



TOOLS

—Resourcing Advocates for Men's Ministries ♦ Church of the Nazarene—

How Does a Man Prepare His Daughter for Life?

by Michael Farris

JAMES DOBSON once said, “REMEMBER, WE’RE NOT ACTUALLY RAISING CHILDREN, WE’RE RAISING ADULTS.” We are training our daughters for the long haul. We want them to become responsible, mature women of God.

But the days of our influence are exceedingly fleeting. I can remember clearly the day I first held Christy in my arms. She now has three daughters of her own. You have heard lots of people tell you that time goes very fast. Don’t you believe them. It goes a lot faster than they have let on.

IF YOU DON’T WANT to be suddenly surprised with a young woman you don’t know and don’t particularly care for because of her behavior and character, then, Dad, begin now.

IF YOU WANT a daughter who handles money responsibly as an adult, rather than one who passes bad checks, teach her about money and responsibility now.

IF YOU WANT a daughter who is spiritually mature and is able to trust in God in all of life’s circumstances and trials, you need to begin teaching her about God now.

IF YOU WANT a daughter who is emotional-ly and physically pure, unstained by the bizarre sexuality of our day, begin training her now.

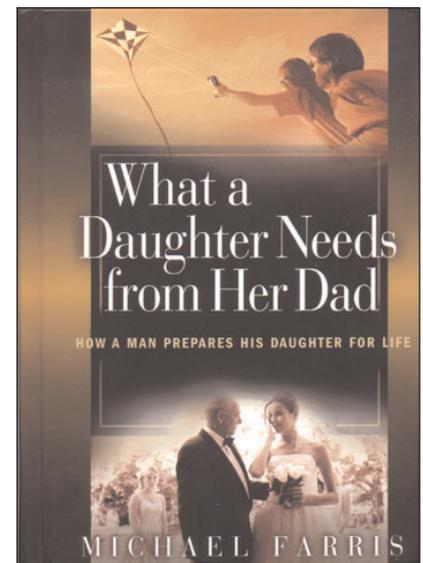
IF YOU WANT deep conversations when she is older, talk with her now while she’s young.

IF YOU WANT to be able to give her guidance in her career, show yourself capable of guiding her through a third-grade math assignment now. ☛

What kind of sexual messages are your kids getting, and what can you do about it?
Don’t miss the eight points on page 2.

Do you buy into the idea that men are passive? Read about male passivity on page 3.

So, what’s the big deal about *The Da Vinci Code*? Check it out on page 4.



Michael Farris has the experience needed for a book of this kind—he’s the father of six daughters and four sons!

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Excerpted from the chapter, *An Easy “To Do” List*. Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis. All rights reserved.

Dad! Here are things you can do to help your kids make sense of sexual messages :

1. Create a safe environment for conversations. Dialogue about sex starts with talking about other things. Start talking when your kids are young.

2. Find ways to talk about purity. When your family sees improper images on television, a magazine rack, or a billboard, use that as an opportunity to talk about what it means to honor God with our bodies.

3. Introduce biblical principles. Model and explain God's perspective on love and marriage. Stress the reasons God gives for sexual purity. Check out the scripture references at the end of this article.

4. Cover the facts. Explain how premarital sex can impact a person's physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

5. Practice speaking in private. It's not always easy to use anatomically correct terms, especially in front of teens. Practice using specific anatomical

terms with your spouse to get past the awkwardness with your teen.

6. Use caution when sharing your story. Be cautious about sharing specific behavior. Talk in generalities like, *I ended up having relationships that I now regret*, instead of specifics. Otherwise it may shift the focus from your point to your past.

7. Teach responsibility in personal choices. In reality, people make choices that put them in the position to have sex. Help teens understand that behavior in all areas of life is the result of choices.

8. Give hope for a new beginning. If your teen has been sexually active, remind him or her of God's forgiveness and grace. You can also help your teen create accountability with you or someone you both trust. ☞

—Marty Kasza

Adapted and condensed from *Home Life*, January 2004, published by LifeWay Church Resources.

