



A Father's Guide to the LifeVerse Ceremony

When Jesus met Peter on the shoreline, his name wasn't Peter; it was Simon. There is something profound in that. Though Jesus hadn't met Simon before, He knew Simon. In fact, He knew who Simon was as a boy, a youth, and now as a young adult because of His omniscience. Additionally, He could see what Simon would become: how he would champion Christ and work as a tireless builder to establish a movement of believers with the message of the Gospel and the victory of Jesus on the cross and over death. So when Jesus looked at Simon, He saw both his potential and the future fruit he would generate by stepping into what God had called him to do, to be a rock on which God would build his church.

It must have been an odd occurrence for Simon to meet a man who immediately changed his name. Upon seeing Simon, Jesus said, "You are Simon, the son of John; but you will be called Peter!". It left quite an impression because when Jesus told him and his brother Andrew to drop their fishing nets and follow him, they didn't hesitate.

As fathers, we have the unique opportunity to **observe our son**. While we will experience the best and worst of our boy, his design will shine through and his raw talents will become evident, if you just look. While you can't predict how God will use him, you can see where opportunities lie with proper encouragement and character formation. The LifeVerse serves as a starting point for your son. Every son wants a blessing from his father and to know he has a purpose in the world. The LifeVerse ties your son to God's grander story, showing that He has a plan for him, and that he has a place in His church body. This ceremony provides a beacon from which parents can reference and use as they guide their boy through their youth. It serves as a reminder that we are all being formed into the image of Christ as believers and that refinement is a process. Parents have been granted the opportunity to come alongside as stewards while God does his work.

This guide is designed to help you, as a father, step into that vital role. The goal is to identify your son's unique, God-given strengths and establish a "LifeVerse"—a foundational scripture that speaks to his character and potential. This verse will serve as an anchor, encouraging him to refine his talents and gifts to be used for the glory of God. Remember, children are not things to be molded, but **people to be unfolded**.

Part 1: The Foundation - Understanding God's Design

Before choosing a verse, it's crucial to understand the biblical foundation for this process.

Created in God's Image

We were created for a purpose: "to glorify God and enjoy Him forever". God's creativity is expressed in the unique design of every person. From the beginning, He created us to be in a perfect relationship with Him, with every part of our being—rational, emotional, and volitional—praising Him ⁴. He knit your son together and laid out his days before he was born.

Talents vs. Spiritual Gifts

It's important to distinguish between talents and spiritual gifts, as both are part of your son's design.

- A **Talent** is a natural ability God gives at birth. These are often used for personal gain but are still an expression of God's creativity.
- A **Spiritual Gift** is a supernatural ability God gives at rebirth (salvation). These gifts are meant to strengthen faith and are used for the common good of the church.

Ultimately, our talents and gifts are designed to work together to serve God's kingdom. This process will help you identify the natural talents in your son that can be directed toward a kingdom purpose.

Part 2: The Tool - Becoming a Student of Your Son with DISC

The DISC profile is a tool to help you understand your son's consistent patterns of behavior. It's important to remember:

- The style is an **outward expression** of who you are; it is not *who* you are, but what you *do* with who you are.
- It is not meant to put your child in a box, but to help you understand him better.

The model is based on two intersecting continuums:

Pace and Priority¹³.

- **Pace (Fast vs. Slow):** This describes the speed at which a person moves through life.
 - **Fast-Paced:** Outgoing, initiating, takes risks, makes quick decisions, assertive, and talks/tells.
 - **Slow-Paced:** Reflective, responding, avoids risks, thinks through decisions, cooperative, and listens/asks.
- **Priority (Task vs. People):** This describes a person's primary focus.
 - **Task-Oriented:** Independent, fact-oriented, time-conscious, and controlling.
 - **People-Oriented:** Relational, relaxed, warm, supporting, and feelings-oriented.

The Four DISC Styles

These two axes create four primary behavioral styles. As you read these, think about which one sounds most like your son.

D - Dominant / Determined

- **Traits:** High self-confidence, courageous, results-oriented, direct, competitive, and tries to control situations.
- **Motivated by:** Responsibility and achievement.
- **Fears:** Failure and loss of power or control.

- **Parenting Downside:** A Directive ("D") parent's fear of losing control can lead them to become **autocratic**, demanding instant obedience and using anger to control.
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- **How God Models this Style:** He instructs and teaches us in the way we should go (Psalm 32:8).
- **Biblical Example:** The Apostle Paul.

I - Influence / Interactive

- **Traits:** People-oriented, emotional, talkative, fun-loving, optimistic, and persuasive.
- **Motivated by:** Recognition and personal approval.
- **Fears:** Rejection and loss of reputation.
- **Parenting Downside:** An Interactive ("I") parent's fear of not being liked can lead them to become **permissive**, giving their children free reign and failing to address problems.
- **How God Models this Style:** He desires to be known by us intimately (John 17:3).
- **Biblical Example:** The Apostle Peter.

