

BCL ep305 Equipping Dads with Kevin Goodnight

A father's time is often stretched thin these days, balancing work demands, family responsibilities, and the endless to-do list. And in the hustle, it's easy to be a busy father who blinks and misses out on the critical role fathers need to play shaping their children's hearts and minds. And in our school environments, often driven by moms, literally in carpools, and in overall day-to-day duties, dads can feel one step removed from the formative work happening every day.

But what if, instead of feeling on the sidelines, fathers could fully engage in ways that strengthen the home, marriages, and build a true partnership with their children's school? All this and more on this episode of Base Camp Live. Mountains, we all face them as we seek to influence the next generation. Get equipped to conquer the challenges, summit the peak, and shape exceptionally thoughtful, compassionate, and flourishing human beings.

We call it ancient future education for raising the next generation. Welcome to Base Camp Live. Now your host, Davies Owens.

Welcome to another episode of Base Camp Live. Davies Owens here with you. I never take for granted that you made a big decision today to hit that play button.

Thank you for doing that. Thanks for subscribing. Thanks for liking what we're doing, giving thumbs up, and all the things that one does in podcast land.

But more than anything, it's so affirming just to travel around the country, as I'm doing a lot these days. I'm on many, many school campuses spending time speaking to parents, to teachers, even to students, and really getting just a continued sense of both the opportunities and the challenges that we face in raising the next generation. I want to say a special thank you and shout out to Becky and Lance at Regents Academy there in Nacogdoches, Texas, where I was just last week doing a parent education evening meeting with teachers and students, and especially impressed with your seniors.

What an amazing reminder of just the capacity of young men and women when they're raised up in godly homes and churches and in schools that really challenge them to their maximum ability to be the very person that God made them to be. There's just unfortunately so many young people today that are just never reaching their God-given capacity, and it's really beautiful when we see that happen. So thank you for your great work there, and also a quick shout out to Leslie Miller leading the Geneva School of Bernie and her team there, as well as Paul Fisher at Capstone Classical, headmaster there in Fargo, North Dakota.

Thanks to all of you for being a part of Base Camp, for listening, supporting us, and being in connection with us. I love to hear from you. Info at BaseCampLive.com. We're in the

midst of reworking our website, making it easier to index and find past podcasts.

So whatever we can do to be better partners and supporters, that is the goal. So let me know what's on your mind. In this episode, we meet with Kevin Goodnight.

He is a focused and passionate leader of fathers through his writing, his speaking, his online courses. He does one-on-one development, sitting down with dads from around the country, just challenging them to live with purpose and substance in their families. His newest book is entitled *Dad Voted*, subtitled *Dads Devoted to Discovering Their Duty, Direction, and Destiny*, and it has been widely accepted and has been a big help to a lot of men around the country.

Kevin spent years in corporate America and was running teams and managing business units. He's putting all that energy now into equipping fathers as a full-time work. Kevin lives in the suburbs of Houston with his bride, Kelly.

They have two boys, 13 and 11-year-olds. And I can't wait for you to hear the wisdom and insights that Kevin brings. Before we get to that interview, just as always, a genuine thank you to those who are partnering to sponsor this particular episode of Base Camp Live, America's Christian Credit Union, Classic Learning Test, Life Architects Coaching, Gordon College and their Masters in Classical Leadership, Wilson Hill Academy, and Classical Academic Press.

I encourage you to check out our partners page on the website and the show notes and learn more about these great resources. They're very important work in supporting the work that we do every day with our schools and their homes. Well, without further ado, let's jump into this conversation with Kevin.

Kevin, welcome to Base Camp Live. So glad to have you here with us. Absolutely.

Thank you, Davey. Appreciate you. Yeah.

You know, this is a really, really important topic. The folks who listen to Base Camp know that we're living in these three worlds. For those who are listening, we're obviously in church world, we're in school world, we're also in family world.

And family is so critical to every aspect of the development of our children. And we often kind of lump family as just like this one unit, but family is obviously made up of moms and dads. And boy, the state of fatherhood today is in a challenging place.

And so just kind of a disclaimer as we get going, hey, we're not here to tell dads all the things that they're not doing right. And here's the list of things you got to go try and take on today, but just to encourage you. And so, Kevin, I love your story.