Learn these biblical principles on purity.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

1 Timothy 4:21 Peter 1:13-16

Genesis 2:24

INTELLIGENCE TEST

Below are four questions. You have to answer them instantly. You can't take your time; answer all of them immediately. Let's find out just how clever you really are. Ready? Go!

First Question: You're in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in?

Answer: If you answered first place, then you're absolutely wrong! If you overtake the second person and you take his place, you're second! *Try not to screw up in the next question.* To answer the second question, don't take as much time as you took for the first.

Second Question: If you overtake the last person, then you are...?

Answer: If you answered that you're second to last, then you're wrong again. Tell me, how can you overtake the last person? *You're not very good at this are you?*

Third Question: Very tricky math! Note: This must be done in your head only. **Do not** use paper and pencil or a calculator. Try it. Take 1000 and add 40 to it. Now add another 1000. Now add 30. Add another 1000. Now add 20. Now add another 1000. Now add 10. What's the total?

Answer: Did you get 5000? The correct answer is actually 4100. Don't believe it? Check with your calculator! *Today is definitely not your day.*

Fourth Question: Mary's father has five daughters: Nana, Nene, Nini, Nono. What's the name of the fifth daughter?

Answer: Nunu? Nope. It's Mary. *Read the question again, in the mean time don't operate any heavy machinery.* ☞

The Sexploitation of Your Teenager What Can a Dad Do?

First, you must set the example for your sons and daughters by living up to biblical standards. When children see that their parents are determined to live lives shaped by Christ, not the culture, they will respect what you say.

Second, you must establish godly boundaries regarding your teen's consumption of television, movies, music, and the Internet.

Third, you must convey to your daughters—in a clear but compassionate way—why it is wrong for them to dress and behave in a sensuous manner.

Finally, you must enable your sons to honestly share their struggles with you.

These changes will not come easy, but the alternative—surrendering your kids to a godless culture is unthinkable.

—Justin Carabello <http://www.purelifeministries.org>

Promise Keeper Dates 2004

<http://www.promisekeepers.org>

Charleston, WV — July 9-10

Detroit, MI — July 16-17

Memphis, TN — July 23-24

Indianapolis, IN — July 30-31

Atlanta, GA — August 6-7

Orlando, FL — August 13-14

St. Louis, MO — August 20-21

San Antonio, TX — August 27-28

Oklahoma City, OK — September 10-11

Des Moines, IA — September 17-18

Tucson, AZ — September 24-25

San Diego, CA — October 8-9

Seattle, WA — November 5-6



If you and your spouse are suffering more from the numbing effects of boredom rather than the emotionally bruising effects of conflict, do the following:

Visit a new place.

Eat at a new restaurant.

Try a new activity.

Attend a new event.

Read a new book together.

Ask a new thoughtful question of each other.

Get to know some new people.

MOST PEOPLE WILL RESIST THE CHRISTIAN FAITH
NOT BECAUSE THEY FIND IT TO BE UNTRUE,
BUT BECAUSE IT INTERFERES
WITH THEIR CHOICE OF A LIFESTYLE.

Ravi Zacharias

<http://www.gospelcom.net/rzim>

Six Things to Think About as You Rekindle a Romance With Your Wife

1. If you're both ready to throw in the towel, take some serious time to consider the consequences. Count the costs: financially, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually.
2. Individually list on paper events or patterns that have created hurts and how you have interpreted them.
3. Can you trace your painful patterns to childhood hurts? Can you quit being defensive about them? If so, you'll probably laugh at the unique styles you both have accepted as the way life should be.
4. Take a fresh look at what you would like to experience together starting now.
5. Be willing to design some new behaviors. But remember you've spent a lot of time developing them. Be fair to yourself and don't be surprised if they persist.
6. It helps if you decide to be accountable to each other as it relates to praise. Find ways to reinforce new agreed-upon behaviors with affirmation. ☺

Adapted and condensed from, *Will Your Romance Last?* by Louis McBurney <http://www.marbleretreat.org>

QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU DIAGNOSE THE HEALTH OF YOUR MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

