

46--- Are You Surrounding Your Children with Godly Men?

As a young father I was very driven by my job. My first wife was wise and suggested my son and I get involved with the YMCA's Indian Guides program. This father-son program was the first step in a ten-year journey of father-son bonding. Later we "graduated" to Boy Scouts. As I reflect back on those ten years I see that it was more than a great bonding opportunity with my son. It was a chance to have men of Godly character to be introduced to my boy. Indian Guides was a chance for my son to get to know Butch and his son. The boys learned how to camp, how to prepare meals and how to live life. My son still has great memories of Butch.

As we moved into Boy Scouts, my son got to know Jack and Bill. These scout leaders were the kind of Godly men who could take my son aside and speak truth to him. As I reflect back I see that our sons were open to listening to the leaders even when they would not listen to their dads. During the rebel years when our sons were trying to get some distance from Dad's rules, they were still open to hearing from their leaders.

Butch, Jack and Bill left an imprint on my son that lasts to this day. He saw men who loved to serve others. He saw men who were firm but fair. Men who loved to enjoy the outdoors. He was surrounded by men who could have a good time playing pranks. Men who would stop by the butcher shop to pick up some bones, bury those bones in the woods and then take the boys on a "treasure hunt" and discover the "hidden bones" of an early settler. These men and their sons became the "standard" that my son applied to relationships in life. His friends in school, college and life have been men of high character. These men reflect the qualities of Butch, Jack and Bill. Men of high character are not easy to find. The scriptures provide the standards we need to follow as we seek men of high character to surround our children.

Verses:

Proverbs 22:6 "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

1 Corinthians 15:33 "Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character'".

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

1 Corinthians 11:1 "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

Personal Reflection:

Are you a man of high character? Can you discern the character of men your child interacts with like their baseball coach or youth leader? Do you get to know your kid's friends well enough to discern their character? Are your friends men of high character?

Group Discussion:

Who has poured themselves into your life?

How have they demonstrated high character?

How can you encourage each other to seek out and build relationships with men of high character?