I love that you've written this book really to address directly the hearts of fathers. So a

little bit of your story would be great to hear. Just how did you get to this point of leaning in so heavily from the business world into the world of really guiding fathers? Yeah.

And if you would have told me three years ago, this conversation would even be happening, I would have laughed at you because I was that. I was a business guy building kind of my own kingdom, for lack of a better word. And it was just one of those things that I had the blinders on, which I think a lot of us do.

And it's not bad. Look, we're men. We're meant to be providers.

We're meant to work hard. That's not at all my message. My message is one of those dads of how do we just become a little bit better, a little bit more intentional, a little bit more, as I call going from being a determined dad to a devoted dad, or a.k.a. dad voted.

And that's the kicker. I think, man, and especially guys that are committing to listen to this, they're already good dads. There's a ton of good dads, but it's just moving them from here to here.

And unfortunately, probably the biggest thing I see today in fatherhood is one of those things. We're very busy and we don't feel equipped. And sometimes that equipping kind of cripples us a little bit.

And it's one of those that I kind of had to come on. I kind of had to go for my own story. I was the business guy.

I was running the business. I loved the Lord. Look, I've loved the Lord for years, but I knew there was something missing.

And there's a whole journey that I detail of my alcohol abuse and how God revealed himself to me multiple times. I mean, like I'm a, Dave, he's got to kick me in the face two and three times sometimes before I wake up and go, oh my goodness. But God kind of shook me and took me and said, we want you to go this way and you're going to write a book.

And I'm like, I'm not an author. I'm a business guy. And I think that's the coolest part about our God is he's like, I've got to call it out a plan.

And we're going to, we're going to do this. And the Bible also talks about, he'll give you the desires of your heart. We love that part.

But the first part of the scripture says to those who delight in me, I will give them the desires of their heart. And I think every father's desire is, is that they want to love their kids well. But what I'm seeing happening is there's a lot of dads that don't know where to start.

And yes, there's these crazy, awesome books. Um, I could go off on a tangent on, on

book rankings, but, uh, dad jokes, dad jokes are the number one ranked books right now. And that is just shocking dad.

That's really sad dad joke. That's the high point of fatherhood today. Yeah.

Dad joke books. Number one, number two are how to be a starter dad. And look, you've your dad, the first five years are important, but the dad doesn't you're there, but the first company, the first year it's mama, right? And then the father really makes the biggest impact from five to 12.

And I think what's so often as we read these, how to be a, how to change a diaper, how to do this. And those are good and necessary skills, but there's so much more from five to 12 years old that the father has to know. Establishing identity, moral authority, uh, respect for the body, learning about the body.

There's all these things that the, where the father plays. And I think a lot of dads go, they're scared to death. A, how do we have this talk? How do we do this? B, uh, they're busy and see, they're like, well, we'll get to it.

We'll get to it. We'll get to it. Well, if I almost missed it, I was drinking myself heavily until my kids are, uh, were, were nine and eight and 10.

I almost missed it. The father impact years from five to 12. Once they hit 13, it's all about their peers.

And that's, I saw a statistic on that recently, just, and I've mentioned it cause it's just so sobering. You know, eight, I think it's, you know, 75 to 80% of the time you will spend in your course of your entire lifetime is done by the age of 12 with your children. So I mean, just because you're right, peers come along, right? Things start happening.

But we know when you look, so again, when I'm hearing and I'm seeing this, I'm just curious because again, you wake up every morning with this real amazing calling on your heart to try to connect these fathers. But I mean, I look at things like Pugh's statistic that say 30% of families today live within a hundred mile radius of their extended family, which means that, you know, 70% of young millennial Gen Z families are looking around, whether it's mom or dad saying, Hey, how do I do this? I mean, I grew up in an alcoholic home with a dad that was not by any means a role model. And so fortunately God put other godly mentors in my life, but it sounds, I mean, it seems like it's even worse today.

In terms of just like, where do you go for direction? YouTube's probably not the best place to go seek fatherly wisdom. What do you see? Yeah. And unfortunately churches are struggling.

I'm learning that the hard way. Church, what do they say? 80% of women's ministries are thriving and I like only 18% of men's ministries are thriving. So we're up against a lot.

And I think the fatherlessness stat is up to 45% of homes are fatherless. And I think- And that's, sorry, and that's like dad physically not there, like, but you may be physically there and you're still on operate kind of checked out. And it's interesting, like, you know, your, your comment about the church.