1. **Is it relevant?** Men want a Bible study that relates to the real problems they face every day.
2. **Is it true?** Avoid sloppy teaching: legalism, health and wealth gospel, or the cheap grace gospel.
3. **Does it change lives?** Your men must become disciples and live closer to Christ.
4. **Is it application oriented?** Your study should be immediately applicable to the everyday lives of your men.
5. **It is grace-based?** You need heart transformation, not just behavior modification.
6. **Does your study include discussion questions?** There needs to be one ice-breaker question to get the conversation started; one or two knowledge questions to flesh out the truth; and one or two application questions to anchor the truth in their world.
7. **Is fellowship, prayer, and accountability a part of the mix?**
8. **Do you provide a leader's guide?** If so, it should provide vision, strategy, and implementation ideas.
9. **Is there a Discussion Leader's Job description?** You need a specific guide for leader roles and responsibilities.
10. **Do you make new men feel comfortable?** Let visitors be fairly anonymous but also very welcome.
11. **Does it point men to the church?** Your Bible study is a great supplement but no substitute for the body life of a vibrant church. It's more like a warming hut at the bottom of the slope. If a man falls you can help him get over the shock, but then he needs to go to the real hospital—the church. ☺

—Patrick Morley <http://www.maninthemirror.com>

Use These Ground Rules for Resolving Issues Between You and Your Spouse:

1. **Both must agree the time is right for the discussion.**
2. **You're aiming for understanding, not agreement.**
3. **Stick to one subject. Keep past occurrences in the past.**
4. **Check your weapons at the door: cutting remarks, sarcasm, threats.**
5. **Lower your voices a notch or two.**
6. **Choose the right venue and public isn't one of them.**
7. **Both must be able to call "time out."**
8. **Coexist over the issue until you agree it needs more discussion.**

HERE'S WHY MEN BECOME PASSIVE by Terry Etter

Passivity is an increasingly common male reaction to today's uncertain societal and economic conditions. As a result, many problems, especially those having to do with family roles and relationships, have worsened. Uncertainty in several areas contributes to men's sense of isolation and powerlessness.

RELATIONSHIPS. The rules have changed, and men find themselves in uncharted territory. They have different roles with their wives than they saw modeled by their own fathers.

COMMUNICATION. Men are expected to verbalize their feelings and ideas, but many don't know how. Men are moving away from being problem solvers and directive givers; they now engage in process and collaboration.

DESTINY. Dramatic economic changes have forced many men into different jobs, or no job at all. They feel like they have lost control over their destiny.

COMPETENCY. Even a man with a good education may find he's unable to help his high-school-age children with math if he doesn't keep up with new technologies.

GOALS. It's hard for a man to set goals or have a sense of destiny when he feels

he's merely surviving. Unless they take action, men struggling in these areas tend to abdicate responsibility and to falsely conclude that self-reliance is the only solution.

THE COURSES OF ACTION BELOW WILL HELP:

Confess anger. Anger is often a result of fear, and unless it's acknowledged and confessed, it can become a dangerous emotion.

Regain perspective. Times of intense change bring a loss of perspective, and professional help may give a family tools to deal constructively with traumatic events. Physical exercise is also useful in helping maintain balance and perspective.

Spend time with God. Be still and listen. Meditate on God's Word. Pour out your deepest thoughts and frustrations to Him.

Share with other men. The nonjudgmental listening and prayer support of a few other men who meet together regularly can make all the difference in overcoming challenges.

Get an attitude adjustment. Ask God to help you have expectations based on His truth, not on false beliefs. Our perspective needs to be one of stewardship, not "entitlement." ☺

Condensed from the article, *Why Men Become Passive* by Terry Etter, *Lifeline Newsletter*, Fall 1997. All rights reserved. <http://www.menslife.org>

What actions or attitudes are on your “not tolerated list,” because no one tolerates everything?

Traditional Definition of tolerance that is embedded in Scripture either in fact or in principle:

To recognize that tolerance is the posture and cordial efforts to understand another’s beliefs, practices, and habits without necessarily sharing, agreeing or accepting them.

