

# The Journey to Biblical Manhood

## Challenge 4: Fathering

### Session 3: "Dad Class": 3 Skills Every Dad Needs

Unedited Transcript

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Well, good morning, guys. It's great to be with you this morning. This thing's like really far back. You guys don't bite, do you? Because I'm going to move this right here. Did I just mess up the camera? How about if I do this? Well, hey, welcome to dad class. You guys ready? I think we need like granddad class, maybe great-granddad class for some of you guys. Oh. You know there's five love languages, right, for women. There's a sixth one for men: sarcasm. That's how you know a guy loves you is when he trash talks you.

Hey, it's great to be with you guys here this morning. I'm excited to talk to you this morning about this topic and about being a dad, being a granddad, being a mentor. Really, we're going to talk about some very, very practical skills or practical lessons that you can teach to your kids, your grandkids or people that you're mentoring. First, let's do this. Let's do a shout out to Bruno. Everybody say, "Hey, Bruno." All right. Bruno's leading a group called Reflections, six guys at Rockfalls Baptist in Orrick, Missouri or as they say there, Missourah, looking to build each other up through accountability, purpose, and Christian development. Great, great group of guys out there in Orrick. If you're watching this online and you have never had a shout out from us, we would love to give you a shout out. Email [patrickmorley@maninthemirror.org](mailto:patrickmorley@maninthemirror.org) and let us know about your group, how many guys are in your group, when you meet, who's in charge, so we can yell out, "Hey, Bruno." That was horrible. Let's try that again. "Hey, Bruno." We'll shout out your name and your group. Let's give these guys a round of applause for joining us.

We're in the fatherhood challenge. We're talking about, on this journey to Biblical manhood, we're in challenge four. We've been through three challenges so far and this is the third session in challenge four and we're talking about fathering. Today we're going to go to dad class. We've got these faith and life objectives. Everybody grab those cards off the table. We got the faith and life objectives. We've talked about understanding how to disciple our children and grandchildren to love God and others rather than fathering for performance, that was the first week. Then I will have made discipling my children, grandchildren, or mentoree a top priority in my life, talked about how do your kids know that you love them and one of the ways is by setting good boundaries. Then, finally, I will encourage and pray for my children, grandchildren, or mentoree daily, which is super important for us to do is to really think about how we can daily feed into the lives of our kids, our grandkids, and the young people that God has called us to mentor.

Let me ask you this question. This is our thing, dad class. We're having a little dad class this morning. Let me ask you: What was your favorite class in school? Recess over here. I knew that it was going to come up. What was your favorite class in school? Math. Who else? Science. History. Business Law. Wow. Anybody else? Lunch. Dating, that was not a class, McCurdy. You know, I think my favorite class, this is going to sound a little geeky, my favorite class was Latin. I don't know if they caught that on the tape, but if you could hear that, "Latin?" Over the whole side of the room over here went, "Latin?" Yeah, Latin. Now, I did not like Latin that much. I'm just going to be honest. I didn't like Latin. What I loved was my Latin class. Now, why do you think I loved my Latin class? The teacher. I loved Latin because of the teacher. Somebody said the girls. It was Latin class, guys. Not a lot of pretty girls took Latin. The teacher was Dr. Fiveash. That was his name, Dr. Fiveash. I had 10th, 11th, 12th grade, I had Latin with Dr. Fiveash. I had to take it the first year to do a language requirement and I was sick of French so I took Latin with Dr. Fiveash. Dr. Fiveash made Latin come alive, you know. I loved going to Latin class because of my teacher.

Let me ask you this: How many mathematicians are there in the room? There's four mathematicians in the room. How many of you had to take math in school? How many of you? How many of you just aren't going to raise your hand no matter what I ask? Seriously, how many of you had to take math in school? Everybody had to take math in school and there's four math guys in the room. There's four mathematicians in the room. Why in the world would you all have to take math? Now, let me ask this: How many dads are there in the room? Yeah, how was your dad class? Did you have dad class in school? There's four guys here that are mathematicians. Everybody had to take math. Everybody becomes a dad, just about, and they never give us dad class. How dumb is that they never do even some basic teaching to our kids about what it means to be a good dad, what it means to be a good mentor to somebody else. This is why I think having dad class is so important.

