

Dads,

We commend you for taking this step in leadership for your family. While we admit that *With All Due Respect*<sup>TM</sup> is written for moms, we also recognize that dads have a pivotal role in the family. Since Nina and I (Debbie) are both women, we know we can't possibly address all the issues you face as a dad with your kids. That said, we realize that if you are willing to embrace the concepts in this book along with your wife, the dynamics in the home can dramatically change as you both parent toward the same goal. That's why we brought in some male help to give a man's perspective on the issues.

My husband Dave worked alongside Nina and me when we wrote *Generations*<sup>TM</sup>, a parenting course for both moms and dads. Not only did he, along with several other men, consult with us from a dad's point of view, but he also joined us in the classroom as a trainer. The wisdom he brings to dads is from his experience as a father of four. He's been in the trenches himself with kids who at times, tested every boundary put in place. I know—I was there with him. I guarantee that no matter what parenting concerns you might have, they won't surprise us.

We hope that you'll give Nina and me some grace on the feminine approach to our stories. However, if you dive into this with the goal of walking beside your wife and answering the questions that could apply to you, there will be much opportunity for dialogue about how you approach parenting together. We understand that men are wired differently with a great deal of time spent at your work during a normal day. With that in mind, my husband Dave and I have written "dad" questions that might help you engage more easily with each Dare. Either way you choose to engage, we're glad you're here.

Thanks for joining us on the journey!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, decorative initial 'D'.

# With All Due Respect™

## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS FOR DADS

### BEFORE GETTING STARTED:

Read *DEAL WITH THESE FIRST: EXPECTATIONS* beginning on page xxii in the book and complete the assignment.

### DARE 1

Take the time to read through the Parenting Assessment and answer the questions. These will give you a place to start defining some changes you might want to consider as you move forward in this book. For those who don't have time to complete the assessment, we suggest you start here:

1. Am I willing to make an honest evaluation of my engagement in family matters? Why am I here?
2. Is my natural tendency to jump into family issues, without fully understanding what is going on, to fix or control the environment? If so, why do you think that is?
3. Would I want my kids to have the relationship with their future spouse that I have with my wife? Would I want my future son-in-law speaking to and thinking of my daughter in the same way I do my wife? Why or why not?
4. How much time each day do I give to my wife? Each kid? Do I think that it is enough? Why or why not?

## **DARE 2**

1. How do you parent differently than your Dad? Who did/is doing a better job? If you could change just one thing in your parenting, what would it be?
2. In all of life's busyness, describe for each kid the last time you looked deeply into their eyes while talking to them. What did you learn by doing this?
3. Does the busyness of raising a family and work keep you from setting family leadership priorities?

## **DARE 3**

1. Why did we choose to have kids? Was it because "it was time" or "it just happened" or was it "a natural next step" in our growing love relationship? Elaborate on your response.
2. Is a relationship with God important to you? Do you feel the need to direct your kids down a spiritual path? Why or why not? If not, what "power greater than me" do you align with in setting goals, having ethics, having hope, etc.?
3. Somewhere out there are your kids' future spouses. Are you leading each kid to a life of faith and integrity for their future spouse? Why or why not?
4. You blinked and now have tweens or teens in front of you. Are you growing closer to God in a way that your kids are noticing? If not, what would need to change?

## DARE 4

1. Who decides the consequences for misbehavior with the kids in your home? Do you and your wife generally agree? If not, whose approach is taken? Why do you think that is?
2. Do your kids successfully negotiate consequences for misbehavior or do you simply announce the “edict” to your kids, not allowing any feedback? How do you think your method impacts your relationship with each child?
3. Have you experienced your wife issuing consequences in your absence that you feel are too lenient? Too harsh? If so, how did you handle it? Did you express this to your kid *prior* to vetting out the reasoning with your wife? What was the outcome?
4. How does “being on the same page” in parenting effect a kid’s respect for either parent? How does “being on different pages” effect a kid’s experience of his or her home life?
5. Given that [research](#) shows the key to a successful marriage is a husband’s openness to sharing power and receiving influence from his wife, how good at that are you? Is your wife also open to sharing power and receiving influence from you? What does your current marriage teach your children about relationships with regard to power and control?

