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# ENVISION A MAN'S FUTURE EVERY DAY

*I am told that in Seattle*, Washington, a very progressive and trend-setting slice of our Western culture, keeping dogs as pets now outnumbered raising children by a rate of four to one. As demographer Jonathan Last reports in his cleverly named book, *What to Expect When No One's Expecting*, the modern dog-ownership preference has so impacted cities in America and Asia that schools are rapidly being replaced by doggie daycare centers and playgrounds with dog parks. At the same time, money lavishly spent by couples on their dogs is overshadowing our parents' monetary investment in us.<sup>1</sup>

The problem with our culture's exploding doggie-ownership trend is that those who still choose to brave having human children will often subconsciously adopt a "children as pets" mentality. That may sound crass, but think about it—deciding to have a child is often entered into as some kind of life-enhancing, joy-producing, satisfaction-inducing endeavor. Without ever verbalizing their motives, couples often pursue having children because they believe "a baby will make us *happy*," "children will *complete* us," or simply just because "we've always *wanted* kids."

Sure, raising children will at times bring parents joy and gratification, but when our reasons for having a baby are indistinguishable from the reasons we might pick out a puppy at the animal shelter, we have entirely missed God's intentions for the propagation of the human race.

## THE PLAN AND BLESSING FOR CHILDREN

The very first couple received a foundational calling in the familiar words “Be fruitful and multiply” (Gen. 1:28), and repeated various times.<sup>2</sup> With the laudable (and rare) exception of forsaking marriage and family for the sake of kingdom advancement, in the spirit of Jesus Christ Himself (Matt. 19:12), raising children to produce the next generational society is to be the norm. Unless you are a confirmed “kingdom single,” the biblical expectation is the covenant of marriage and the subsequent engagement in raising children for the fulfillment of God's global plan and for Christ's eternal glory.

The big perspective then is that your little boy was not entrusted to you to bring you joy, fulfill you, or make you happy—though I pray he will. His temporary consignment to your family is to prepare him to take his place in this world as a trophy of God's grace and as an agent of God's values and priorities in this upcoming generation.

The Scriptures tell us children are the glory of their parents (Prov. 17:6). A simple yet profound readjustment of our parenting mindset makes analogies like the one found in Psalm 127 come to life. God illustrates the role of a mom and dad like this: “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!” (Ps. 127:3–5a).

It is considered a blessing in God's economy to be a spiritual archer in your generation, having a case over your shoulder filled with young children that you are aiming and launching into the next generation! What a vivid *and rare* perspective on being a parent. Your boy is for a

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time in your home, under your care, and in proximity of your influence to be thoughtfully pointed, and launched, and propelled into the future to make a strategic impact for the Lord's good purposes.

Can you see how this perspective can transform your perspective from the very beginning? So many modern parents' voices begin to quiver when they imagine their little boy growing up. They lament the thought of him one day moving out and moving on. They see his forthcoming maturity as some kind of foreboding eventuality, instead of as the whole point of having him in the first place: the gratifying goal of shooting these arrows into the world that God has planned for them to impact.

So, from the beginning get this truth in your heart and mind. That squirmy little infant you bring home from the hospital is, in a short number of years, intended by God's design to step into His world as a young man who will make a difference for Christ. Your job is to release him to this reality. Your goal cannot be to "hang on to him as long as possible." Your hope must be to see him become that independent, mature, functioning adult. God has made this arrangement very clear.

## LEAVING, CLEAVING, AND LEAVING

After describing the first marriage officiated by God in the garden of Eden, Moses added an inspired commentary that is applicable to us all—telling us that the marriage relationship is to be permanent, while the parenting relationship is to be temporary. Yes, you and your wife will always be his parents, and he can benefit from your advice—if he asks for it. But once he marries, your parenting responsibilities have ended.

By God's design, parents are in effect heading toward a "divorce" of sorts from their children, while they are to remain bonded together in their marriages until "death do us part." Our society has this completely backwards!

Read these foundational words afresh: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24).

