

Title: Be the second best dad!

It was a Wednesday night. Josh and I were driving home from Bible class. Nikki was at home with a migraine. About half way home Josh said to me, *“Dad you’re the second best dad. God is the first best dad. I hope you’re not upset!”* How could I be upset about that? I told him that’s exactly how it should be! I go back and forth about whether to share stories like this. I don’t want them to come across as self-serving. But I decided to take the risk and share it. I decided to share it because as father’s, our goal for our children is to help them put God first. My prayer for Joshua is that he will continue to think about his heavenly Father and follow Him.

Originally, I was going to use this as an introduction for my sermon for this morning. But I’ve decided to preach on something different. But I still want to discuss being a father. It’s a huge responsibility. Today is father’s day. There will be lunches later on this afternoon. Many fathers will receive socks and ties (that they really don’t want) as gifts! But what about when Monday arrives? The special day is over, but the work of fathers must continue. The scriptures remind us about the important roll father’s play.

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.” Colossians 3:21

“My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart.” Proverbs 4:20-21

As we think about being fathers, let’s consider our heavenly Father. He provides us with the perfect example of what a father should look like.

1. God demonstrated His love for mankind by sending His son, John 3:16. Let us demonstrate our love for our children in word and deed.
2. God is compassion towards His children, Daniel 9:9. Let us show compassion toward our children.

Because of who God is, as fathers, let's seek to give our children back to Him! This is what Elkanah and Hannah did with Samuel. Let's help our children to see how good God really is! We will disappoint them at times, but God never disappoints. We will grow weak at times, but God never grows weak. Let's get them to see how great He really is, so that they will follow Him! This is how we can be great dads!

Benjamin Lee