## DARE 5

1. Does admitting that you are wrong to your kids feel like you are giving away control? If so, how do you overcome this?
2. Do you ever hear word responses from your kids that you have to admit you have said to them? How does that make you feel? What steps could you take to change that?
3. Often some kids get confused when responses to them change, i.e. they are used to getting yelled at for something and you are choosing to no longer do that, or you might typically ignore issues and now choose to address them. Some kids seek to take advantage of what they deem a new “weakness” in their parents. How can you and your wife avoid this?
4. Sometimes family leadership takes a step of faith. Can you take the first initiative to a more respectful relationship with your child? How might you succinctly explain to your kid why you are going with this new approach?

## DARE 6

1. Describe the difference between hearing and listening.
2. Have you begun providing frameworks instead of blueprints for your sons and daughters? (A framework is a broad vision of an end result. A blueprint is a step-by-step direction of what specifically needs to be done.) If you haven’t begun this transition, what could you do to start the process?
3. For us guys, power can take many forms. Think of the last tension event between you and your son/daughter. Is your tendency to carry out edicts and use a tone, gesture, or glance to “think” for your kid? If so, how is this generally received?
4. How do you communicate trust and respect to your kids? What does it specifically look like? Are they receiving it? How do you know?
5. Think back to exactly one year ago. How has your parenting and relationship grown toward each kid? How are you helping your boys become men?

## **DARE 7**

1. Does immediate and harsh reaction "just run in the family"? Think of the last time you just lost it. (Be honest.) How has that exchange with your kid altered your relationship?
2. Non-passive Dads by their presence exude power. How can your family leadership provide your kids with the desire to let you into their worlds?
3. At what point do you join in a heated discussion between your wife and kids? What percentage of your participation is listening or asking questions? Do you ever join in the heated discussion where it is 2 on 1 (Either you and your wife against the child or you and your child against your wife)? Do you think this generally has successful results?
4. When was the last time you shared a trial or failure from your childhood to provide context and empathy to your kid's struggles? What was it?

## **DARE 8**

1. In football, defense is generally played one of two ways: man-to-man or zone coverage. How are chores done in your house? Do you play man-to-man (leadership by example) or zone coverage (she gets the inside work, you get the outside)?
2. If you play zone coverage does your zone resemble a postage stamp and your wife's the state of Texas?
3. If you play man-to-man, that is a distributed task list among family members, does your list have two or three things and your wife's has thirty? Is the distribution fair? What things could your kids be doing rather than your wife?
4. Empathy does not come easy to most men. Have you noticed just how much your wife does for the family? When is the last time you expressed appreciation for all she does? Have a discussion with her about how she feels about the division of labor and see if changes should be made.

## **DARE 9**

1. Do your kids see your love for your wife in a way you would hope they would love and treat their future spouse? If your kid's best friend asked your child to describe your relationship with your wife, what do you think they would say?
2. When is the last time you looked at your kid's phone or computer to see where they've been? Ask your wife if she believes that this would be invading their privacy. Would you know how to do it?
3. Have you ever asked a friend of good moral character to interact intentionally (think mentor) with your child? (Some kids might feel uncomfortable at first, so some coaching may be needed.) Who might be someone you could ask? How could that be an extension of your parenting?
4. What do you think it would take to start and maintain a dialogue with your kid on the virtues of living for God and not the world?

## **DARE 10**

1. How would you handle an accusation made by another parent about your child?
2. To what degree of trust do you have with your kids? Have you ever told your kids how you feel?
3. Kids do blow it. How do you express concern for their behavior? How many strikes do you give with the same violation before trust is totally lost?
4. Which parent are you: the IRS (guilty until proven innocent) or giver of infinite second chances? How do you balance that?

## **DARE 11**

1. As a dad, do you parent your kid in anticipation of what a family member (dad, mom, sister-in-law) might think of your actions? If so, what would it look like if you didn't need their approval?
2. Does disagreement between your kids make you feel like you just want to end the conflict? If the goal is to raise healthy independent adults, what areas do you need to change to transition into more of a coach?
3. How do you handle the situation when someone "needs to talk to you about your kid"?
4. When was the last time you resisted getting involved with one of your kids' personal conflicts? Did it work out okay? If not, how could you have coached them through it? Would your wife agree with your approach? Why or why not?

