



Bulletin

JUNE
2022

A PUBLICATION OF FOCUS ON THE FAMILY®

OH JOY! IT'S JUNE!

BIG BOYS DON'T CRY

BY JIM DALY

REAL MEN DON'T SHOW EMOTION. THEY'RE ALL STRENGTH AND NO heart.


I was taught that from an early age. My mom died when I was 9 years old. At her funeral, people told me over and over again to "be a big boy and don't cry." I wanted to be strong for my mom, and to the adults around me that meant not shedding a tear. Emotion nearly exploded out of me, but I fought it back.

I remember looking into my mom's casket and thinking, *I gotta stay strong and be a man*. Then I turned and walked down the aisle by myself, past all of those people, without looking them in the eye. I had to tell myself over and over, *Don't cry*.

Without a doubt, strength is crucial to masculinity. Courage, integrity and character are key to men serving as good husbands, fathers and Christians who stand for what's right. But a man's strength need not reduce him to an unfeeling, analytical machine, just as tenderness need not equal weakness. Vulnerability is a virtue that connects a man more deeply to his family, to his church and to his community.

Big boys *do* cry. Authentic masculinity isn't about strength *or* tenderness. It's about strength *and* tenderness. The Lion of Judah—our conquering King—is also the Lamb of God—our humble and tender Savior.

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Tough
Questions
from Kids

Do we
have to
give money
to the poor?



YOUR MARRIAGE NEEDS NOURISHMENT

How do you grow a garden? It's as easy as planting a seed, right? Well, that might work, but if you want a lush garden filled with flowers or want to harvest vegetables in the fall, you won't see real results until you put in time and effort.

Good gardening involves planning, planting, feeding the soil, watering the plants, pulling weeds and paying careful attention to the weather. Gardens must be tended and nourished every day. The more you give, the more your garden grows.

Sounds a bit like a marriage, doesn't it? Growing together as a couple is like growing a garden. Your spouse—and your relationship—need daily nourishment.

The Bible often uses gardening or farming as a way to teach us about relationships. Psalm 128:1-3 speaks of such a relationship: "Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table."



If growing together as a couple is like planting a garden, how do you start?

The best place to start—according to Psalm 128—is to have a relationship with God. Honor and obey Him. Once your relationship with God is in place, you can work on your relationship with your spouse.

Good marriages include practices that help couples grow together. One of those practices consists of nourishing your marriage. Nourishing involves supporting your spouse's goals, encouraging your spouse, supporting each other in times of stress and spending time together.

The Bible describes nourishing this way:

- Ephesians 5:25—"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."
- 1 Peter 3:7—"Husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way."
- Ephesians 5:33—"However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."

Nourishing your spouse—loving them, showing respect, care and encouragement—is vital to your growth together as a couple. Have you taken time to nourish your spouse today?

—Bill Arbuckle

VALIDATE YOUR DAUGHTER

Of all the relationships your daughter will experience (with her mother, teachers, coaches, boyfriends) the father-daughter dyad has the potential to have the greatest positive impact on her life. Yes, her mother, teachers, coaches and friend's parents will influence her greatly, yet there's something unique, in the true sense of the word, about your role as her dad. As the father, you're the alpha male of the wolf pack that is your family, and what you say or do carries more weight than if anybody else says or does the same thing.

This position means you're more accountable to God for what you say and do. God made it that way, and that is why a dad is so important to his daughter.

The biggest, number one item in your job description as her father is to validate her over and over and over again. Validate your daughter's efforts and accomplishments, her unique personality traits, her female way of thinking and her character.

Being the father in the unique father-daughter dyad is an incredible privilege and challenge. While it's a huge responsibility, it's a very doable task.

—Timothy L. Sanford



BE AN ALL-IN DAD

What are some of the ways that fathers help their kids grow?

In Matthew 6:26, Jesus pointed out the kind of care we receive from our heavenly Father: "Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly

Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (ESV). The answer to the question is *Yes, we are much more valuable to God than birds!* We are so valuable to Him that He sent His Son to die for our sins.

That kind of love is a great example for us dads. God consistently shows how He not only cares for us, but blesses us abundantly. We need to do the same for our children.

One vital thing a child needs from their dad is a relationship. A dad needs to be more than just physically present. Providing for our families is about much more than money, food and shelter. First and foremost, it's about you actually being present, connected, steadfast and stepping wholeheartedly into your incredible role—being an all-in dad.

—Danny Huerta

FAMILY MATTERS

Answers to your questions...

What is prayer?

ANSWER:

First let's take a brief look at what prayer is not:

- *Prayer is not magic.*

We cannot summon God as though He were a genie waiting to grant our wishes.

- *Prayer does not make demands.* While we can make requests of God in prayer, God is the Creator of the universe and does not take orders from us.

- *Prayer is for our benefit, not God's.* We need a relationship with God, available to us through Jesus Christ and engaged primarily through prayer, because we were made to function best when we are in a proper relationship with our Creator.

- *Prayer is not a guarantee against suffering.* "In this world you will have trouble" (John 16:33); "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed" (1 Peter 4:12-13).

- *Prayer is not an opportunity for us to show off.* "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others" (Matthew 6:5).

Prayer is a relationship, wherein we humbly communicate, worship and

sincerely seek God's face, knowing that He hears us, loves us and will respond, though not always in a manner we may expect or desire. Prayer can encompass confession, praise, adoration, supplication, intercession and more.

In addition, our attitude in prayer is important. We must not be haughty, but humble (Ephesians 4:2; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6, etc.). Seen in this light, to "pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) means, in one sense, that we must always strive to have a prayerful attitude. Our prayers must come often and regularly, not from legalistic duty, but from a humble heart, realizing our dependence on God in every aspect of our lives.

—Robert Velarde

TOUGH QUESTIONS FROM KIDS

ANSWER:

We have a responsibility to help people in need. God cares about them, and we should all try to be like God. You can give food to a food pantry, serve meals at a rescue mission or give money to organizations that help the poor. Everything you have came from God. He wants you to treat others the way He treats you.

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FOCUS ON THE FAMILY BULLETIN (ISSN 0897-537X), vol. 35, no. 6, June 2022. Jim Rusnak, editor; Shirley Ree, designer. Published monthly by Tyndale House Publishers, 351 Executive Drive, Carol Stream, IL 60188 in cooperation with Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO. © 2022 Focus on the Family. Used by permission. All rights reserved. *Focus on the Family* and the accompanying logo and design are federally registered trademarks of Focus on the Family, 8605 Explorer Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920. All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, *New International Version*, © NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Scripture quotations marked ESV are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Cover image of mother and son © Evgenyatanmenko | Dreamstime.com. Image of holding hands © Tony Bosse | Dreamstime.com. Image of father and son © Monkey Business | Dreamstime.com. Image of couple gardening © Iakov Filimonov | Dreamstime.com. Image of father and daughter © Isabel Poulin | Dreamstime.com. Image of father and daughters © ViorelKurnosov | Dreamstime.com. Subscription \$16.00 per month per 100 copies. Canada: \$18.00 per month per 100 copies, payable in Canadian funds. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Focus on the Family, Subscription Services, P.O. Box 405, Mt. Morris, IL 61054.