S - Supportive / Soft-Hearted

- **Traits:** Steadfast, team player, humble, committed to people, and prefers familiarity.
- **Motivated by:** Time, space, and continuity to do things properly.
- **Fears:** Insecurity and change.
- **Parenting Downside:** A Supportive ("S") parent's fear of losing a close relationship can lead them to become **accommodating**, prioritizing the child's happiness to the point of being taken advantage of.
- **How God Models this Style:** He is our Shepherd, Comforter, and Help (Psalm 23, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
- **Biblical Example:** Abraham.

C - Conscientious / Corrective

- **Traits:** Analytical, cautious, self-disciplined, attentive to detail, and does things the "right way".
- **Motivated by:** Attention to detail, perfection, and truth.
- **Fears:** Inaccuracy and unpredictability.

- **Parenting Downside:** A Corrective ("C") parent's fear of making mistakes can lead to **perfectionism**. They can struggle to connect emotionally because they are more rule-oriented.
- **How God Models this Style:** He disciplines those He loves and provides the right way to live (Hebrews 12:6-11, 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- **Biblical Example:** Moses.

Part 3: The Goal - Choosing a LifeVerse

What is a LifeVerse?

A LifeVerse is a **foundational verse chosen based on your son's strengths and natural giftings**, within the context of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). It reflects who he is today and foreshadows how God's grace will empower him to bring glory to the kingdom in the future. Its purpose is to be Christ-centric, lay a foundation for personal stewardship, and point his value back to his Creator.

Cautions: ⚠️

- Be **Christ-centric**, not character-centric. Biblical figures were who they were because of Christ, not their own righteousness.
- Avoid misapplying biblical promises that were for a specific people at a specific time like **Jeremiah 29:11** (was a promise to Israel in exile) or **Philippians 4:13** ("I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" where the true intent is about being content in all situations and circumstances, not a promise that you can accomplish anything you want).

Suggested Verses by DISC Style

- **Real-World Example:** For a boy named Canon, who is a high "I" (Interactive) and high "D" (Determined), his parents chose **Hebrews 10:23-25**. This verse encourages his natural desire to lead and be with people, but directs it toward stimulating others to love, good deeds, and fellowship in a God-glorifying context.

Here are some other suggestions:

- **For the "D" (Determined) Son:**
 - **Philippians 3:14:** "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus".
 - **Joshua 1:9:** "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go".
 - **1 Corinthians 9:24:** "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it".
- **For the "I" (Influential) Son:**
 - **Hebrews 10:23-25:** "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope... let us consider

how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds... encouraging one another".

- **Philippians 4:8:** "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true... noble... just... pure... lovely... of good report... meditate on these things".
- **Psalm 19:14:** "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer".
- **For the "S" (Supportive) Son:**
 - **1 Corinthians 15:58:** "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord".
 - **Psalm 51:10-12:** "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me... Restore to me the joy of Your salvation".
 - **Isaiah 40:31:** "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles...".
- **For the "C" (Conscientious) Son:**
 - **Ezra 7:10:** "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel".
 - **Proverbs 9:9-10:** "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser... The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...".
 - **2 Peter 1:5-7:** "...giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance...".

Part 4: The Ceremony - Blessing Your Son

The LifeVerse Ceremony is a special event where you formally bless your son with his verse.

Preparation

- Make it a special event, prefaced with games and food.
- Choose a secluded environment free from distraction, like a campfire.
- Talk about the event beforehand to build anticipation.

Ceremony Outline

1. Opening (Facilitator Led):

The LifeVerse ceremony follows the following format:

- Talk about God's original design for us to know and glorify Him.
- Explain how sin shifted our focus toward self-service.
- Share God's plan for restoration through Jesus and how our gifts and talents are to be used for God over self.
- Highlight **1 Corinthians 12**, explaining that we are all uniquely gifted by God, and these gifts are meant to work together for the common good.

2. The Father's Blessing:

One at a time, and in front of a group of you and your son's peers, you will be afforded time and space to speak your son's LifeVerse over him and bless him with words of affection, charge and encouragement.

- This is where each father speaks to his son individually.
- Share that you and your family have observed him and prayerfully considered his strengths.
- Read the LifeVerse you have chosen for him.
- Explain *why* you chose it, connecting the words of the scripture to the specific character traits and potential you see in him.
- For some fathers, they take the opportunity to contrast the vice and virtue of the observable talents to establish a charge for their son to be on guard against selfish

expressions of what God has given them.

3. Closing:

- End the ceremony with a time of community prayer, with all fathers and sons gathered together.