We're going to talk about today, we're going to talk about a couple of practical things. The first thing we're going to talk about is sort of some framework ideas about serpents and doves, master and apprentice, and then we're going to talk about three skills. I'll fill those in as we go. We're going to talk about three skills. I want you to notice on your outline it's probably a little bit different. You're going to have to add a couple of circles to your outline if you're using the handout that we normally use. We're going to talk about serpents and doves, masters and apprentices, and then we're going to talk about some practical skills this morning. Let's talk about what you need to teach your kids, how to teach them. How many of you have heard of the book Rich Dad Poor Dad? It's a book by Richard ... It's spelled like Kawasaki but I think it's pronounced Kiyosaki. Yeah. He wrote this great book called Rich Dad Poor Dad. The point of the book was this. He and his friend, his best friend, both had really good dads. His friend's dad, however, he learned from his friend's dad how to manage money correctly, what sort of the meaning of money was, a wise way to deal with money. From his own dad, he didn't learn that. Now, here's the funny thing. His own dad had a great paying job and loved his son very much, but that wasn't enough in this area of money, anyway. It wasn't enough for him to learn the things he needed to learn in order to be a successful adult when it came to managing his money. From that, he had to learn from this other dad. There's practical things that we need to teach our kids. Just one example, there's practical things that we need to teach our kids, that we teach our grandkids, that we can mentor younger men in that go sort of beyond the emotional stuff, the love stuff. That's great. I'm not discounting that at all. That's the foundation for it all. At some point, we need to get practical. We need to give our kids real skills that will help them get along in the world.

You know, Jesus talked about being wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Now, I want you to understand that those two things were not opposite from each other. They're actually two separate

things. We see serpents and doves and so we think, "Well, they must be opposite things." It's not opposite at all. Wise as serpents is just the idea of being opportunistic, of being aware, of having wisdom in the world. Why? Because right before that, he said, "I'm sending you out like sheep among wolves." We're sending our kids out in the world as Christian kids and they are like sheep among wolves. It is a dangerous world for our kids. You need to be as wise as serpents when you walk into the world, but we also need to make sure that our kids aren't cynical. When he says as innocent as a dove, he means as guilt-free, like a dove was what you brought to sacrifice because the dove represented sinlessness. He's not talking innocent like naïve. He's talking innocent like innocent, like guiltless. We need to help our kids live a life of wisdom but also of sinlessness. This is sort of an overarching paradigm that we need to think about when we're teaching our kids. Hunter and Riley are over here. Hey, guys. Wave at me. You got to get the camera on these guys. This is Hunter and Riley. Hunter is, I'm guessing, the serpent and Riley, I'm guessing, is the dove in this little pairing there and their grandpa's nodding, "Yes, exactly." You need both. You've got to be as wise ... We've got to help our kids be wise and live in a sinless way. How do we do that? What's the best method to do that?

