

TIPS & TOOLS FOR GREAT DADS

Intro: Since Jesus was a carpenter, imagine your children as wood, and raising them a construction project. Here are some biblical tips and tools for great dads.

⁴Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷Impress 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 6:4-7

I. Your Building Plans – God’s Directions and Guidelines

- Every building project needs plans for successful completion. God’s plans are contained in the _____ . It gives the keys for ways and goals to successfully build your child.
- Though other parenting helps can be used (James Dobson books are helpful), they are never a _____ for the Bible, God’s blueprints.

²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. Colossians 3:20-21

II. Your Hammer – Your Authority

- God has given you _____ to direct, guide, and shape your children.
- Use it _____. Don’t be:
 - 1) **Terminator Dad** – too harsh, demanding, and unloving;
 - 2) **A. W. O. L. Dad** – never around for influence or impact; or
 - 3) **Homer Simpson Dad** – well-meaning, but incompetent and ineffective.
- Though you should _____ to your children’s thoughts, wants and wishes, it is ultimately not a democracy, but “Parent-ocracy” under the authority of God.



⁶Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

III. Your Saw – Shaping Your Child

- Our children come unformed; it’s our job to _____ them according to God’s blueprints in two ways:
 - 1) Generally, as moral, productive, godly people.
 - 2) Specifically, according to their unique God-given shape, their divine destiny.
- Like wood with imperfections, and different qualities, children come with _____, and everyone is unique. Work with what you got, and vary your style according to the uniqueness of each child.

IV. Your Screwdriver – Lasting Impact

- Screws and screwdriver are used for extra holding power that _____.
- Your fathering will “_____” and last through:
 - 1) Real love, saying and “doing” it.
 - 2) Quality time with your child.
 - 3) Living what you teach.

- 4) Consistency and perseverance in goals and discipline.
- 5) Praying for God's guidance and influence on your children.

²⁴(Jesus said), "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." *Matthew 7:24-25*

V. Your Proper Foundation – Building on the Rock

- You're building a spiritual house – your _____! It needs a stable, secure foundation on eternal rock, not the shifting sands of today's culture, values, or latest parenting fads.
- The eternal foundation "Rock" is a partnership with the Masterbuilder, _____ as Son of God, Lord, and Savior.
- Through a spiritual _____ with Jesus, and living His teachings, we will receive the power and guidance necessary to withstand the storms of life that threaten our spiritual house.

Build On The Rock!

Answers: I. Bible; replacement. II. Authority; properly; listen. III. Shape; flaws. IV. Lasts; stick. V. Family; Jesus Christ; partnership.

Inner Action: Putting These Truths Into Practice

- 1) Dads, how well do you use your hammer (authority)? Do you tend to be terminator dad, A. W. O. L. dad, or Homer Simpson dad? Do you listen and communicate with your children?
- 2) Do you plan out your sawing? Do you consider your children's God-given shape when sawing, or force them into your shape?
- 3) What keys for long-lasting impact can you improve on? (Circle them)
- 4) Are you building your house on the eternal Rock of Jesus Christ, or the shifting sands of the world's values?
- 5) Is Jesus the Masterbuilder, your partner in building your spiritual house?