And I think again, it's a close parallel to the school. There is a, and I'm confident because I have these conversations all the time that dads would say, you know, Hey, um, you know, kind of school is kind of mom's thing. You know, I, I pay the tuition and I maybe drop some kids off at carpool, but mom kind of quote does the school stuff.

Um, which in part is, I think like the church is kind of the fault of the school because we don't really give dads clear opportunities. And we're going to talk more about that later in the podcast, like how do you actively get involved? But we've kind of that whole idea of kind of being an emasculated, uh, cultural moment here in church world. Like, Hey, give a tie, then maybe go on a mission trip, but there's really not much for you to do here.

Um, that we've just missed something here. I mean, I remember, I think it was a 1997 being maybe in a dating myself here, but you know, promise keeper, Charlotte, North Carolina, like 60,000 men in an arena. Not that that was the pinnacle of all fatherly fatherhood, uh, moments, but, uh, we've, there's something that shifted here under our feet.

And I just, again, it's helpful what you're saying. So yeah, keep going. Cause there's definitely some challenges here.

Look at it. I mean, you look at, so I'm 42. And so you look at my dad.

Uh, my dad unfortunately lost his father at an early age, but in my grandma grew up in the great depression. So you look at just this, like grinding work hard mentality. I'm so grateful for my family roots and, and even the entrepreneurial side of my family.

I didn't realize I had until this journey, but father's just, it was a white knuckle through life. Then now it's a white knuckle through life now we're, but now you had technology on top of that's gasoline to the fire. And I'm not talking tech to the kids.

Yes. Tech to the kids. But I saw something the other day that they said a stat in like 1987 said in 20 years, the work week will be 26 hours and not 40 hours.

And it's, it's the opposite. It's 56 hours instead of 40 hours. And so we're just, we're so efficient.

We're so good. And I'm kind of old school at heart. It's kind of that, how do we slow down? How do we delegate? And I look, people ask me all the time, how the heck did you write a book? I was running a \$43 million company commuting two hours a day, working

50 hours a week.

How did you write a book? I said, 30 minutes a day. Well, how did you do? Well, first of all, I got rid of alcohol. That was, and then 30 minutes a day.

So here's one crazy. And this, this is math. This is just human math for every 10 minutes you waste.

It's like 68 hours a year or something. Maybe, I don't know that you waste. So how many times a day do I waste 10 minutes? And look, I'm not a pro.

I waste 10 minutes a day, multiple times a day. And so I just think there's that whole piece of how do we just do some little small tweaks? How do we start praying with our spouse? How do we change our prayer life from a Lord bless this food, Lord help Johnny get to sleep to, to, to these like kingdom heaven invading earth kind of prayers, where you're just like, Lord, I need you to use me and use my kid in such a way that he knows it's from you and you alone. I mean, that's a, wow, that's a different type of prayer.

We're still going to pray, but instead of Lord bless this food, I'm starving. It's Hey, Lord, can you show up during this dinner tonight? Those are kind of, it's just a mindset shift. It's not a crazy, I'm not asking people to devote thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours to become this genuine father.

Just get out of your own dadgum way. And here we go. Yeah.

And well, and I think again, to the, my disclaimer at the beginning, I mean, there's a lot of grace here because it's not that people are, if anything, I, as I do focus groups with young parents, including dads around the country, I mean, it's, there's a hunger for just, Hey, just, I'm tired of trying to figure this thing out between, you know, YouTubes and people down the street. I mean, we just did a podcast last couple of weeks with Keith McCurdy on gentle parenting. And it's just, you know, the point is there's a, how do you even know how to parent and like, who's, who's, who are the guiding voices? There's no James Dobbs anymore.

I mean, and, you know, again, dating ourselves, it was promise keepers. You had the John Eldridge's, you had, there were loud voices. I felt like 15, 20 years ago that just said, Hey, even if you grew up in a broken home as a man, here is a, here are some healthy models for godly father being, you know, godly husband and godly father.

And, you know, there's a, and it clearly that there's not so much of a clarion voices at this point. And so, um, it's a real challenge. And again, I think of, you know, I was thinking about Jonathan Edwards who said, you know, he stood on the shoulder of his father who stood on the shoulder of his grandfather.