## **DARE 12**

1. Think of a time that one of your kids came to you with a request or an issue? Was there a reason you were asked and not your wife? Why do you think that is?
2. Our families are gifts from God. Like a gardener, are you "tending" to each member of your family? How? If not, why not?
3. Families deal with stress and conflict in different ways. Is your family a grace-based hospital or combat area war zone? What might you need to do differently?
4. Do you let your wife "complete you" by listening and changing how you view a family situation? Why or why not? (Hint: God gave each child two parents.) How can you blend your parenting strategies?

### **DARE 13**

1. Do you succumb to the desire to say “I told you so!” very often? Though temporarily satisfying, as a dad what are some potentially better approaches?
2. An 80’s TV show “Star Trek – Next Generation” had a character (Deanna Troi) who provided a deep sense of empathy to the ship’s captain. Are you empathetic? (Most of us men aren’t.) Do you seek your wife’s empathy to deal with over the top emotional situations? Describe the last time this happened. What might your wife have interjected into the equation to unhook the emotion?
3. Thoreau wrote “the mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation...but it is the characteristic of wisdom not to do desperate things.” What emotions do you feel when your kids melt down? Do you respond in wisdom or do desperate things? Elaborate.

### **DARE 14**

1. What does a conversation with your wife look like when you are strategizing how to approach your kid? Who generally initiate this conversation? Do you ever lead it?
2. How do you approach a situation where you see your kid struggle with getting something done? Do you get involved or nag? What could you do differently?
3. How do you handle disappointment with your kid's behavior? Do you confront them or engage them? How does that work for you?
4. When your kid is going through a rough situation, do you ever share any memories where you struggled with something similar? If not, why not?
5. Think back over the last seven days. What is the longest conversation you had with each kid? Was it a positive one filled with encouragement? What could you do to increase positive conversations with them?

## DARE 15

1. Can you look at yourself and laugh? Are you able to face a situation with self-control? Do you come unhinged easily? What is your biggest success and biggest failure during tense times with you kid?
2. Classify the kind of humor in your house. Is the humor cutting, or is it funny? Does it come in the other person's expense? Or are you the master of puns? Ask your wife if this is helpful or hurtful as you interact with your kids and with her. What changes might you need to make?
3. It is said that experience is knowing when you make the same mistake twice. Do you find yourself making the same relationship errors over and over again? How might using humor help that?
4. Would your wife say you are funny? Ask her!

## DARE 16

1. In golf it's called a mulligan. On the playground it's called a "do over". What was your last knee jerk reaction to your kid that made you wish you could have a "do over"? What do you wish you had done differently?
2. A phrase existed during the end of the Cold War: "Trust but verify." How do you monitor your kid's access of technology or choice of friends? When was the last time you compared notes with your wife?
3. True truth is reality as God sees it. When confronted with the true truth of your kid's actions or heart, what is the way you and your wife respond? Which one is the "cool parent"? Would your wife agree? Why or Why not?
4. What does "fact finding" look like when you need context about a difficult situation with your kid: An interrogation, counseling session, a safe harbor lighthouse or a letter from the IRS? Why did you answer the way you did?

## **DARE 17**

1. The feeling of lack of control can lead to a critical spirit. In what ways could your relationship with your wife and kids be changed if you just stopped and took inventory of the positive things each brings into your life?
2. For each family member, what are the top two things you are thankful for?
3. Fear and anger are generally the first two responses when a man are confronted with a threat of the unknown. How can you combat the immediate negative thoughts that come to mind when confronted with a stressful situation?
4. Lead a thankfulness discussion around the dinner table. (Don't wait until Thanksgiving.) How in tune are you by anticipating what your family members are thankful for?  
**WARNING:** Leading this discussion may cause a rabid search for a thermometer and Tylenol.

## **DARE 18**

1. Loretta's reaction to her son's behavior was fairly bold. If you were to place this in the context of organized sports, how might you approach this differently? Or would you?
2. Suppose you were the mom who was being asked to go pick up your son's friend. Would you do it? How would you feel toward the family of the boy you were picking up?
3. Did the mom of the boy who picked up Jacob help or hurt what Loretta was trying to accomplish? Explain.
4. Loretta is laying a foundation for the future. How might setting boundaries here help later on? Specifically, how might this interchange help once Jacob is driving and makes demands on the use of the family car?
5. If you had been Loretta's husband, how would you have felt about what she did when you heard the story? Whose side would you have taken, Loretta's or Jacob's? If you had been driving instead of Loretta, how would your reaction have differed from Loretta's? Or should it have? Explain.
6. Are you consistent in letting your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no" or do you allow the kids to wear you down with their whining? Give an example.

