



YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES, BUT GOD DOES

with Jerrad Lopes

▶ FOCUS VERSES

Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

Psalm 127:3-5

▶ DISCUSSION

1. **What kind of role did your dad have in your young life? Was he present and nurturing?**
 - a. Did work responsibilities cause him to be somewhat distant?
 - b. Was he never present at all?

2. **If your father was absent for substantial portions of your childhood, who were your male role models?**
 - a. Were they a consistent presence, or did they come along individually “at the time I needed them,” as Jerrad says?
 - b. What did you learn from them?



3. **Jerrad says “you don’t have what it takes” to change your children’s hearts and make them feel a certain way about God—you have to put it in the Lord’s hands through prayer. Have you ever beaten yourself up or felt shame for not being able to teach your children a certain lesson or value? (See Proverbs 3:5.)**
4. **What was the time in your life—childhood or adult—when you felt most isolated?**
- a. What were the circumstances that brought that isolation about?
 - b. Did you do things during that isolation that you probably wouldn’t have done if you’d had more of a community guiding and supporting you?
5. **When your parents fought, did they make up and/or forgive one another?**
- a. Do you remember what kind of impression that made on you as a child?
 - b. In what ways does that continue to affect you today as a spouse and parent?
6. **Jerrad says that “It’s really hard to get your kids to fall in love with things you’re not in love with.” (See John 14:15.)**
- a. What sorts of things have your kids taken an interest in because they knew you were interested in them?
 - b. Did you ever try to get your kids to like something you didn’t actually like or weren’t good at, and were your efforts successful?
7. **Along similar lines, Jerrad stresses the importance of “spiritual leadership.”**
- a. Are you the kind of person who takes initiative, or are you more likely to wait for someone else to take a leadership position and guide you?
 - b. What are some things you could do to take a greater leadership role in terms of instilling reverence and good moral values in your children?