And I thought, well, that's what, that's how I want to start those generations going

forward. I always felt like I was the kid, you know, I had an alcoholic grandfather and father. So I'm like, you know, it took a long time just to stand up on my own two feet because I didn't have shoulders below me.

And so I think that's what, you know, fathers are listening. It's like, we, we want to be that guy that, you know, we're lifting our, our children up, but it's hard when you have no frame of reference other than, you know, certainly as you alluded to, I mean, good luck going out on any modern media, modern movie. And, you know, it's the Homer Simpson dad times 10 these days, you know, it's like, and then you throw the Western way, which it's, we're actually in a retirement mindset, not a legacy mindset.

We don't, we don't think legacy. We think retirement and we think one generation out, we think about our kids' generations. We're not thinking three to five generations of what I'm doing today to affect three to five generations down the road.

So that's a, that's a whole different can of worms, but again, that's a different mindset shift of, okay, let's get the, let's get the head and the heart of the father, right? Then let's get to the household. And then we start spreading mission, vision, and value from there and light it up. Right.

Well, it's, so it's, so we're going to take a break and come back and get into some of those best practices. And I can, you know, I'll save one, I'll save an example when I, when we get back after the break, but I just think sometimes these things are just, they're almost in that category of like a really good tip or hack or just like, wow, why didn't anybody tell me that? Like, that would have been so helpful. So we're going to get into some of those just best practices.

A lot of these things are in your book, but just trying to give some encouragement to, to families and the fathers today. We'll be right back after the break. We're all here because we love classical Christian education and we chose it for well-thought-out reasons.

But have you ever thought much about where you bank? Wouldn't it be awesome to work with a bank that shares your love of goodness and truth and beauty? The folks over at America's Christian Credit Union are proud supporters of classical Christian education and this podcast, and they have been serving the financial needs of Christian ministries and schools and families for over 65 years. Find out more about America's Christian Credit Union and how they can help your family or school with funding and banking needs by visiting americaschristiancu.com, or you can find out more in the show notes for this episode. Kevin, I've been so grateful over the years to have older mentors, men that have come into my life that have just played such an influence and kind of giving me everything from profound, deep thinking of fatherhood to just honestly some life hacks and practicals.

I remember serving years ago as an associate pastor, and the senior pastor came to me right after our firstborn daughter Hannah was born. He just said, you know, you ought to make it an evening practice to bathe your children. I looked at him with this funny look like, bathe my children? That sounds like something my wife should do, you know, typical male attitude there.

He was like, no, listen to me. He just kind of made the point that this is a routine every day, and if you adopt it as kind of a habit. Sure enough, I did that with all three of our kids, and it just became this really sweet evening ritual.

I would have never just stumbled upon that, and I bet it took him 90 seconds to share that with me. There are so many things like that that we just don't know because no one's really told us. In your book, you talk about just kind of the idea of foundational elements of foundational building of fatherhood.

Just jump in here with some thoughts that you feel like are just so important for fathers universally to know. Yeah, I mean foundational first. It is foundational of the father.

I mean, I go pretty hard at the faith-based side. I'm not smart enough, Davies. I know what God's done in my life, but yeah, it's okay.

Hey, father, where's your heart towards the ultimate father, right? Even if you had a bad dad or a not devoted dad, you have the creator of the universe, and you have Jesus as our father. At the end of the day, that's the foundational piece, but then there's such simple things about the power of your words, right? My kids each have a Bible verse that is written in their walls, and we read it to them often. There's so many just little - I leave notes for my kids.

I mean, they know who they are. I mean, these are things that are just - it's just showing the heart of the father for their child. That's such a differentiator in everything, and it's not that hard.

We all like to receive a note or a thank you, and it's not about performance, right? It's just I love you because of who you are. So there's a little bit of a shift of that. We're a performance-driven culture, performance-driven society.

How do we go to the heart of the father? Same as we do for our spouses, and it's something as simple as the touch, the note, the words of affirmation. So some of those very, very basic foundational building blocks that stick with them. My kids have letters written for me on their walls.

They know that they are loved. They know they are cherished, and they know who they are. And I think, man, if we could just get dads to do that, that takes 90% of the battle.

