



# ENCOURAGEMENT

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11 BIBLE VERSES FOR FAITHFUL DADS

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# FOR DADS

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simple theology, messy life

# Encouragement for Dads

## *11 Bible Verses for Faithful Dads*

The Bible has a ton of things to say about fathers.

There are verses about dads instructing their children:

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.  
Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)*

Some that encourage a dad:

*The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him. Proverbs 23:24 (ESV)*

And others that bring our Heavenly Father into the picture

*For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (ESV)*

To honor, encourage and equip you as a dad, and with room for you to make some notes of your own, here are 15 things the Bible says about being a father.

# Dads are Leaders

1. Proverbs 20:7 (LEB) - "He who walks in his integrity is righteous; happy are his children who follow him."

The point of this verse is not how to be righteous or have happy kids that follow. The main point is *integrity*.

2. Ephesians 6:4 (ESV) - "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

The Greek work translated here as *discipline* was a word that meant the entire training and upbringing of a child. This includes education, morals, correction, punishment, and even taking care of the body.

This verse includes all of that *plus* a warning from Paul that we are not to punish our kids out of anger. The *discipline and instruction of the Lord* is the main idea. We as dads offer mercy and grace, but also correction, discipline, and modeling behavior without destructive habits.

3. Titus 2:2 (NLT) - "Teach the older men to exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely. They must have sound faith and be filled with love and patience."

Look at these attributes. This verse instructs us to be men of quality character.

The key here being *to live wisely* because without wisdom, we can't live in self-control, love, patience, or be worthy of respect.

# Dads are Teachers

4. Proverbs 22:6 (ESV) - "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

The point here being the way a child *should* go, not the way you or your kid thinks they *want* to go.

And let me add that it is *never* too early to pray and begin discerning how God wants your child to go.

**5. James 1:5 (ESV) - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."**

Fatherhood requires more wisdom than most of us are born with. Ask God for it.

In all areas, all the time.

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**6. Colossians 3:19 (NLT) - "Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly."**

This is one of the highest levels of teaching a dad can provide. Guys, we have the ability to set a standard in our children's lives.

Our daughters and sons are watching how we treat their mother. It better be the way you want your son to treat his wife, or how you want a young man to treat your daughter.



7. Colossians 3:21 (LEB) - "Fathers, do not provoke your children, so that they will not become discouraged."

Another opportunity here, men. The option is to either build our kids up and encourage them, or tear them down by aggravating them.

## Dads Protect

8. Proverbs 14:26 (GW) - "In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and his children will have a place of refuge."

This verse points out that we as God's children have a refuge in Him.

Building trust, earning respect (yes, you must [earn respect](#) even from your kids), and being present for your children will instill a confidence in them that you are a safe place as well.

It's another opportunity, and this time it's to point your kids to the Lord as their ultimate refuge.

**9.** Matthew 18:6 (ESV) - "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."

Jesus had just called a small child to Himself and was using him or her as an example to His disciples. They had been arguing among themselves about who's going to be the greatest superhero in the coming kingdom.

Look at the language He levels at His disciples. Whether the point was a literal young child, or a spiritually immature new believer, I'm not testing Christ's fatal warning.

Don't gamble with your children's safety, and don't let others, either.

## 2 Verses for Encouraging the Dads

10. Psalm 127:3 (ESV) - "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward."

Children are a blessing from the Lord. An inheritance that God has given to us. Our responsibility is to nurture and invest in them.

11. Matthew 11:28 (NLT) - "Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Fatherhood is an immense joy that's difficult to put words around.

It's also not always easy. Rest in Christ, and always turn to Him regarding your kids. ***It's never too soon, and it's never too late.***

## About Gene S. Whitehead

Gene Whitehead ditched his first career in order to serve people and share hope. He and his wife have been serving in full time, cross cultural ministries since 2007 and are currently based in Northern Europe.



His passion is to help you embrace Christ and to apply Scripture to your daily life in real, practical ways. Something he calls simple theology for a messy life.

And by simple, he doesn't mean easy...

Gene holds a Bachelor of Biblical Studies (BBS) and a Master of Ministry (MMin) from Bible University Canada, Nova Scotia. You can connect with him on his website at [genewhitehead.com](http://genewhitehead.com).