

Father's Day 2018
June 17, 2018
Ted Cunningham - Pastor, Woodland Hills Family Church

Children Under the Influence (of a Father)

1. What conditional steps accompany a successful move from childhood and adolescence to adulthood? Answer: Listening to your dad and mom's words and put them into practice.
2. Follow-up question if needed: What instruction must be paid attention to, accepted, and understood by the son or daughter to have a full, meaningful, and long life? All of the words of a father's guidance (and mother)? Answer: Remember Ted's beginning message of the Hello Summer series, where he showed the importance of the heart. It's all about the heart: Deut 6:4-8 and Proverbs 4:23.

Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction;
pay attention and gain understanding. Proverbs 4:1

Listen, my son, accept what I say,
and the years of your life will be many. Proverbs 4:10

Recall pool pictures with power tools

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.
Exodus 20:12

Recall the following pictures:

***Learning how to swim pool picture
*** Riding a bike picture
***Andy and Opie fishing picture
***boy mowing picture

3. What does control look like when your son or daughter is a child?

When our children are young, cooperation and compliance are secured by control.

4. What does influence look like when your son or daughter is a child?

When our children are older, cooperation and compliance are secured through influence.

5. Fill in the blank: I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are _____. 3 John 1:4

Answer: I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. - 3 John 1:4

6. What is the most effective way to work influence into your son's or daughter's heart?

Answers: Love is better than rules and nagging. Show the way, provide some boundaries and structure but then allow them room to grow, make mistakes, and help

them process and learn from their mistakes. Ask them: What did you learn from this experience? About yourself? About your walk with God? About others? Etc. **Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged. Colossians 3:21**

One day you will have no control (so use and leverage your authority carefully, because one day you will only have influence, not control.

- Take time to model and show how to live life for Jesus.
- Your child has a front row seat to your marriage, so model loving your wife. Keep the honey in the honeymoon and your marriage fun and alive.
- Set date nights with your son or daughter to talk and connect over the most important matters in life.
- Have father and son or daughter weekends.
- Speak often of your faith in Jesus.
- Invite your children to place faith in Jesus.
- Model the behavior you want to see in your children. Repent over your sin, apologize for your mistakes and ask for forgiveness.

7. How are you doing with your influence? How are you choosing to live your life?

Influence goes well beyond your lifetime.

O my people, listen to my instructions.
Open your ears to what I am saying,
2 for I will speak to you in a parable.
I will teach you hidden lessons from our past—
3 stories we have heard and known,
stories our ancestors handed down to us.
4 We will not hide these truths from our children;
we will tell the next generation
about the glorious deeds of the Lord,
about his power and his mighty wonders.
5 For he issued his laws to Jacob;
he gave his instructions to Israel.
He commanded our ancestors
to teach them to their children,
6 so the next generation might know them—
even the children not yet born—
and they in turn will teach their own children.
7 So each generation should set its hope anew on God,
not forgetting his glorious miracles
and obeying his commands.
8 Then they will not be like their ancestors—
stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful,
refusing to give their hearts to God. Psalm 78:1-8

We can't choose when we'll die, but we can choose how we'll live.