Who here at shop? Did anybody have shop class? Did you love shop class? Yeah, who didn't love shop class? Sorry. Everybody else loved ... He probably had a crappy teacher, that's why. We loved shop class. Let me ask you this: How did your shop teacher run his class? How did you learn from your shop teacher? What's a project that you had to do in shop? Say that again. Right there. A bookshelf. How did your shop teacher teach you how to build the bookshelf? What did he do? He made one first. He probably said, "Today, people," probably like the 22 boys and three girls that were in the class. It was shop class. "We're going to make a bookshelf." He told you what you were going to do. Then he maybe even had some plans. He walked you through the plans. Then it probably wasn't actually until he did that, then he would actually get some wood out and he would make the bookshelf. Then what? You'd have to make what he made. He would give you wood, he give you the plans, and then he would have you make what he made. Then what was the last step? Grading. This is what a shop teacher does. Think about now what a master and an apprentice. What does a master want to do? He wants to teach. He wants to help his apprentice master what he's already mastered. This is Jesus. The shop teacher, he tells you what you're going to do, then he shows you what you're going to do, then he holds you accountable for doing it yourself. A master with an apprentice. He tells the apprentice what they're going to do, then he shows them what they're supposed to do, and then he holds them accountable for doing it themselves. This is our Big Idea. **To become a master, an apprentice must be taught, shown, and held accountable.** Who's the master in this relationship that we're talking about right now? In the practical, Jesus is our master. For the disciples, they were the apprentices. What did Jesus want for his disciples as the master? What did he know was going ... He said he wanted them to do greater works. Why? Because he was doing what? Leaving. He said, "Look, I'm here with you for a time. I'm going to teach you." Sat around and taught them. Then he showed them. What things did he show them? Miracles. He healed people. They watched him teach. Then he said, "You're going to do greater works than me." That was holding them accountable. You, as a master, when you have an apprentice, when God brings a son or daughter into your life, when God brings a grandson or granddaughter in your life, when God brings a young person that needs mentoring ... Listen, half of all of our young men ages 20 to 35 have lived in a period of time in a household without a dad. What's the answer to that? We're the answer to that. We need to go find apprentices so that we can be the master for them and that we can raise them up to be what? To be masters. Jesus said, "You're going to do greater things than me. I want you to do even more than I did." Why did he say that? Well, there were 12 of them and one of Jesus, for one thing. Jesus had three years and he knew they were going to have much longer to do that. Then he knew that that was going to multiply out through the generations. That's the vision that a master gives his apprentice. Hey, I'm going to teach you how to be a great blacksmith. You're going to make better swords than I've ever

made. I'm going to teach you how to build boats. You're going to build better boats than I've ever built. That's what a master does. Pat used to say to me, still says it once in a while, says, "Look, I want you to have greater impact than I have." Now, it's kind of humbling and a little scary for Pat Morley, 4 million books in print, to look at you and say, "I want you to exceed me," but that's what a master says to an apprentice. "I want you to exceed me." The only way that an apprentice can become a master is if the master's diligent to teach, show, and then hold the apprentice accountable and help them grow up.

All right. As the master then, let's look at three skills. Now, before we do this, here's what I want you to do. We're going to do a little exercise at the table. What I want you to do at your table, I want you to pick one guy at the table, pick the job that you have, and then write really quick. You have a minute. What are three skills that you would want to teach a new person entering your profession? What are three skills that you would say, "Oh, I got to teach them these three things." Pick somebody's job and then what are the three skills. Go. You got a minute. All right. Here we go. I want to hear from a couple of tables. What was the profession that you picked? What was the job? Then what were the three skills? Just raise your hand and then I'm going to have you stand up and say it. Who did it? Got to stand up.

Okay. Procurement. What was the three skills that you teach a new guy? Research. Negotiation. And closing the deal. That's good. ABC. Always be closing. Who's another one over here? All right, John. Sales and the three skills would be?. Listening. Learning the products. And how to ask for the money. Good. There's a little theme developing here. One more. All right, in the back. Okay, managing your money. Learning how to talk in front of people like right now. Yeah. And learn how to surrender.

Interesting. Good. Here's the three that we're going to talk about this morning. The dad class this morning, here's three essential skills that I think we need to teach our young people. One, how to love your spouse. Two, how to handle money. Three, how to win a fight. How to love your spouse, how to handle money, and how to win a fight. Are you ready? We're going to go through these pretty quick.

Let's talk about how to love your spouse. I think there's a few lessons that we need to teach our kids when we're teaching them how to love their spouse. The first one is this. When you are married, you are one flesh. That's a pretty deep ramification if you think about that. Jesus said in Matthew 19:4 said, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female and said, 'Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife and the two shall become one flesh?' They are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let not man separate." If you're going to teach a young man or a young woman, someday you're going to have a spouse. Guys, you're going to have a wife. Women, you're going to have a husband. You are one flesh. Your job is to create a relationship that nobody can come in the middle of, that nobody can separate you. Unity. How do you do that? Well, one thing is you need to help each other reach your potential. Your job in your loving spouse is not to hold your spouse back but to help your spouse reach their potential. Look at Proverbs 31. I love this chapter. It's actually a chapter about women, about a good wife. I want you to think about this when you look at Proverbs 31. This good wife is able to do a lot of things. She's actually a very shrewd business woman but she's a wife. There's a husband who is enabling, empowering, supporting her to do this. There's nothing in this chapter about a woman like sneaking around behind her husband's back to be a successful businessman. He's in on it. In fact, he's trusting her for it. Let me give you two specific verses. Verse 11 says this, "The heart of her husband trusts in her and he will have no lack of gain." When you help a guy understand that your job with your wife is to help her reach her potential, there's a little bit of self-serving in this because when you trust your wife and she reaches her potential, you gain, guys. How cool is that? Then look at verse 25. It says, "Her strength and dignity are her clothing and she laughs at the time to come." How many women do