Dr. Justin Marchegiani Well, and I love that you're - you know, in the end, it doesn't have

to be these expensive, complicated – it's almost, I guess, you heard the term like Disney dad. I guess that's often used to like, you know, in separated homes where dad's gone and he just shows up and overwhelms them with all of this material things and experiences. And I think, I wonder if sometimes in our frantic state, we just sort of stockpile.

We're not gonna do the little things like the notes you're talking about. We're just gonna show up, you know, hey, and on Saturday, we're gonna have this blowout three hours and then offset with everything else I'm not doing the rest of the week. And it seems like maybe better to just do small, you know, little things like writing your book as a small daily task weighs longer and stronger in the end than some grand, expensive, big thing to offset it.

So what do you – does that sound right? I mean, from your – Dr. Justin Marchegiani The ultimate, look, there is a – the ultimate is we're building trust with our kids. Because as they grow older, the trust is the differentiator. I mean, I was scared to death to tell my family things about my body changing or about what I saw or about what I experienced.

We're – you're building all of this entry-level love and development so that one day they – they have this ultimate trust to say, hey, you know what? I accidentally saw this on my phone or hey, I accidentally ran – I mean, it's just a – I could take this in a whole different level. But it is, you're building trust with your kids so that when you do have the tough conversations, it comes from a place of love. Hey, that's not who you are or hey, that's not who we are as a good night.

That's, you know, being the – going back to kind of family values, right? Dr. Justin Marchegiani Yeah. Yeah, I know. That's really good.

Yeah, we'll keep – so what other foundational elements would you – would you point to? Dr. Justin Marchegiani Oh my gosh. Well, I think it's – it's so much about – there's, you know, the saying, more is caught than taught. So – but I also believe it's – it's kind of both.

It's caught and taught. So how I live my life spiritually, physically, mentally, spiritually, my kids see that. They see my marriage.

The more I press in and love my wife, they see how a man loves. And if I don't have a daughter, but if – for those who have daughters, they see how a man loves a woman as well. And so there's so many just – just that difference in the household of just – we just have rhythms of life.

We eat – I mean, what is the stat that says, like, if you eat three times as a family in a week out of 21 meals, you're like – your kids are like 80% more likely to not be X, Y, and Z, addicted to this. I mean, it's like crazy stats. You're going, I got to eat three meals?

Oh, we get three out of 21 meals in a week we can do.

So that's - that's, again, just kind of that foundational. We're here as a family. This is a safe place.

Our house is a safe place for their friends. It's not - it's a fun place, but it's not just a fun place. There are rules and that kind of stuff.

So I hope that kind of - that's that building block again, but it starts with the dad. Where is his heart in all those facets? Well, you have a - one of your chapters is the present of the present and the idea of just - again, these are not overly complicated. In some ways, they're like, well, yeah, right.

I mean, be present when you're present. I mean, just how often are you sitting there as the dad and you're justifying, I've got some work stuff to do. My head's down on my phone.

I mean, what does that say? And maybe if you just transcribed your day and the times you are with your family, what are you doing in terms of technology or in terms of the conversation you're having? So again, some of these are just - it's like the old Eugene Peterson's - what is the title of the book? It's A Long Obedience in the Same Direction. It's just sort of this simple day over day. Even I think dads that drive carpool to school, I mean, you've captured a moment you're never going to get back.

And then how do you use that? I mean, I remember when dad said, I don't know what to do. Do I listen to 80s rock all the way in? Or like, well, maybe you have a conversation. Honestly, that's why we're doing Zipcast.

It's a way to create conversation and help maximize that precious moment you have with your child. Yeah. There's a lot to it, but there's not.

I think I have a buddy who I posted on LinkedIn this week about always having a beer in my hand for the first half of my kid's life. And he reposted it and said, yeah, but every parent can relate to that with the phone in their hand. And it's like, oh, yeah, this is completely on point.

So when I pull up into the driveway, I literally say a prayer, Lord, give me some sort of just a little bit more of energy just so I can pour in. And when I open the door, it's a telltale sign. If I open the door and the kids come running, daddy's home, daddy's home, you know how you've set the tone for your house.

Now, if you open the door and they're on devices or they're scared of you, that means you come in like just unloading all your stuff. So I try to unload all my angst from the work. I try to leave that in the car or outside because when my kids get home, they just all they want is they want their dad and they just want to go to battle with them with

their dad.

They want to have fun and they want to be. It's just it says we get so caught up in that. So it is it is you do have to physically mindset turn off that I do.