4. Optional:

- Parents may want to purchase a wood-printed LifeVerse plaque to memorialize the event. It includes a son's picture with his LifeVerse on it. Purchases can be made by following this LINK or using the provided QR code.
- Pictures can be taken of your son on the day of the event and used for the LifeVerse plaque.



Examples:

It may be helpful for dads to see examples of how other fathers have approached the LifeVerse ceremony. Below are several examples you can use to stimulate thoughts on how your delivery.

It is important to note that your blessing is not more powerful based on its length or bravado. The most significant aspect of this ceremony is the intention and genuineness of your desire to bless your son and impart on him your love.

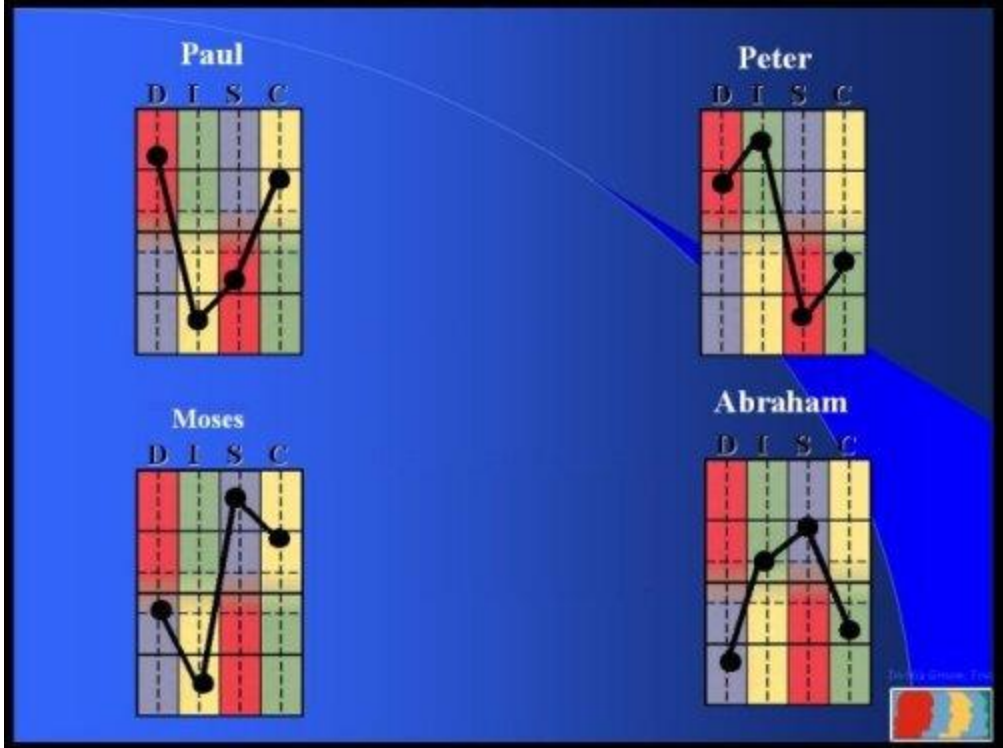
Example - [Prince](#)

Example - [Carsey](#)

Example - [Jonathan](#)

Additional Resources

D	I	S	C
Dominance	Influence	Steadiness	Compliance
generally proactive and extravert		generally reactive and introvert	
decisive, dominant, self-assured, forceful, task-orientated, instigates, leads and directs	motivates others via influence and persuasion, good communication skills, presents well, friendly, affable, inspires others, intuitive, gregarious, friendly	reliable, dependable, process-orientated, listener, friendly, trustworthy, solid, ethical, finishes what others start and leave, methodical, decides according to process	painstaking, investigative, curious, decides using facts and figures, correct, checker, detailed,
things	people	people	things
motivated by responsibility and achievement	motivated by recognition and personal approval	motivated by time, space and continuity to do things properly	motivated by attention to detail, perfection and truth
strong focus on task and forceful style can upset people	emphasis on image can neglect substance	dependence on process can become resistance	need for perfection can delay or obstruct
fears failure and loss of power	fears rejection and loss of reputation	fears insecurity and change	fears inaccuracy and unpredictability
Benziger 'double frontal' (frontal right and frontal left), extraverted	Benziger 'double right' (basal right and frontal right), extraverted	Benziger 'double basal' (basal left and basal right), introverted	Benziger 'double left' (basal left and frontal left) introverted
Jung's ET(N) and EN(T)	Jung's EF(N) and EN(F)	Jung's IF(S) and IS(F)	Jung's IT(S) and IS(T)
Intuitive-Thinking	Intuitive-Feeling	Sensing-Feeling	Sensing-Thinking
Myers Briggs® ENTJ, less so ENTP, INTJ, INTP	Myers Briggs® ENFJ, less so ENFP, INFJ, INFP	Myers Briggs® ISEF, less so ISFJ, ESFP, ESFJ	Myers Briggs® ISTP, less so ISTJ, ESTP, ESTJ
closest Keirsey type equivalent is fieldmarshall	closest Keirsey type equivalent is teacher	closest Keirsey type equivalent is composer	closest Keirsey type equivalent is crafter
temperament or humour implied by Keirsey is entirely phlegmatic (Keirsey's rationalist)	temperament or humour implied by Keirsey is entirely choleric (Keirsey's idealist)	temperament or humour implied by Keirsey is half sanguine half melancholic (Keirsey's artisan and guardian)	temperament or humour implied by Keirsey is half sanguine half melancholic (Keirsey's artisan and guardian)