These are strong words in the original Hebrew language, both for separating from our parents and for being joined to our marriage partner. It could hardly be stated more emphatically. Marriage is a bonding together of a man and a woman with such a profound relational adhesion that, Christ stated, what God has joined together, man should not separate (Matt. 19:6). Then, just as we adults were directed in this divine design to make a clean and comprehensive separation from our childhood dependence and reliance on our parents as we stepped into adulthood and marriage, so our children will do the same when they come of age. Each of us left the temporary arrangement of our childhood homes to cleave together in what is to be a permanent bond, and we are then to anticipate and expect that our children will do the same.

How often our fallen world has turned this upside down, as parents try to explain their divorce to the kids, saying, “While Mommy and Daddy will no longer be married, you, Johnny, will always be *my little boy*.” It may be so common these days that it sounds like the right thing to say when a marriage “falls apart.”

But consider the truth of what should be impressed upon our sons, something to the effect of “Your mom will always be my wife, and you will no longer be my little boy, but will be a man with his own wife and family.” When my wife and I revealed that this had been the common sentiment expressed to our sons from their youngest years, many of our friends were aghast, thinking we were kidding. And when they realized we weren’t, they suspected that such talk must have bred some sort of insecurity in our boys. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our boys, like all other boys, flourished with the sense of security of knowing that their mom and dad are committed to one another through thick and thin. They will also thrive, mature, and grow when they know that mom and dad’s expectation is for them to grow into

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independent and productive leaders in the church, in society, and in their own families.

### GOD'S DESIGN FOR GROWN MEN

The image of an independent and productive leader does not need to be manufactured from our imagination, or from some character sketch out of a movie or novel. God has provided a picture of what men are to be in the very first chapter of the Bible. Consider the words of Genesis 1, which give us a peek into God's design for who He created us to be.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen. 1:26–28)

This foundational statement describes what Adam and all of his subsequent sons were purposed to be—and who our boys are soon to become. God gets to lay down the expectation for His creatures. He is the Boss. And while there are many competing voices telling us what a successful son should look like, the Maker gets to make that determination.

It reminds me of the din of competing voices we heard when our boys played Little League baseball. A rambunctious crowd was always shouting at my sons to swing for the fences, while a dugout full of teammates also had opinions as to what they might want my boys to do at

the plate. Of course, there was Mom, who was often most concerned with their safety and welfare.

The crowd may want my boys to take a huge cut at the ball, their teammates may shout their various opinions, and Mom may just want them to be careful, but it is the coach who gets to direct their time at bat. He may call for a sacrifice fly, a bunt, or a hit and run. He is the coach. My son's future on the team, his commendation or criticism, will depend on his response to one singular voice. How wise we would be to realize the same, as we aim our sons into their future. One day our boys will stand as men to answer before their Creator. I trust they will be able to testify that their mom and dad set them on a course which sought to fulfill their ultimate and most fundamental calling as men.

Here are four noble goals for our sons as men, each found in our key passage: to know God, exercise proper authority, and, if married, love their wives and replicate themselves.

### *1. Men Who Know God*

When God created the first man, He made him unique from every other creature He had created. He determined to make man "in his own image" and "after his own likeness." This, of course, cannot possibly be referring to some kind of physical template. The Bible tells us that "God is spirit" in the essence of who He is (John 4:24), and "a spirit does not have flesh and bones" (Luke 24:39). So when God created the first man, the "likeness" must refer to his nature and his capacity to relate to God. Just as the triune God has relational fellowship within the persons of the Godhead, so Adam was created as a person who could have relational fellowship with the persons of the Godhead.

The Lord made Adam to know Him and relate to Him in a way that no other part of the physical creation was capable of doing up until that point. Psalm 100:3 provides the needed perspective on why we were initially created: "Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people." The Westminster Shorter



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Catechism asks as its first question, “What is the chief end of man?” It answers: “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” That enjoyment of knowing and having fellowship with our Maker is the most fundamental purpose for every man’s existence.

Much more can and will be said on this important aspect of nurturing and developing our sons’ interests and desires to know God, but at the outset let me simply remind parents that there is a big difference between knowing about God, and knowing God. Our boys may have much exposure to the facts about God and the gospel, but until they establish a real and vital relationship with their Maker, our prayers and our work are only preliminary.