And that's I have a buddy who schedules on his phone from from six to nine every night. He has a calendar reminder that says, dude, get off your phone. And it literally.

Well, well, and there you may have just given again. I love these little that's like bathing the kids like that might have been worth the price of the whole podcaster because that's the point. Like and I know I equally know dads that if can pull up in the driveway and say, okay, I'm literally leaving one world and going into the next.

It's like I'm getting off the plane and we just landed in Germany and everybody's gonna be talking differently. We're thinking differently. It's a different moment than what I'm used to.

So we're now in home mode, leave the work mode outside or just, you know, what are those ways that we don't even realize we're not setting ourselves up for success. So I think that's a great. I mean, if you just did that, just be present when you're present.

It's pretty significant. No, I give my wife my phone. We go to dinner at a restaurant.

I say, here's my phone. Cause I don't keep it on a whatever pocket. I just, so I, it's just little things that just say, I'm here.

I'm present. I'm yours. Yep.

My phone rings and my phone's turned on at home. It, which it's not, I keep it on silent. I put it in a drawer, but if it ever rings at the dinner table, well, like it's, it's not at the dinner table.

I, you won't see me even flinch. It's just, we keep, we keep going. Well, and that's, I mean, again, we could go a long time on these.

We're gonna take another break here in a second, but I mean, it's just a simple thing. Like do you, is the, is your phone on the table during a meal? Like, what is that? And I've read quite a lot of, there's a lot of research on that just showing, I mean, what does that say to the person that there's not just the two of us here. If you're out with your wife at dinner, it's actually, well, there's us.

There's a lot of other people here that may be interrupting us. So, you know, you're not quite as important as maybe I'm thinking you are because it's other devices in our way. So I mean, again, we're kind of talking about the technology side of it.

It's very important. It is probably the distraction and problem with, you know, really

undermining the effectiveness of men in our homes. I want to, I'm going to share a statistic that I saw and I want your reaction to it.

We'll take a break and come back and get your thoughts on it. But the statistic is basically that you think about children that go the distance with Christ. And I actually had somebody just email this question to us in the Zipcast world, just because parents can email in questions.

The question was just, you know, how do I, what can I be doing to make sure that my children are in that what is increasingly a small percentage of family of children that grow up in Christian homes and churches and go off to college and life and continue to walk with Jesus? Because it used to be like 20%, you know, 15 years ago, really pre-smartphone. I think it's significantly lower today. But the statistic that I'm referencing was that in homes where the child is the only one who's following Christ, maybe they went to a vacation Bible school or whatever, and mom and dad are not dialed in, it's like a 7% probability over 25 years, they're going to continue in that faith walk.

If it's just mom, it's like 37, 39%. But if it's mom and dad, it's well over 90% likelihood that that child will continue in their walk with Christ. And so that becomes a pretty compelling reminder that that role of father is absolutely critical.

So anyway, let's take a break. I want to get your reactions to that and continue to get some best practices from you. We'll be right back after the break.

I want to take just a moment during our break and let you know about the great work that's being done by Wilson Hill Academy. They offer a vibrant, rich, and accredited classical Christian education available to families and schools almost anywhere. With a click of a button, students join master teachers and friends live online from all over the world to engage in deep and lively discussion, solve math problems, conduct science experiments, translate Latin, deliver thesis presentations, and so much more.

At Wilson Hill, students make lifelong friends and graduate well prepared for college and beyond. Discover what's possible for your family or school at wilsonhillacademy.com. So Kevin, what do you think? Is it true from your experience that 90 plus percent likelihood of a child continuing in their walk with Christ if they are, if dad's engaged? I mean, again, we live in a fallen world and there may be prodigals and a 50-year-old later finds the answers they had walked away from. But in general, does that seem like a reasonable projection? Yeah.

It's sad. It's the father alone stat. Yeah.

I mean, if the father leads, as we're called, the household is going to follow. If the father only leads the household, I mean, it's 70, 80 percent. So you add the father and the mother, it's 90.

It's 90 percent. And there's also just the parlay to that is church is one hour-ish, right? It's one percent, two percent of your week. So it's, again, what's going on in the household? Do you have a mission and vision and value statement for your home? Look, we, businesses do.