## **DARE 19**

1. We dads often feel we have the right perspective on life. How would the James 1:19 reference of being swift to hear and slow to speak be applied when confronted with your kid's differing perspective on a major issue that runs opposite to the family's value system? (Sex, gender identity, alcohol, dating, faith)
2. I once was told by a coworker that he had been "barfed on" when another coworker shared some family struggles they were going through. Play back the last time you openly showed grace and empathy to someone who was struggling. Describe the situation. Did you show empathy or did you miss an opportunity?
3. Do you have behaviors you reward with love, time, or affection and behaviors that change how you show attention to your kid? What might those be? Does your kid's behavior reflect on you as a parent? Explain.
4. What does your prayer life look like? What things do you pray about? Do you pray more for yourself or your wife and kids?

## **DARE 20**

1. Moms are amazingly more in tune with our tweens and teens (generally). Walk through how you might coach your son/daughter after a serious screw up. This is not an easy dad exercise. Does your walk through have strength, grace, and love? Why or why not?
2. What does your conversation about authorities to your tweens and teens consist of? Is that a dad or mom conversation? Would your spouse agree?
3. Melissa pointed out that Jeremy was a good kid. List out two good qualities about each of your kids. If they do not know you feel this way, commit to telling them how you feel in the next week. Don't forget.
4. It's important to be on the same page as your spouse when reacting to really bad news. Describe how you and your spouse work (or not) together when disaster strikes. Who leads? Are you on the same team? Would your spouse agree?

## **DARE 21**

1. We live in a microwave society. As dads, we often feel that an immediate response is necessary to the situation at hand. When was the last time you paused before moving forward with what your gut was telling you how to respond? Was God part of the pause?
2. Wives need security, a sense of identity/significance, and conversational companionship but also a sense of “team”. What would a regular weekly time to talk look like for you and your wife?
3. A Venn diagram is a drawing of two overlapping circles. If one circle represents your parenting style and the other circle represents your wife’s parenting style, what do the common areas represent where you and your spouse’s styles match? What would your parenting Venn diagrams look like? Does she do more of the parenting than you do or is it equal? Or do the two of you tend to play good cop/bad cop? If you asked your spouse a similar question, would her Venn diagram look the same as yours? Try having a conversation with her about what might need to change.

## **DARE 22**

1. Corporations spend millions of dollars on organizational leadership and team building training. Describe one event or tradition that builds a sense of team in your family. Who is the leader? You? Your wife? One of your kids?
2. Dads’ styles of extracting “truth” from their kids can range from Mr. Rogers, “Here, sit on my lap and let’s talk about it”, to the stock phrase “We have ways of making you talk”! Give an example of where you fall on the scale of communication with your kids when you are in a fact-finding mission.
3. Describe your family rules for handling disagreements between kids. Examples might be: no physical contact, no screaming, no silent treatment, etc. Does everyone in the family know the rules and operate by them? If not, have a discussion with your wife to discuss what those should be and then communicate them to the kids.

## DARE 23

1. Dads often let moms take the lead with deep conversations about things like purity, identity, and self-worth. Often these conversations can be very successful when done during windshield time. When is the last time you had a deep discussion with your kid during a long drive? Have you ever? What did that look like?
2. The media and peer pressure often place our kids in the position where there is a marked difference between the values of the culture and the values of home. How might your approach put in context these crucial life skills into your kids? What do you need to do differently? Have a dialogue with your spouse about action steps you can take together to make sure you are reinforcing the values you desire in your kids.
3. The pressures of providing for home and family often lets us assume that things are okay. Patrick Morley in *Man in the Mirror* makes an interesting point. "The human spirit, left to its own devices, will always seek its own independent way." Do you have a male friend that you can talk through the issues with your kid's development? If not, why not? Choose to meet with someone regularly (like weekly) to hold you accountable in your role as a dad and husband.
4. Answer questions 1 and 2 in the *What about You* section of this dare on page 121. Compare notes with your wife. Are you on the same page? Put together an action plan with her.