Consider the two sons of an Old Testament priest named Eli. They surely knew much about God. They were serving in the worship center. They knew much about the Bible and were engaged in “ministry,” yet the Bible says this about them: “The sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the LORD” (1 Sam. 2:12).

Much like the “good theology” of demons, who we are told intellectually affirm all sorts of undeniable truths about God, they are still “worthless” and condemned because their “belief” is simply a head knowledge and not a genuine trust that establishes and feeds a bona fide relationship (James 2:19). God is jealous for our boys to become men who truly know Him (James 4:4–5). As parents, this must be our ultimate goal for our sons.

Many parents who speak of their son’s future say, “I just want him to be happy!” I pray we will never mindlessly recite that mantra of our generation; let us instead say, “If only my boy would know the Lord!” Nothing could be more central to his existence than this.

### *2. Men Who Exercise Dominion*

In the very next phrase of Genesis 1:26 God tells us that Adam was created to “exercise dominion” over the created world. Of course, Adam only had access to a limited part of that world, but “dominion”

over his small corner of the world was to be his calling. “Dominion”: now there’s a word with a regal flare to it. Let’s make sure we have a sense of what it is that God is calling our sons to grow up to do.

The word “dominion” refers to the application of a positive and constructive oversight over aspects of God’s creation for good purposes. It is the exercise of leadership that brings out the best in what is overseen. Like the word “jurisdiction,” it speaks to the management and engagement of thoughtful supervision that makes rules and gives directions in hopes of positive and godly results. In light of the associated phrase, “subdue it,” which God employs two verses later to further clarify this calling, the idea of “dominion” depicts an active involvement of cultivating and taming aspects of the world that will be better and more useful when this kind of leadership is exercised.

As I like to say, we men were created to “subdue” and “exercise dominion” over our little corner of the world, yet many of us fail to gain dominion even over our garages, at least initially. Still, at some point in our adult lives we will experience the gratifying feeling of “gaining control” over an unruly garage, after some purposeful determination. In almost every job that a man may have he is given a little corner of creation over which to exercise dominion. The questions are: Are we exercising dominion well—and regarding it as a part of the core calling that traces its way back to the garden of Eden? Are we at work to faithfully exercise dominion not only over work projects or job goals, but also over our desks, our lockers, and hallway closets?

I put it that way because when we turn to think of our sons, we need to realize that putting their toys away or cleaning their rooms is not just some childhood necessity to avoid chaos, but it really begins to help them realize an experience not unlike one of the central callings on their lives as men.

Your boy’s little corner of the world, no matter how small (a toy box, a dresser drawer, a set of baseball cards), is something where he enters into an exercise of leadership that God created him to experi-

ence. As parents we need to encourage these early steps of subduing the chaotic, and arranging and rearranging what can be improved and made more useful. We need to celebrate the good and constructive exercise of leadership wherever it might be found and envision where these positive and godly skills might be used to change his corner of the world for good.

### *3. Men Who Love Their Wives*

When God created humanity to be a reflection of His intellectual, emotional, and volitional image, He didn't just create men; He created men and women. Recall the words of Genesis 1: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Gen. 1:27). In Adam's case He didn't just create a world that contained women, He purposed for him to participate in a marriage relationship with a specially crafted female counterpart named Eve. This complementary and special creation of God served to bring in the fullness of the reflection of His divine image in the human race. That is an important fact for all men to remember, whether or not they are ever called to participate in marriage.

From the earliest days, our little boys need to be taught that those little girls they innately perceive as cootie-infested irritants, are in fact a specially valued and divinely prized part of God's highest creation. The world is not what it ought to be and can never reflect the glory God intended without the women God created to display His own character. As old-fashioned as it may sound, boys need to grow into men who have the highest respect and courtesy toward the women in this world. Sin may have greatly complicated the relationship between men and women, but our boys must be trained to envision the grand and glorious plan of God in filling the earth with glory through the expression of male and female in their world.