I spoke to a couple months ago, 50 men in the room, 50 businesses all had mission, vision, and values. I said, what about your family? One family, one guy raised a hand. And look, I didn't have a mission, vision, and value family statement a year ago.

I now do. And so there's, it's, again, it goes back to that intentionality. What are we doing? What are we doing? And I think I'll just kind of footnote on that comment because I think part of the, maybe one of the shortfalls of our engagement, especially those listening that are tied in, like many are with classical Christian schools and education, there's an outsource mindset that's really very unhelpful, if not destructive, which just says, hey, we're kind of not doing it maybe as much as we should in our church or in our home.

So we're going to just write the tuition check and let the school take care of all of these formation issues and so on. I mean, so again, it's just, it feels obvious to say it, but it's probably not as obvious to everybody living it out, which is that we really do have to be purposeful, be intentional in our homes. And here's one for you, and I'm excited.

I joined this podcast all amped up. I'm kind of, I run amped up, but I hosted a sixth grade boys' Bible study this morning, and it's a beautiful ministry out of Dallas here called Practice Ministries. They spoonfed me material.

All I got to do is get the dads and the donuts, and we had some breakfast casserole. We ate good. But just getting the dads, and I had dads come up to me, man, I don't know how to pray.

Can you help me? Oh my gosh, I've been, my kids are asking me to take to church. And so there's so many of these little, there's a lot of resources. This is a free resource that is, here's a pamphlet, dad, I literally read it to our kids.

And what I'm doing is like, not only am I trying to input the word of God in these kids, these are like 10 sixth graders that I want them to do life together, right? We talk about community and isolation and all the things within teens and adults. It's like, hey guys, you 10 kids are going to do life together. So I think some of that, that was the richest 30 minutes that all those dads will have this whole week.

I got pictures of them praying with their kids. Some time may have been the first time they've ever prayed with their kids today. And this isn't a look at me kind of deal.

This is just, it's just, again, those little intentional steps. Well, and what I love about that, and I'll just mention because I think this is, I actually do some training with schools on

this very topic, which is sort of what I call the no dad left behind approach, which is we do need to help facilitate gatherings on our school property for fathers. And again, it's not a, it's, it should parallel what's happening in the world of the church.

But I think, you know, I know a school in Atlanta that they do, you know, beer and brats. So again, you don't have to drink, but I mean, come, at least come have a tasty steak or a food once, you know, food item once a month, we're just going to hang out at the grill together. We're going to create fellowship moments, the donuts and dads you mentioned, but can we create intentional gatherings and then in those gatherings offer some guidance and best practices and encouragement? Because again, we just, we're meant to be in community and we don't learn well if we don't have each other to kind of be seeing other, other examples of mentors living this out well and best practices.

So again, a lot more we can talk about, I definitely will connect people to your, many of your resources, but you've got a whole section in your book just on life lessons and, and other kind of best practices. What are a couple of those things you might be able to share with us? Look, we've got to be prepared to have some tough conversations and we're not, I mean, just, it's, I mean, here's the thing, your kid can Google anything today. I have no four year olds saying, you know, um, they can Google pictures and things and we're, we're hearing these horror stories and I'm not here to spread fear, but I am still here to say that we need to be prepared and you're never always prepared.

But, uh, what are those tough conversations? I mean, we think you don't start talking about sex until they're about to maybe have that fifth grade video. Well, there's opportunities to talk about, um, plants and animals when they're four and five and six, so that when they have that conversation at eight, nine and 10, it's not as awkward. Um, how do you talk about the body? How do you talk about nutrition, health and wellness and fitness and all these, these are just life lessons that I think all of us have to kind of become back center around, uh, pornography, hard conversations.

There's a great, there's great tools to talk about kids. A good pictures, bad pictures is a very, very well book, very simple book that you read with your kids. So those are the things like dads just need some simple guidance.

Um, I have a deal called 52 must have conversations and I think there are 52 conversations, one a week, right? I'm a, I'm a keep it simple, stupid. Here's one conversation a week. Again, there's ages and other things, but talking about the, your identity, talk about the body, talk about the love for your country, talk about money, the good, the bad, the ugly, uh, talk about social media.

These are conversations that of course spouses and need to be aligned on, but fathers need to need to need to lead as head of the household as well. Yeah, I don't, I love, well, what a great, you know, back to just that, Hey, what I need a cheat sheet. So I'm a busy dad.