## DARE 24

1. For most dads, the default answer is no. There are times however that "no" is an appropriate response.
  - What does a "no discussion" look like between you and your kid?
  - Do you listen or ask questions before rendering a decision?
  - Does it devolve into a circular conversation with the same things being said over and over?
  - What needs to change in these conversations?
2. We are in the middle of a generational pendulum. The current parent generation typically comes from a grateful and content mentality while the current millennial generation comes from an entitlement mentality. What steps are you taking to equip your kid to handle discouragement and disappointment?
3. Describe the last time you modeled handling disappointment in front of your kid. Describe that scene. Is this the way you would want your kid to respond? What, if anything, should you do differently?

## DARE 25

1. Coming back to the area of expectations is important. What steps are you taking to minimize your expectations for what your kid should be doing versus how is God working in your kids' lives?
2. As Dads we have to be careful not to discourage or exasperate our kids. When is the last time you listened to your kids' hearts? Do they have expectations for themselves and does it match your expectations for them? What are the differences?
3. Do you and your spouse compare notes on where each kid is in their development? Are you on the same page?

## **DARE 26**

1. Can you name the two closest friends for each of your kids? For each of those friends, can you describe their heart and whether they are a positive or negative influence on your child? What positive step could you take to begin establishing relationships with those friends and their families?
2. How many minutes a day do you talk with each of your kids? Are your discussions transactional (stating facts or issuing direction) or relational (talking about what interests them or doing something together)?
3. When is the last time you hugged each of your kids?

## **DARE 27**

1. Many families sacrifice their kids on the altar of sports, academics, and church. Look at the last week or month and ask yourself, "What is the point?", "Whose dreams are we chasing?" What percentage of time are you spending running to and from activities? Are there things that need to go so you can have more one-on-one time or family time with your kid?
2. When you describe your kid to your friends is the description character based or statistics based (GPA, ERA, points scored, or something else)? Describe each kid as you would to a new acquaintance.
3. Give an example of a time where you pushed your kid into something "to help them grow" when that activity was something you did as a kid (or wanted) to do.

## **DARE 28**

1. Grace is often described as getting what you don't deserve. In times of strife between kids, which kind of Dad are you: a "break up the fighting and go to each corner Dad" or a "lance the boil, get all the issues out and move on Dad"? Give an example. Do you think your approach is creating healthy relationships and teaching conflict resolution skills?
2. Think of a time where you modeled forgiveness and grace instead of blame in front of your kids? Describe it. Was it obvious to your kids that this was grace?
3. TV and movies often give us opportunities to point out culture's fixation on blame. Do you ever watch TV or movies with your kids and point out the differences between opportunities missed for forgiveness versus blame and getting even? Why or why not? What could discussions of this type instill in your kids?

## **DARE 29**

1. Probably the five worst words a parent can say to their kid is "You know what I'd do?" When you see your kid in emotional distress, what is your natural response? Why do you think that is?
2. Mom is generally the first to get a window to our kid's soul before dads do. Describe the last time you had a soulful discussion over a fearful situation with one of your kids.
3. If you have a son and a daughter, most likely your reactions vary in how you react in times of chaos and distress. Contrast the differences in your fearfulness when your son or daughter faces disconcerting situation. Do you ever bring God into the discussion? Is this an area where you need to grow?

### **DARE 30**

1. Most of us did our best parenting before we had kids. Discuss a belief you had in how you would raise your kids versus how you have actually parented them.
2. Describe the last time you assumed the worst about your kids' behavior that ended up not being true.
3. Describe how you and your wife handle fearful situations differently. What might you learn from her or she might learn from you? Have a discussion with her about better ways to handle fear in your home.

### **DARE 31**

1. Since the beginning of the age of the internet, responses keep getting faster and faster. Some corporate apps are now introducing "think time" into the latest versions of software. This is not so much to give you time to think of how you will respond but to understand the data being presented. Describe the benefits of "think time" with your communication between you and your kids.
2. Describe how you handle it when your kids point out what they see as flaws in your parenting.
3. Describe the top issue of concern for each of your kids. Is this hard? What are the signs you've seen or heard? Compare notes with your wife. Strategize what you might need to do to address them in a respectful way with your kid.