Without ruling out the unique calling of becoming a "kingdom single," as I've called it, we must begin to instill the thoughtful

expectation in our boys that they will one day be husbands. Much more will be said about this in chapters 3 and 8, but for now let us at least get comfortable envisioning and discussing the eventuality that our boys will one day be husbands, called to the daily tasks of providing, protecting, and sacrificially leading in their own marriages. Instead of avoiding

*But What About . . .*

## STAYING SINGLE

Let's acknowledge that some sons may be among the few who "forsake marriage for the sake of the kingdom." Of course, Jesus never married, nor did the apostle Paul, and it's likely the devoted prophets Jeremiah and John the Baptist also remained single during their service to God.<sup>3</sup> They all were godly and fulfilled their purpose on this earth.

In modern times, some Christian men still remain single and are strong servants of the Lord, including preachers and theologians. Bestselling author John Stott noted that those who remain single "voluntarily put marriage aside, either temporarily or permanently," that they may "undertake some work for the kingdom which demands single-minded devotion."<sup>4</sup> The great twentieth-century Christian apologist and writer C. S. Lewis remained single until age fifty-six.

They are in that minority who have a God-given ability to find genuine contentment and peace with the absence of marital intimacy (1 Cor. 7:7). We can and should celebrate and applaud this special giftedness, but even if it is suspected that our son possesses it, we should not stop the conversations about his mentoring and discipling others.

these topics when our boys are young, let us be free to say things like, “When you are a husband . . .,” “When your wife is . . .,” and “When your marriage has . . .” In a world where many males linger for decades in perpetual boyhood, punctuating our conversation with expectant and anticipatory discussions like this will go a long way in preparing our young men for their futures.

#### *4. Men Who Replicate Themselves*

Having already touched on the concept of being fruitful and multiplying (Gen. 1:28), for the sake of understanding our own role in raising adults-in-the-making, let us briefly consider this concept for our own children. Yes, some sons may be among those who are content to “forsake marriage for the sake of the kingdom” (Matt. 19:12). And some prophets and disciples possessed this giftedness (see “But What About”). Such blessed service for the King continues to this day. Yet this is the exception and not the general rule. Even if we suspect that our son has this special giftedness, we should not stop the conversations about discipling and coaching others. In a very important sense, there is no “kingdom single” presented to us in the Bible or throughout church history who did not replicate himself.

Most of our sons will find wives and be blessed to have children—and that is a reality they need to see from the beginning as a truly blessed reality. Most Christian parents can attest that the blessing of children goes far, fulfilling God’s great design. For a mom and a dad there is something divinely satisfying in nurturing, sacrificing, and caring for their own children. Our little boys need to begin to sense this, not only by the way they perceive our enjoyment in parenting (which admittedly is not a nonstop joy ride, but should include enough smiles and laughter to be convincing), but also especially by the way we talk about the reality of their own future children.

My boys can confess that their childhood was punctuated by a number of comments that began with: “When you’re a dad . . .,” “Be

sure your kids get to . . .,” and “Don’t ever let my grandkids. . .” Often it was in a lighthearted moment, but many times it was not. It has been interesting to see how these periodic comments have produced serious questions from my boys about parenting, and how to handle this or that situation with their future kids. What a relief to know that my kids were not raised to see children as a burden or an obstacle to their “happiness,” but as a genuine blessing from God.

## AIMING AT INDEPENDENCE

Now before we get to the *practicals* and consider some “spiritual common sense” in seeking to live in light of what the Bible says our future men are to become, let’s address one big problem. It is an obstacle that stands in the way of almost any attempt to foster independent young men: the problem of fear.

### *The Problem of Fear*

Although many statistics on the harms to children are down across the board, stories about kids being harmed are clearly way up—compared to any previous generation. Our connected world in this information age, coupled with publishers and parents who want to “make us aware” of every conceivable threat to well-being, have us believe that it would be a miracle if our boys ever survive to adulthood. I am well aware that every statistic represents an incident of real harm, but we have to consider the millions upon millions of successful trips to the park, uneventful skateboard rides, and safe experiences in a boyhood activity that are never reported. The odds of a serious injury on just about every front are down, yet the fears of modern parents are through the roof.

