

## Creating a Manhood Plan for Your Son

### I. Reflect on your own childhood

What kind of model did you have in your father?

How was he a great dad? Where was he weak?

What does this mean for how you want to raise your son? (Are you following a great model or are you breaking a bad cycle?)

As a child, what qualities did you admire in other dads?

### II. Assess Your Own Strengths & Weaknesses as a Dad

Where are you strong? Where are you weak? Where can you improve?

What do you admire in other dads?

Are you intentional in your role as dad?

Do you believe in your heart that being a father is the most important job you will ever have?

How would you rate yourself as a father today, on a scale from 1-10? Would your wife and kids agree with that rating? Do you have the courage to ask them?

### III. What Do You Want to Impart to Your Son?

Most of what your son will learn will come naturally—as he watches you and spends time with you. It's what is "caught" rather than just "taught." But it's also important that we be INTENTIONAL in what we teach our sons.

How will you equip your son for manhood? When will you do it? Make a plan! Consider instruction in the following areas:

- Christ-centered worldview
- Character qualities
- Life skills
- Dating & sexual purity
- Definition of Manhood

One conversation will never be enough. Plan a special time with your son to discuss these meaningful areas, but also keep the dialogue open!

### IV. Celebrate and Commemorate Milestones

In addition to your son's "ongoing" education, take time out to celebrate and commemorate the milestones in your son's life. For example:

- Age 10—he's in double-digits
- Age 13—he's a teenager
- Age 16—he's driving
- Age 18—he's a legal adult
- Age ??—he's married and starting a family of his own

How do you celebrate milestones? It's up to you! It can be a special dinner, a road trip, a hike or a weeklong camping trip. Surprise him! Be creative! Regardless, you want to use the occasion to reinforce just how much you love him and how proud you are. Use this time to introduce or reinforce the life lessons you thought through above.

Commemorate each milestone with a special gift. For example, a pocket-knife, watch, compass, key chain, flashlight, sword, etc. Share significant Scriptures, involve other men in the process, make it a ceremony and give him a charge as he enters into this new stage of his life.