



Questions Adolescents and Young Men Should Discuss with their Fathers

Part of forming a man is taking the time to address specific areas in your son's life you know he will encounter. He is going to encounter moral dilemmas and come face to face with his sinful nature a countless number of times, and you have the opportunity to prepare him for those moments.

Below are a series of questions that address numerous areas of your son's life. The first set has more of a focus on inner confidence wrought from character formation. The second set is aimed at a preemptive strike on cultural influences, or how we can teach and guide in the moment, as our son encounters them. Finally, the last set is focused on discipleship and spiritual discipline.

My encouragement to you is to take time to think about, study, and personally respond to each of these questions. Start by identifying moments in your own personal story where these questions were relevant. Were you prepared to deal with the situations? How did you fair? If the answer is positive, how can you communicate this to your son to be an encouragement to him. If your experience was not, have you found reconciliation with God through forgiveness and has He shown you a better way? If so, how can you use redemption from your past to help your some not make the same mistakes in the future?

Second, are there men you know who could speak truth into your son's life based on their past experiences? You might consider rounding up a few men and their sons to have small group discussion on some of these questions. Sometimes it's good to hear things from different perspectives, born out of different experiences.

Finally, consider books, movies, or other forms of media that will help you and your son address the questions below. Read and watch them together, then have meaningful discussions afterward. You want to make sure you have a posture and attitude that is free from condemnation. You also want to remember you were once a boy trying to figure out manhood too. Do your homework, plan out meaningful time together, and come alongside your son on this journey of discovery.

Discussion Questions

Do I Have What It Takes

1. What are my vulnerabilities?
2. Am I confident enough to make tough decisions?
3. Am I willing to be accountable for my actions?
4. Do I value and participate in hard and virtuous work?
5. Do I know how to give and receive love?
6. Do I have a faith that is more mine than my parents or peers?
7. What am I good at, and how can this be of value to the world and beyond?
8. Do I do what I say I am going to do?
9. Am I willing to submit to those over me, and lead those under me?
10. Do I recognize God as the source of all the good I am called to do?
11. What is my family heritage, and how did we get to where we are now?
12. How can I love my neighbor as myself regardless of how our beliefs line up?
13. What does it look like to be a faithful and devoted husband?
14. How do I handle financial matters in an appropriate way?
15. How do I grieve with others and with personal losses including failure?
16. What does it look like to live out grace in day to day life?
17. What is my role in politics?
18. What are some of the biggest cultural lies I need to be on guard against?
19. How do I deal with doubt, depression, fear, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, and loneliness?
20. What is the cost of personal conviction and is there a time to draw a line?

Specific Cultural Exposure Topics

21. How do I teach my son to properly act and react to those of the LGBTQ+ Community?
22. How do I handle my son's first exposure to pornography? Will I under or over-react, setting my son up for a cycle of shame? Will I help set him up for godly repentance?
23. How can I help my understand masturbation?
24. How can I help my son understand the objectifying of women and rape culture?
25. How do I navigate my son's first exposure to drugs?
26. How do I teach my son to deal with a bully?
27. How do I inform him on how to protect a brother from harm?
28. How do I show him how to respect women and show them dignity?
29. How do I teach him how to properly use technology, as a tool, and not an idol? And how do I help him respond to inappropriate behavior like sexting, bullying, etc.?
30. How do I help him learn to choose music wisely and understand its powerful influence on him when left unchecked?
31. How do I know if a girl likes me? How do I approach her and ask her out. How do I plan the date? How do I respect her, her parents, and her future husband?

Formative Practical Spiritual Discipline Questions

32. How do I read the Bible?
33. How do I pray?
34. How do I meditate on God's word?
35. How do I apply God's word?
36. How do I memorize God's word?
37. How do I pass on what I have learned to someone else?
38. How do I serve my church?

39. How do I share my faith?

40. How do I find God's will?

41. How do I defend God's truth?