you know that are scared of the future, are worried about safety and security and stability? Not this woman. This woman laughs at the future because she's so confident. How could a woman do that? Because she has a husband who's helping her reach her potential. He's supporting her. This is how you need to teach young men. Frankly, it's what we need to teach young women to expect, that your husband is there to help you reach your potential, that husbands are there to help their wives reach their potential and vice versa. A wife's job is also to help her husband reach his potential so that she can feel good about the future. Then finally we've got to teach our kids to love sacrificially. We love to start at Ephesians 5:25 but let's go up a couple verses. Let me tell you what loving sacrificially looks like because it looks differently for men and women. Ephesians 5:22, "Wives ..." Anybody a wife in here? So this verse isn't for you. It's for them. "Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord for the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is head of the church." I know a lot of people don't like it when you do this but I'm going to get into the Greek here really quick. The husband is the head of the wife, this is a word that means leader, not lord. Lord actually wouldn't be a terrible word if we would have the concept correct, but we don't have the concept correct. It means leader. What's a leader do in a battle? Yeah, he's in front. He's at the head of the charge. He's the first one to be in danger. "Of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church." This head is a different word. This word means source. Source of life. We need to teach our guys that one of your jobs in your marriage is to be the source of life in your marriage, not to be the source of frustration, not to be the source of disappointment, to be the source of life in your marriage is a huge responsibility to love sacrificially. "Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." Here's the thing. Loving sacrificially in a marriage for a wife means submitting. Submitting does not mean subservience. That's a different word. Submitting just means accepting that we're going to play different roles. Jesus submits to the will of the Father. I don't think it's too much to ask a wife to imitate Christ. Jesus submits to the will of the Father and the Father gives him the responsibility of judging the world. Submissiveness is not subservience, it's just understanding your role. For husbands, we're supposed to be willing to die. Jesus died for the church. That's what it means for a man to love sacrificially. Are we teaching our young men this? Are you willing to die? You know, physical death, frankly, the easiest kind of death there is. Letting your own requirement to take care of yourself die, to put yourself first, dying to that, dying to self, that's what that dying to self means, that's a lot harder. I mean, any of us would push our wife out of the way or push our kids out of the way if a car was coming and let the car hit us instead. We'd step in front of a bullet. Saying no to that night out with the guys when your kid has a performance that you really should be at or your wife really needs you to help her out with a project and you put your own needs in front of her, that's hard. That's dying. We need to teach our kids this is how you love your spouse. That's the first skill that we need to teach.

The second skill is this: how to handle money. Now, my daughter is ... I have a 22-year-old daughter. She just graduated from college. She has two things, a degree, they both begin with D, and debt. A degree and debt. Now, we helped. I gave both my kids a specific amount of money. I said, "This should get you through a state school. With this and a part time job, you could graduate from college with no debt." Helped them get their first car. They may not appreciate my help because the cars were pretty bad. Helped them get their first car. Helped give them enough money to get through school with a job that they could graduate. She still graduated with debt. That's fine. She got her degree in math with a concentration in discrete analysis and a minor in chemistry. She's a little smart. My daughter, with a degree in math, major in discrete analysis, minor in chemistry, looks at me just a week or two ago and she said, "Dad, I just sat down and looked at everything that I owe for school. Looking at my earning potential right now. Why didn't anyone tell me?" I'm like, "What do you mean?" She's like, "Dad, I should have had a class in high school about how to handle money. They should have talked to me