<u>High D Traits</u>		<u>Low D Traits</u>	
Direct	Adventuresome	Modest	Quiet
Results Oriented	Decisive	Cautious	Unassuming
Egocentric	Inquisitive	Weighs Pros & Cons	Self-Critical
Daring	Self-Assured	Fact-Seeker	Calculated
Domineering	Competitive	Mild	Risk-Taker
Demanding	Quick		
Forceful	Risk-Taker		
Aggressive			
<u>High i Traits</u>		<u>Low i Traits</u>	
Enthusiastic	Trusting	Factual	Retiring
Gregarious	Poised	Logical	Pessimistic
Generous	Charming	Reserved	Aloof
Influential	Sociable	Reflective	Withdrawn
Persuasive	Impulsive	Suspicious	Controlled
Affable	Sensitive	Reticent	Discriminating
Friendly	Self-Promoting		
Confident			
<u>High S Traits</u>		<u>Low S Traits</u>	
Self-Controlled	Patient	Fault-Finding	Discontented
Easy-Going	Deliberate	Impetuous	Change-Oriented
Non-Demonstrative	Amiable	Mobile	Demonstrative
Predictable	Group-Oriented	Alert	Fidgety
Complacent	Steady	Eager	Critical
Possessive		Restless	Status-Seeking
		Impulsive	
<u>High C Traits</u>		<u>Low C Traits</u>	
Conscientious	Sensitized	Persistent	Sarcastic
Evasive	Perfectionist	Stubborn	Rebellious
Precise	Critical	Tactless	Defiant
Systematic	Factual	Opinionated	Obstinate
Diplomatic	Discrete	Arbitrary	Firm
Accurate	Analytical	Disorganized	Self-Tolerant
Restrained			

Additional Resources

LifeVerse Scriptural Suggestions by DISC Style

D - Determined (Directive)

- **Psalm 32:8** - "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye."
- **Psalm 40** - The entirety of this Psalm speaks to waiting for the Lord and being delivered by His strength.
- **Isaiah 40:11** - "He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young."
- **Galatians 2:20** - "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."
- **Philippians 1:20** - "...according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death."
- **Philippians 3:14** - "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
- **John 8:12** - "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'"
- **John 15:5** - "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."
- **Joshua 1:9** - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
- **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** - This passage encourages running the race of life with purpose and self-control to receive an eternal prize.

I - Influential (Interactive)

- **Zephaniah 3:17** - "The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."
- **John 14:6** - "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"
- **John 17:3, 23** - "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent... I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."
- **Philippians 3:7-11** - This passage describes counting all things as loss in order to gain

Christ and the power of His resurrection.

- **Philippians 4:8-9** - "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things... and the God of peace will be with you."
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** - "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."
- **2 Corinthians 5:9** - "Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him."
- **1 John 3:1** - "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!"

S - Supportive (Soft-Hearted)

- **Psalms 46:1** - "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."
- **Psalms 51:10-12** - "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me... Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."
- **Psalms 70:5-6** - "For you have been my hope, O Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth. From birth I have relied on you... I will ever praise you."
- **Psalms 103:8-14** - This passage describes the Lord as merciful, gracious, and slow to anger, who removes our transgressions from us.
- **Matthew 6:33** - "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."
- **1 Corinthians 15:58** - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."
- **Hebrews 10:23-25** - "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering... and let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works... not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together... but exhorting one another."
- **Hebrews 13:5** - "...Be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

C - Conscientious (Corrective)

- **Psalms 17:5** - "Uphold my steps in Your paths, that my footsteps may not slip."
- **Psalms 19:14** - "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."
- **Psalms 27:1** - "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"
- **Proverbs 9:9-10** - "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of

wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

- **Isaiah 40:31** - "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."
- **Ezra 7:10** - "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel."
- **Mark 8:34** - "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."
- **Romans 7:24-25** - "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!"
- **Ephesians 2:10** - "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."
- **2 Peter 1:5-9** - This passage instructs believers to diligently add to their faith virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.