It is time for every parent to revisit the words of Christ: “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are

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all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows” (Matt. 10:29–31).

It is true that sparrows sometimes fall to the ground, but Jesus was clear (as perplexing as His statement may appear), not a single one does so apart from the oversight and purview of God the Father. This is certainly not a license to be frivolous or careless (Luke 4:9–12), but it should remind us that overly cautious, worry-filled, helicopter parenting is useless. Again, in the words of Jesus, “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?” (Matt. 6:27).

The righteous understand this and they are rightly fearless and free from anxiety (Prov. 28:1). Not reckless, but fearless. Not foolish, but assured that in a very real sense our sons are immortal until the day God has ordained as their last (Ps. 139:16).

### *Babysitters*

One of the recurring chances for your children to learn independence is when Mom and Dad are away. This is also a chance for both the parents and their children to confront their fears. From the very beginning of our sons' lives there are many situations when Mom and Dad need time alone for a date night, a church service, ministry demands, or just a few hours to catch their breath. That's when the thought of “another” caregiver becomes an imaginative breeding ground for all sorts of “what ifs” for parents. *So many things could go wrong*, we would think. Even if your family caretaker is a grandparent, a trusted family friend, or the local church nursery, it's easy to imagine the terrible thing that just might happen if we are not there.

I remember once being out with my wife, having put my firstborn son in the care of his grandmother, only to get a phone call halfway through the night that my boy had knocked out his front teeth. Our first fanatical thought was that somehow had we been home he'd still have his front teeth. Well, not so. My mother-in-law wasn't throwing my kid around the family room like a football, or carelessly filing her

nails in some backroom while my kid ran wild. No, my boy tripped on a step and slammed his mouth on the tile floor. I suppose a helmet would have prevented it, but the risk of toddling around the house *barefaced* is one most reasonable parents and grandparents take.

Those first experiences of separation from mom and dad are the very beginning of a future of increasing independence for your sons (and daughters). When *separation anxiety* kicks into high gear for you—and your toddler or young child whines—or even cries—as you walk out the door, remember that God is ultimately the one who keeps his heart beating and ultimately watches over him. These reasonable and needed hours apart (shorter times at first, perhaps longer later) are the initial experiences of him learning to manage without your moment-by-moment involvement. This is a small part of training your children for independence.

### *Bedtime, Clothing, and Chores*

Here are three related activities that bring opportunities for your child to learn independence: bedtimes, clothing choices, and chores. *Bedtimes* and *nap times* are occasions to train your little boy to have the *big boy* experience of managing himself in the solitude of his bed. I know there is plenty of material written to the contrary—much of which is readily accepted by parents whose apron strings prove to be steel cables. But without debating the “experts,” I can say from the laboratory of life, my wife and I have found that insisting our little boys stay in their beds and only call if there was a serious problem (like a gashed forehead) proved to develop young boys who could manage their own restlessness and get themselves to sleep.

I can say that because of our early investment in training our boys to independently get themselves to sleep, my wife and I cannot recall a single instance of them getting out of their beds and venturing downstairs to find us, or knocking on our bedroom door, or climbing in our bed at night. Sure, there was the periodic call for this problem or that



scare, after which we lovingly invested a few minutes to address the problem. But our investment in teaching them to manage themselves during their naps and bedtime developed a boyhood skill that made everyone's lives much more peaceful.

Often parents give their young children far too many choices. But there are many situations where a parent can provide options, and in some cases even autonomy. Through such opportunities our growing boys can learn to be leaders of their own lives and to practice good decision-making. One is *clothing choices*.

Carlynn and I often let our preschool-aged boys pick their clothes to wear. Of course, parents always hold veto power over their boy's clothing choices, but when my boy is just hanging out on a Saturday, I certainly want him to learn to make decisions for his day, which can begin with what to wear. It may be a favorite jersey or T-shirt with a cartoon character on it. Learning to pick out his clothes is a good and generally safe "exercise of dominion" over his little corner of the world.

