer (ages 13-17)

The Warrior (ages 18-22)

- One common mistake is using the wrong things at the wrong ages.
- A father also needs to have an awareness of his son's \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Without a dad \_\_\_\_\_ in his story with him, a boy will get stuck left wondering if he has what it takes.

#### **Explorer** (ages 2 -4)

- Boys need to experience the tender \_\_\_\_\_ of masculinity.
- Explorer boys also need to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Lover** (ages 5-8)

- The focus needs to be more on \_\_\_\_\_ than competition.
- A dad can teach a son to connect with his \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **The Individual** (ages 9-12)

- It's a dad's job to call out a son's \_\_\_\_\_.
- One thing dads need to look for is emotional vulnerability.

**The Wanderer** (ages 13-17)

- One way to stay engaged is by supporting all of his \_\_\_\_\_.
- Be careful to not care more about any activity in a son's life than the son does himself.

**The Warrior** (ages 18-22)

- Relationship in this stage is more about \_\_\_\_\_ than quantity.
- We need to make the transition to \_\_\_\_\_.

3. \_\_\_\_\_.

- To validate him well means we need to do three things:

1) Seeing Him

- Having an appreciation for who he is
- Maintaining a curiosity about who he is
- Casting a vision for who he will become

2) Naming Him

- Has to do with the authority that we as dad have been given to speak truth into his life

3) Drawing Him Out

- Directed toward authenticity, integrity, and intimacy

4. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

- Initiation is \_\_\_\_\_ to the heart of a boy.
- It's more about revealing God's character.
- Boys need to be \_\_\_\_\_.



## ANSWERS

### I. INTRODUCTION

How a man **nurtures** a boy directly affects who he will grow into as a man.

Fathering a son is much more akin to **growing** a tree than it is to constructing a building.

There is a **framework** we can use when it comes to nurturing our sons.

### II. FRAMEWORK FOR FATHERING SONS

#### 1. Understanding

- We've identified five stages of boyhood:

The Explorer (ages 2-4)

The Lover (ages 5-8)

The Individual (ages 9-12)

The Wanderer (ages 13-17)

The Warrior (ages 18-22)

- One common mistake is using the wrong things at the wrong ages.
- A father also needs to have an awareness of his son's **temperament**.

#### 2. Engaging

- A. Without a dad **engaged** in his story with him, a boy will get stuck left wondering if he has what it takes.

##### **Explorer** (ages 2 -4)

- Boys need to experience the tender **side** of masculinity.
- Explorer boys also need to **wrestle**.

##### **Lover** (ages 5-8)

- The focus needs to be more on **enjoyment** than competition.
- A dad can teach a son to connect with his **heart**.

##### **The Individual** (ages 9-12)

- It's a dad's job to call out a son's **strength**.
- One thing dads need to look for is emotional vulnerability.

**The Wanderer** (ages 13-17)

- One way to stay engaged is by supporting all of his **pursuits**.
- Be careful to not care more about any activity in a son's life than the son does himself.

**The Warrior** (ages 18-22)

- Relationship in this stage is more about **quality** than quantity.
- We need to make the transition to **consultant**.

3. **Validation**.

- To validate him well means we need to do three things:
  - 1) Seeing Him
    - Having an appreciation for who he is
    - Maintaining a curiosity about who he is
    - Casting a vision for who he will become
  - 2) Naming Him
    - Has to do with the authority that we as dad have been given to speak truth into his life
  - 3) Drawing Him Out
    - Directed toward authenticity, integrity, and intimacy

4. **Initiating** and **Celebrating**

- Initiation is **fundamental** to the heart of a boy.
- It's more about revealing God's character.
- Boys need to be **celebrated**.

### III. CONCLUSION

#### 1. Understanding, Engaging, Validating, and Initiating

- A dad must first be **present** in his own story.
- Every father needs:
  - a deep connection to the God who created him.
  - A bold vision for his own life.
  - A humbling participation greater than himself.

We have in us the **power** to bless and the power to curse.