Like, could you just give me some promptings here? Um, I love that. You know, how, how do people find those 52 tips? Where, where would Yeah, it pops up right on the front homepage of dad voted.com. I have, uh, 52 must have conversations. I have 52 traits of a true man.

If you want to get hit in the face today, uh, that's, that's in there. And then I've got 50, 52 benefits of stopping alcohol. So if alcohol is something that it's been affecting you, all of those are right on my homepage and it is, it's just, how do we equip and challenge and charge men to just gosh, be just a little bit better.

Yeah, those are, I, yeah, there's so much, I think that's helpful here with that. You know, as we kind of wind our time down, just, I'm sure some folks are listening. Um, we've got some, you know, especially in our schools that you got moms listening and dads, maybe not in the scene right now, a broken home situation or, um, and, or related to that families with like, gosh, all our kids are like, you know, upper school, high school.

Uh, we kind of, you know, we didn't optimize those experiences early on. What are just some words of encouragement? Maybe a single parent or a family that's a little further than the journey that may be thinking, man, is this too late? What would you say? Yeah, it's never, never too late. It's, you may have to, you may have to eat some crow, I guess, for lack of a better word or apologize.

Hey, I miss this, this and this, but here, or you embody embrace your kids to join you. Hey, we're going to do something different. We're going to start having a family dinner every Sunday.

Would you invite it, make it about their friends or, Hey, we're going to, we're going to write a family mission statement, but what do you think? What do you, what do you think our five values are? Um, of, of the Owens family, right? Like you ask these questions, you start incorporating your kids versus, Oh crap, I missed. And then you start spewing on your kids. You're going to, you're going to lose, uh, uh, lose them from that standpoint.

I'm starting something today, this in the next week with my 13 year old. Uh, and it's going to be centered kind of around, you said it's going to be centered around meat and questions and it's how do we help these kids? Kids want Gen Z and kids right now, they want answers and they go to YouTube for all their answers. So how do we give them spiritual truths backed up with, you know, with, uh, with real guidance, biblical advice, biblical evidence.

And I'm, I'm starting something called BBQ and a, and it's literally kids ask me questions and they can write them down if they don't want to ask them out loud and I'll read them and try to answer them. And I'm going to cook some steaks. I'm going to show these boys how to cook a steak with, that's a, that's all podcast in itself.

Um, but we'll eat really good food and then we'll just have conversations. It's really, but this, as they start to get older, it's about doing life with them. Um, their faith will get challenged one day.

Your goal is that as a parent is when their faith is challenged, that they have, they have it not in just their head knowledge, but they have experienced God in such a way that that doesn't even phase them. So that's, that's the ultimate goal right there. Well, those are great words of encouragement.

And I think that a whole day, uh, idea of just, you know, doing life together, whether it's, it's men with boys modeling that or whether it's just men together. And, and that's often something that Keith McCurdy talks about with me here on the podcast often is just, you know, and we're seeing it where schools are, are leaning in on this idea of let's create gatherings for fathers. You know, yes, it may be third grade dads and donuts.

It may be the steak thing. It may be, let's create kind of a, you know, an association of fathers that get together and help with carpool or they just, you know, they're just, or they just come fellowship and there's not an annual finance. It's a part of every single thing.

It's just like, we really need to create community and connection where those relationships can get formed and best practices can be shared. So Kevin, thanks for all of your insights. Again, if folks want to know more about you, remind them again where the website is, what's the best resource for you? Yeah.

Dad voted.com is, uh, is the resource I've got. Uh, those 52 traits we talked about, I've got an online course called becoming dad voted. So if you want what I'm spewing here in 10 minutes, 15 minutes, just listen to it.

It's, you can listen to it on the drive. It's a, it's an online course. And, uh, as, as well as, um, uh, heavy on LinkedIn, LinkedIn under my name, Kevin goodnight seems to be where I get the most, uh, kind of career minded, career focused dads, kind of where my social media lies, but yeah, check out the website available.

Open to just help challenge and charge men. And like, uh, like I'd said many times, just be a little bit better. That's it.

Fantastic. Kevin, thanks so much for all your time and insights. Sure.

Appreciate it. Well, you've done it. You made it through another episode of base camp live, and I sincerely hope that you've been encouraged along the way.

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Thanks again for listening.