### **DARE 32**

1. Describe the last time you decided take back a definitive “no” that you issued?
2. If you have several kids, the younger ones are taking notes while watching your responses to older siblings. Ask your wife if this is an area that you need to be more aware of and if she has any examples of when you could have done things differently so as not to impact the younger kids.
3. There will be times you’ll be asked by your tween or teen to do something that goes against your normal acceptance level as a result of the peer pressure of a group or team. Who or what breaks the tie between you and your kid in these types of decisions?

### **DARE 33**

1. Describe how ‘covering kid duty to free your wife up’ might help both your relationship with your kids and your wife? What benefits do you think your wife gets when you do this?
2. Describe the last time you had a male accountability relationship. Thinking along those lines, how might sharing non-specific interaction details of what your accountability partner has shared about his kids be beneficial as a springboard for discussion with your kids?
3. Define circumspect. Does this describe how you and your wife view the rest of the world such that you are afraid to be real with other people? If so, what could you do to change this?

### **DARE 34**

1. Whether it's letting go of the bike seat or sitting in the passenger seat of our kid's maiden car driving experience, body language is everything. Are you the kind of Dad that has broken off all those rubber teeth under the passenger floor mat by applying the phantom brake pedal or clapping and cheering after letting go of the bike seat? Give an example.
2. What kind of advice do you give your kid? "You can do this." Or "Don't mess us." Think of the last time you probably instilled fear or doubt into your kid with your advice. Pain the scenario.
3. Have your kids seen Dad succumb to fear? Who is more fearful, you or your wife? Would she agree? Have dialogue with her to see what decisions that each of you makes for your family that might be fear driven.

### **DARE 35**

1. A friend of mine relayed the challenges of living with a wife and five teenage daughters under one roof and the concept of feeling the need to always be walking on egg shells. Whether boys or girls, tween emotions are powder kegs. With what frequency do you and your wife do an emotional inventory about each member of the family? This week have a dialogue with your wife about ways to tame the potential explosions.
2. Have you and your wife established key words or phrases with your kids that clues them in to the fact that it's time to take a personal emotional inventory check? If not, use dinner table time to talk about emotions and clever words and phrases you'll use to unhook them in your family.
3. Describe the last apology you modeled for one of your kids? Was it accepted? How do you know?

### **DARE 36**

1. Men tend to compartmentalize segments of their lives. Describe the last time you hurt for someone else. Have you ever felt empathy for what another dad was going through? Without specifics, describe.
2. Christ calls us to love other people. Can you think of anyone who could benefit from any of the family struggles you've gone through? What event would you share?

### **DARE 37**

1. The game of chess is a game of expectation. Most pieces move in a predictable fashion. One exception to this is the Knight which moves in the shape of an "L". An opponent's Knight can come out of seemingly nowhere and decimate your side of a chess board. How much energy do you spend concerned about those things that will come into your kid's life out of nowhere? Some examples might be not making the select soccer team, poor grades that might make going to your Alma-Mater impossible, highways that are too "dangerous" for your kids to drive on. Worry stems from fear. What is the underlying fear that you have for your kid?
2. In the very first dare, we talked about expectations. Are you a "God has a plan" parent or are you an "I have a plan" parent? In other words, do you worry about what your kid does, who he associates with, or what he struggles with? Elaborate. If you are an "I have a plan" parent, where does God fit into your hopes and plans for your kid's future? Do you ever look at the amount of energy you spend concerned about what might happen?
3. Worry generally takes one of two forms: concern for the long term effect of a bad situation on your kid or frustration that your lives might be inconvenienced by the issues your kid is dealing with. Which camp do you usually fall in when you have something to worry about with your kid? Would your wife agree with that assessment of you? Ask her.

4. Do you and your wife work on helping each other with situational context to strengthen your faith that God has a plan in a difficult situation? Describe a time when this happened. What was the end result?

### **DARE 38**

1. On the football field, each position has a purpose, an area to cover, and an assigned role. It's not different in life. We need to stop and evaluate the role we have as dads. Supporting our wife, modeling the gifts and responsibilities that God has given us, and helping our kids thrive. Sometimes that means paying attention to the "little things". Think over the last day with your family. What are the celebrations to be thankful for and what are the opportunities for change in your role and the role of each member in your family? Do you notice that the kids' mom is doing everything and you are more of a spectator? Ask your wife what her perspective is.
2. Create a mental countdown clock for each of your kids. How much time is left to instill the skills necessary to be Godly members of the world, faithful spouses, and someday nurturing parents to your grandkids? