



The Original Action Hero

by Pastor Rich Mace

The relationship between a child and their father is one that changes with time. At the early ages of life, our fathers are to be the source of provision and security, modeling and reflecting these attributes of our heavenly Father above. As we grow older, the role of our fathers change. At about the age of ten, our fathers are to step into the role of someone who imparts identity and destiny into the hearts of our children. From this point on, our fathers are to be the driving force in the direction, discipleship, and development before the child leaves home.



The greatest example of this is found in the first three Gospels of the New Testament. John the Baptist is preparing the way for the One he knows is coming (Messiah). As Jesus is coming out of the water after His baptism, Scripture tells us that a voice came from heaven and declared, **“You are my Son, My Beloved, in You I am well-pleased and delighted!”**

Can you imagine what that must have felt like for Jesus? Standing in front of the multitude of people, repentant sinners and corrupt religious leaders, Jesus and all in attendance hear the voice of God proclaiming His identity as the Son of God! But it doesn't stop there. The Father then goes on to tell everyone that He loves His Son and is well-pleased with Him. Wow, imagine hearing that from your dad in front of all the people you know? How do you think your child would feel if they heard that coming from you at an early age? But wait, it gets better. In Mark 9:7, as Jesus is with His closest friends, the Father speaks of Jesus' destiny as He commands His friends, **“This is My beloved Son, listen to Him and obey Him!”**

Now the man Jesus, has it all. His earthly father (Joseph) had equipped Him with skills (carpenter) to make a living up to the point where His heavenly Father released the blessing of identity and destiny over His life. As Scripture illustrates, from these moments on, Jesus begins His earthly ministry and changes the world forever.

I recently had a series of conversations with my father that were long overdue. God had been moving in my life, particularly in the area of what I needed from my earthly father and how that would impact my relationship with my Father above. Due to alcoholism with my mother and dysfunction with his upbringing, my dad left the family when I was 5 years old. Sadly, a nasty divorce followed. My father did the best he could given the circumstances, but staying connected to our family and giving me what I needed as a son was not an easy task. For the next 48 years, we lived out a tense and estranged relationship. Both of us dealt with bitterness and anger, thinking that the other person was to blame for the condition of our relationship. We both lived our lives frustrated at what could have been, but never was.

Our conversations revolved around understanding the circumstances of the decision he made to leave and what my life was like—living with an alcoholic mother and dysfunctional extended family. In the course of our conversation, I communicated to my dad that in spite of all that had happened across the span of almost 50 years, I still looked up to him. My father retorted and said, “Don't put me on a pedestal Rich, I'm no hero.” I lovingly looked at my dad and said, “I've always looked up to you, you're my dad. I am wired to see you this way.”



From the beginning of life, our children need the basic necessities - nourishment, shelter and love. As a parent, our responsibility does not stop there. Looking to the future of our children requires intentionality and preparation. Just as they look up to us to provide for their basic needs, they will also look up to us for help in guiding them with vision for their lives. **Our kids are wired to see their parents as the most important influence in their lives.**

For a father, our kids see us as **the original action hero!** Helping them be secure in understanding their identity and destiny in life will yield a person of stability, responsibility and inspiration—perhaps even someone who will go on to change the world!

THE NAMES OF GOD

NURSERY & PRESCHOOL

WEEK 1

GOD IS LORD - EXODUS 3:1-15, EXODUS 6:2-8

READ Exodus 3:1-15, Exodus 6:2-8 This week in VicKids your child learns “The Names of God.” Today we learned that God spoke to Moses through the burning bush and said, “I am the LORD.” Use the following ideas to involve your child in family time and learning opportunities, reinforcing simple biblical themes.

EXPLORE TOGETHER Talk with your child about how you decided on his or her name. Look up the meaning of both your’s and your child’s name and talk about the meaning of them. Remind your child that God has many names. Explain to your child that each name of God has a different meaning and with it a different way God helps us. For example, as our Father, God forgives us. As our Shepherd, God leads and guides us.

Prayer Time - God, I am glad that we can learn about Your many names. Thank You for promising to be with us. Thank You for being our LORD. In Jesus name amen!

WEEK 2

GOD IS THE ALMIGHTY - GENESIS 17:1, 15-27

READ Genesis 17:1, 15-27 Today we learned that Almighty God made a promise to Abraham and kept that promise by giving him a son. Use the following ideas to involve your child in family time and learning opportunities, reinforcing simple biblical themes.

EXPLORE TOGETHER God is the Almighty God. He was able to create the world and everything in it. He promised Abraham and Sarah a baby, and He has the power to keep His promises. If possible, visit a farm or petting zoo with your child. Name the different animals you see and listen to the sounds they make. Have your child describe how the animals might be alike and how they might be different. Remind him or her that because God has so much power, He was able to create each every animal in the world!

Prayer Time - God, I am glad You have the power to surprise us with blessings just like you surprised Abraham and Sarah with a baby. Thank You for being strong and helping us be strong like You! In Jesus name amen!

WEEK 3

GOD IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD - PSALM 23

READ Psalm 23, John 10:3-27, Luke 15:3-7 This week in VicKids, we are learning more about The Names of God. Today your child learned that God is our Good Shepherd. Use the following ideas to involve your child in family time and learning opportunities, reinforcing simple biblical themes.

EXPLORE TOGETHER Encourage your child to care for his or her stuffed animals or dolls. Have your child pretend to find food for his or her stuffed animal or doll. Have your child pretend to feed and protect his or her toy. Talk about the different ways God protects us—He gives us shelter, food, etc. Explain to your child that we can trust our Good Shepherd. We don’t ever have to worry or be afraid of anything because He is protecting us.

Prayer Time - God, thank You for being our Good Shepherd. Thank You for taking care of us. In Jesus name amen!

WEEK 4

GOD IS OUR FATHER - LUKE 15:11-32

READ Luke 15:11-32 Today, we learned about the young man who asked for his inheritance and how God is our Father. Use the following ideas to involve your child in family time and learning opportunities, reinforcing simple biblical themes.

EXPLORE TOGETHER You will need a shoe box with a lid and a mirror for this family activity. Before you start, place the mirror inside the shoe box. Remind your child that God is our Heavenly Father. Let your child know that because God is our Father, we are all children of God. Tell our child that inside the box you have a picture of a child of God. Allow your child to look inside the box. They will see a reflection of themselves in the mirror. This is a good time to remind your child that he or she is special to God and to your family.

Prayer Time - God, I am glad that You are our Father. Thank You for watching over us and welcoming us to You. Thank You for hearing us when we pray. In Jesus name amen!

WHATS IN A NAME?

ELEMENTARY

GOD IS OUR LORD - EXODUS 33:12, 34:8

WEEK 1

READ Exodus 33:12, 34:8 This week in VicKids your student learns that “God is LORD” Have you ever noticed the way that the word Lord is written a little differently sometimes in the Bible? Sometimes it is written in all caps. When you see LORD written this way, it is referring to Yahweh. The most common definition of this name is “I am that I am.”

EXPLORE TOGETHER During early Bible times, the name Yahweh or Jehovah was thought of as a very holy name. People would not even say it out loud! Instead they would use the name Adonai or Lord. There are even some Jewish people today who will not write or say Yahweh because they believe it is offensive to God for sinful humans to say His real name. Take a piece of paper and write out these two names of God. Now write out the names without the vowels. Out of respect for God and fear of offending Him, the Jewish people would not write out His name completely. In fact, only the High Priest would speak the proper name **Yahweh** or **Jehovah** once a year on the holy day known as the Day of Atonement when he would enter the Holy of Holies in the temple.

Pray - God, I thank you for telling us your Holy name. I pray that as we grow closer to you and your Son Jesus that we become more like him - COMPASSIONATE, FAITHFUL AND FORGIVING. In Jesus name, Amen!

GOD IS THE ALMIGHTY - GENESIS 33

WEEK 2

READ Genesis 33 This week in VicKids your student learns that “GOD IS THE ALMIGHTY” We learned about Abram and the promise (covenant) that God made to him when he was very old. God promised Abram and his wife Sarai that she would give birth to a son and he would be a father to many nations! God proved Himself to be all powerful when their son Isaac was born

EXPLORE TOGETHER Take time this week to talk with your student about the belief systems of other cultures. During Abram’s life, people worshiped many false gods. They believed if something bad happened, like a fire or a flood, then one of the gods was angry with them and was punishing them. They worked hard to keep all the gods happy. Even during Jesus’ time, the Romans and Greeks worshiped false god’s just as people do today. Ask your student what they think a false god is? What makes our God different? What is the promise (covenant) that we have with Jesus?

Pray - Father, I thank you for being a keeper of your promises! I thank you for sending Jesus to us and that because we believe in Him we will get to be with you forever! In Jesus name, Amen!

GOD IS OUR SHEPHERD - PSALM 23, EZEKIEL 34:11-31

WEEK 3

READ Psalm 23 and Ezekiel 34 Today we will focus on how “God is our Shepherd.” In the Hebrew language he is referred to as Jehovah-Rohi. This is one of the many other names of God. As a shepherd, God helps to guide and direct us, disciplining us only when we need it. God never promises that bad things wont happen to us, but when they do, He will be there to comfort us and help us use these tough times to become more like Him.

EXPLORE TOGETHER The Bible mentions the word “shepherd” more than 200 times. Being a shepherd is hard work because you are constantly on the look out for the sheep, making sure they are taken care of and bringing correction when needed. Take time this week to study the attributes of a shepherd and apply what you find to how Jesus took care of his disciples and how he takes care of you and your family. What similarities do you see?

Pray -Thank you Jesus for being our Shepherd, leading us and caring for us according to Psalm 23! In Jesus name, Amen!

GOD IS OUR FATHER - JOHN 17:1-26

WEEK 4

READ JOHN 17:1-26 This week in VicKids your student learns that “God is our Father”. In the Hebrew language, the word for father is “Abba.” When Jesus would pray to God His Father, He would call Him Abba. Abba is most comparable to our word “Daddy”. It holds a child-like intimacy that holds a term of endearment and can only be applied to the man who raised you and loves you unconditionally.

EXPLORE TOGETHER Jesus’ prayer to God the Father shows us how we should pray to God. When Jesus prayed this prayer to the Father, He prayed about the death He was going to die on the cross, but He also prayed for us. He knew we would need the Father’s protection, love, and help as we live our lives as His followers. Think about that. If you knew you were going to die, would you be thinking about praying for others? When you read this passage, what word or thoughts stand out to you? Who can you think of that needs your prayers right now?

Pray -Thank you Jesus for giving us the gift of prayer as we think of those who need more of You in their lives. You are our rock! In Jesus name, Amen!

CONNECTING AT HOME

victoryathome.com

Stages of Fatherhood

- 4 Years Of Age – “My Daddy knows everything!”
- 8 Years Of Age – “My Dad is really smart.”
- 10 Years Of Age – “My Dad probably doesn’t know that.”
- 15 Years Of Age – “My Dad is absolutely clueless.”
- 20 Years Of Age – “Dad is pretty out of touch.”
- 30 Years Of Age – “I’d like to find out what Dad thinks.”
- 40 Years Of Age – “Let’s get Dad’s opinion before we make any decisions.”
- 50 Years Of Age – “I wish I could ask my Dad about that. He’s pretty smart when it comes to that.”
- 60 Years Of Age – “My Dad knew absolutely everything.”
- 70 Years of Age – “I’d give anything if Dad were here. I really miss him.”

Campus Calendar

Norcross

June, July and August

Vickids Summer of Serving! All services, every week!

7/7 - Victory at Home - 9:30 am

Salvation/Water Baptism Workshop

Hamilton Mill

June and July - Seize The Summer at various locations around Gwinnett.

Campus Service Times

NORCROSS - SAT 6 PM, SUN 9 & 11 AM, 1 PM

HAMILTON MILL - SUN 9 & 11 AM, 1 PM

MIDTOWN - times and locations subject to change.
Go to victorymidtown.com for specific service times.

Heroes

“You don’t raise heroes, you raise sons. And if you treat them like sons, they’ll turn out to be heroes, even if it’s just in your own eyes.”

Walter M. Schirra, Sr.

Apollo 7 Astronaut

Spaces are filling up quickly. Don’t miss out!

Family Camp - Aug 31, Sept 1-2, 2018

www.victoryfamilycamp.com

Minimum Age - 5 yrs old

Cost - \$149 per adult, \$99 per child - for a whole weekend!

Follow us on:



VICKIDSATL

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

“I am the Lord. I am the one and only God. You do not know anything about me. But I will make you strong”. **Isaiah 45:5 NIRV**

Additional Resources

victoryatl.com/athomenewsletter/