about debt." She goes, "Dad, do you know how stupid debt is?" Now, I have been telling her this but I got to be honest, I didn't do it enough. I didn't really sit down and give her the practical skills that she needed. We're doing that. She's doing that now. She's learning that now, luckily not when she's 35 and still has college debt. I mean, she's going to be out of it a year or two because she's committed. We got to teach our kids how to handle money. We have to help them understand, first of all, how important money is. Jesus told 38 parables, 16 of them were about money. 16, almost half, of his parables were about money. There's 500 verses in the Bible about faith. There's 500 verses in the Bible about prayer. There's 2000 verses in the Bible about money. 10% of the verses in the gospels have to do with money. Yeah, tithe is word. Money's incredibly important. That's what Jesus talked about it a lot. By the way, these numbers are from Howard Dayton at Compass Financial, a great resource if you want to teach your kids about money. Then we need to help them understand the importance. Secondly, we need to help them understand the concept of stewardship. Think of a couple of parables, for instance, that relate to this. One is the parable of the talents. The rich man gave ten talents to one, five talents to another, and one talent to the last. The guy that got one sat on it, didn't do anything with it. The guy with five, maybe it's three and five, but the other two guys doubled it. That's stewardship. The prodigal son took his inheritance and squandered it. He was not a good steward. The ultimate point of that story is God's love for us no matter what we do, but in the middle of that story is a lesson on foolishness when it comes to money. If you're not a good steward of your money, what do you end up doing? Living with pigs and eating pig food. It's a good thing to tell your kids. If you don't take care of your money, you're going to end up eating pig food. You don't want to live like that. You got to be a good steward. What do you tell your kids? You tell your kids, "Hey, you need to invest your money, not spend your money." I've told my kids this a little bit and I'm telling them even more now. Every dollar you spend, is this an investment or is this an expenditure? An investment comes back to you in some way. An expenditure is just here today, gone tomorrow, just gone. Got to spend some money, right? But if you look at the dollars that you have like a steward, you're like, "I got to invest this money. I've got to get a return on this money." Looking at the way that you do that, this is why my daughter understands the ridiculousness of debt. Yeah, the principle was invested in an education. The interest is just money she's spending. It's just this attitude that we need to help, are you investing money or are you just spending your money? Then the third thing about money I think we really need to teach our kids is about generosity. We need to teach them to be generous with God, recognizing that it's his anyway, so giving back to God, obviously a tithe and offerings above our tithe. We need to teach them to be generous to others. How do you teach kids to be generous to others? You show them that by doing it yourself. Then finally, we need to teach them even to be generous to their family, which means in many cases saving for the future. The best way we can be generous with our family after we give them the time that they need is to save money for the future so that if something happens to us in particular or just we get to an older age, for our wives, that we can enjoy life, we can have the life that God made for us.

Then last thing we need to teach them to do is we need to teach them how to win a fight. Now, I'm not talking about boxing lessons. I'm not talking about TaeKwonDo class. I'm really talking about how do you win the kinds of fights that our kids are in today. The kinds of fights that our kids are in today are not for their physical safety. They're for their heart and their mind and their soul. Those are the fights that our kids are in. Our boys are having access to stuff that would, when we were their age, we would have just not been able to handle and many of them can't. How are we equipping our kids to win this fight for their heart, mind, and soul? Here's a verse. 1 Corinthians 16:13 and 14. I love this verse from Paul, the end of 1 Corinthians. He says, "Be on your guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be men of courage. Be strong. Do everything in love." This gives us actually three great points to teach your kids how to win a fight. First of all, be vigilant. Nobody wants to get sucker punched. The world will sucker punch your kids. The world will come from unexpected areas and it will come from places that you think are innocent. We

need to teach them to be on their guard, to be aware, to not be caught unawares. Then how do you fight? How do you be ready for a fight? Well, first of all, you need to know what you believe, you need to live a life of courage. In fact, the phrase, "Be men of courage," you could translate that phrase, "Act like men," because it's expected that a man would be courageous. Being courageous means being willing to step forward, being brave, being willing to stick up for what you believe in because you know what you believe in, now you're willing to stick up for it, and then being strong means being prepared. Nobody gets strong. You have to become strong. You have to practice. Being full of faith and courage and strength is a great way to win a fight. Then, finally, he says, "Do everything in love." This is sort of the encompassing part of winning a fight. The point of winning a fight isn't to destroy the other person. The point of winning a fight is to build God's kingdom. The point of winning a fight is to bring God glory. The point of winning a fight is to be a testimony for the truth of Christ's death and resurrection. That's the point of winning a fight. You have to do it in love, not in anger, not in self-righteousness. We're going to do it in love. These are the three skills then. Teach your kids, teach your grandkids, teach the people that you're mentoring how to love their spouse, how to handle money, and how to win a fight.