Even as my boys grew older, I was willing for them to make some relatively bad decisions, like deciding to leave the jacket behind or wearing flip-flops instead of tennis shoes (always with a clear warning as to what I thought the best decision would be); these decisions allowed them to regret their poor choices an hour or two later. Even in something as simple as being a little uncomfortable for an hour or two, failing to heed my counsel on bringing a jacket does wonders in instilling wisdom about the good and bad judgment that can be employed in making independent choices.

*Doing chores* helps boys learn responsibility and independence. My boys have always been assigned chores, but as they entered their teenage years, Carlynn and I were always looking for ways to encourage them to take on greater responsibility for their own lives. Giving them autonomy (within reason) over a set of chores, like doing all of their own laundry, helped to instill a sense of responsibility and "dominion" over a number of things that have a direct impact on their lives.

How helpful it is for young men to learn that clothes don't magically clean themselves. How good for them to begin to learn the independence of managing the washer and dryer, which otherwise would be a rude awakening by their second week away at college. No matter the age of your boys, continue to look for age-appropriate duties and responsibilities that have a direct impact on their comfort and daily convenience. And don't always insist things be done exactly the way you would do them; let them learn through their own trial and error that folded clothes and shirts hung on hangers, for instance, usually wear better than those that aren't.

## INDEPENDENCE AND PLAYING OUTSIDE

Most people born before 1970 had freedom to play and ride most places, as long as they told parents where they were going and when they'd be back. We would leave the house on a Saturday morning and not have to be home until the street lights came on. We'd ride our bikes for miles and play in three different parks on one day, all without satellite trackers and smartphones. Today, anything similar to that might be grounds for calling Child Protective Services on the "absentee" parents. While I am not making a case that a previous generation of parents did everything right, there is something to be said about how many of us learned to manage situations, solve problems, and become increasingly independent by the freedom granted to us in our childhood playtime.

With the many incidents of child abduction and abuse, it is likely impossible to ever return to the childhood freedoms of yesteryear. Still, we need to give our boys some space to play, explore, and even get injured from time to time. Good parenting in the home means that our boys can venture outside the home without parents biting their fingernails, or keeping them on an incredibly tight leash. Yes, there ought to be wise boundaries and parameters, but all too often I hear of parents who view their own backyard as a dangerous and scary place their boys

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have no business exploring. Unless our boys have opportunity to exercise some reasonable area of dominion in their playtime, it is hard to imagine they will ever learn the necessary courage and determination to do much of any import in the tumultuous world in which we live.

## ABOUT FORMS AND APPLICATIONS

Unlike ancient times, much of our modern world consists of forms, contracts, applications, and red tape. It was my goal to introduce my sons to this challenging aspect of modern life as early as they were able to do something to meet it. If there was a form to fill out at the doctor's office and they were old enough to write legibly, I would direct them to fill it in as I coached them. When they were old enough to enroll for driver's education, I would assign them to do the research on the computer, find three or four viable options, and bring their findings to me for input. When it was time for college, I would assign deadlines and quotas for the various applications, essays, and correspondence, providing them the accountability to ensure they got it all done.

If something needs to be done for our kids, and there is red tape involved, enlist your boys to be a part of the process. It is inconceivable that they will enter any kind of profession in this world which will *not* necessitate them being able to work through electronic applications, forms, and the paperwork of modern life. Get them to feel proficient at this whenever an appropriate opportunity arises.

## APPLAUSE, PLEASE

It should go without saying, but let me say it anyway. Knowing that we are seeking to launch competent and productive men into the next generation, any time you see your young man show an aptitude at making a good decision, standing on his own, or being the "big boy" who can manage a situation on his own, applaud him with appropriate

praise and affirmation. Let him know that these skills will serve him well, as God places him in the world to do something important for Him. Tell him that the good management he applied to a situation was an act that brings glory to God and will prepare him for adult life.

You can even salvage an unwise choice as a learning opportunity. Being decisive and taking a risk can be a good thing, even if the result doesn't prove to be advantageous. We don't want our boys paralyzed to make decisions because they are so fearful of making bad decisions. A productive adult life will surely call for a countless number of decisions, and not all of them will be the best ones. Praise him for learning that lesson even when his choices could have been better.

Encourage him in these small steps because you see their importance, having learned to prayerfully envision his future every day.