Modern Definition of tolerance that is becoming more and more embedded in secular culture: *To recognize that every individual’s beliefs, values, lifestyles, and truth claims are equal.*

We must help our kids affirm their beliefs so that they become convictions. About 75% of our youth don’t have convictions, only feelings about what is right and wrong. Our task is to help them turn those feelings into convictions.

How to Help a Friend Whose Spouse Has Been Unfaithful

It is difficult for someone who has not experienced a partner’s affair to understand the shock, sadness, and pain that come when someone who pledged to “forsake all others” betrays that sacred promise. If a friend comes to you for help, here are a few tips:

1. Pray together. Even simple sentence prayers can reassure and open your friend’s heart and yours to God.

2. Don’t denounce the unfaithful partner. Focus on making sure your friend knows he or she is not to blame for another’s choice, and do a lot more listening than talking.

3. Help your hurting friend realize the affair doesn’t have to

be the end of the marriage. Many marriages survive an affair and even become stronger because of insights gained through the experience and from subsequent counseling together.

4. Encourage your friend to get professional help. This is not an injury most people will recover from quickly; healing may require years. Long-term counseling with a trained specialist can be one of the most important things this couple can do for the initial survival and long-term health of their marriage. ☹

Note: These conversations should take place only between same-sex friends

Three principles that should be the heartbeat of your men’s ministry:

PRINCIPLE ONE: A bottom-line dependence on prayer.

PRINCIPLE TWO: Unashamedly create a masculine culture.

PRINCIPLE THREE: Challenge men to become authentic spiritual leaders.

God wants your church to be filled with men who love Him more than anything else; men who will pay any price and serve in any capacity to bring Jesus Christ glory. Those men are sitting in your pews. They are at your gym. They are in your neighborhood, and they are waiting for the church to pray for them, to welcome them, to encourage them, and to train them to be men of God.

J. P. Jones, Director of Men’s Ministry, Coast Hills Community Church <http://www.coasthillschurch.org>

“So what’s the big deal about the book, *The Da Vinci Code*?”

There are underlying reasons why this anti-Christian book was number one on amazon.com, number one in the *New York Times*, selling at Wal Mart, Barnes & Noble, and seemingly every store in between, and is now headed for Hollywood.

First, we need to realize it is a symptom of unbelief on the part of the world. Jesus himself said, *Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.* John 3:19.

The Jesus of the Bible is not the Jesus people naturally want, because He exposes our sins even as He offers us the cure for them. Christianity has always been shadowed by heresies seeking to water down the true Jesus and impugn the inspired Scriptures that tell us about Him. Christians are called to counter those heresies.

Second, we need to confess that it is a symptom of a problem with the church: a shallow understanding of what we believe and why we believe it.

I’m grieved to see the world ingesting such spiritual arsenic. But I’m more embarrassed and alarmed to see Christians either not responding or being confused

and misled by it. When large masses of Christians are only casually familiar with the doctrinal foundation of their faith and the basis for trusting their Bible, they are neither salt nor light.

In short, *The Da Vinci Code* is a big deal because it represents a direct, growing, and effective attack on Jesus Christ, and the mission of every Bible-believing church. It is a symptom of a religious trend that hinders people from entering the kingdom of God. ☹ —Dr. Mark Bailey—

THE DA VINCI CODE LEAVES THE IMPRESSION WITH READERS THAT IT IS, IN FACT, HISTORY. IT ISN’T!

THE DA VINCI CODE IS IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS BECAUSE IT IS BEING PORTRAYED AS TOP-DRAWER SCHOLARSHIP. IT ISN’T!

THE DA VINCI CODE IS BEING READ BY CHRISTIANS WHO ARE UNSCHOOLED IN THE ABILITY TO DISCERN TRUTH FROM ERROR.

THE DA VINCI CODE IS A FICTIONAL MURDER MYSTERY WITHOUT HISTORICAL SCHOLARSHIP OR DOCTRINAL DISCRIMINATION.

“We must become the live demonstration of the kingdom of Christ so that anytime someone wants to know what’s going on in heaven; all they have to do is check with us.”

Tom Skinner



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