Now, I'm going to give you two practical ideas and then we're going to go to the questions. The first one is this. There is a book that you could teach your kids, that you could take a kid that you're mentoring, young man or woman that you're mentoring, or a grandkid through, there's a book that I would just encourage that you need to help them really get this book. Let me give you the title of the book. Are you ready? It's called Proverbs. How do you teach your kids Proverbs? Here's a really simple way. Have a meeting every week. Every week, you assign this homework. Read the next chapter in Proverbs, pick a verse, and next week we're going to talk about it. Then when you sit down and you talk about that verse, you say, "Okay, what does this mean? How does this apply to my life? How can I use it this next week?" Then the next week, say, "Next chapter, pick a verse." Then you sit down and you say, "What does this mean? How does this apply to my life? How can I use it this week?" Do that. You'll have 31 chapters. You could do that in a year. You got holidays and vacations and stuff like that. You could do that in a year. You could go pretty deep into 31 pieces of wisdom in a year. Then the next year, do it again. Then the next year, do it again. Then the next year, do it again. I'm going to say especially if you have a five, six, seven-year-old and you could make this a practice that every week we talk about a verse out of Proverbs and we're just going chapter by chapter, imagine the legacy you could built into a man or woman's heart by helping them read a chapter of Proverbs every week and picking out a verse and figuring out how it applies to their life. It would radically, radically change their life. The second practical tool I want to give you is this. I think of those three, probably the one we do the worst at is how to handle money. I don't think we do a great job of that and there's some great resources out there. I mentioned Compass, Howard Dayton's ministry Compass. I want to also mention Dave Ramsey's ministry. He has a Total Money Makeover book and Financial Peace University, but he has one for kids. I really want to encourage you, if you've got a young person that you have the opportunity, go get that and go through it with them. They won't know that you don't do any of that stuff. It will be good for you too. As you're teaching them, you could start doing those things too. If your money's not under control, you can get your money under control.

Let's go to our groups. We've got some questions on the sheets. We'll go to our groups for about 20 minutes and then we'll come back at five of and we'll do a little wrap up. Let me pray for you really quick and go to your groups. Father, help us figure out the skills that we need to teach our kids, our grandkids. Help us to be good dads, granddads, and mentors. Give us some wisdom now during this time of question and answer. In Jesus' name, amen.

Well, guys. Look, none of us wants our kids to fail. You can use these skills and you can teach them these lessons, but you can do it from two points of view. There's not a secular person who doesn't believe in God that would disagree really with anything that we said today. This has been very practical but there's one thing you can not leave out and that's the gospel. You can not leave out that, in the end, what ultimately makes us able to love our spouse well, what ultimately makes us able to manage our money in a way that has greater impact than you would expect, that what makes us able to win a fight in love, the only reason those things are possible is because Christ died for us and takes away our unrighteousness, makes it possible for us to be righteous, rose again from the dead, cleanses us from sin. If that's not the undercurrent of everything you're teaching, well, I mean, this is just a good moral philosophy. I really want to encourage you drench these things with the gospel. You know, you want to be a master builder and you want to have an apprentice. You want your apprentice to become a master. To become a master, an apprentice has got to be taught, has got to be shown, has got to be held accountable. Watch them. Walk with them as they become the master.

Let's pray. Father, as we go out into the rest of this week, Lord, and into our world, I pray, Father, that you would inspire us to be the dads, the grandfathers, the mentors that we're called to be. Lord, help us to make a difference in people's lives, people who are not as far along on the journey as we are, whether they're our kids or someone else's. Lord, help us to teach them how to love their spouse well, how to manage money according to biblical principles, and how to win a fight with love and not with hate. Lord, bless these guys. We are walking back out into a world like sheep among wolves, Lord. Make us wise, Lord, and help us to live sinless lives. In Jesus' name we pray, amen. Bye, guys. I love you. Have a great week.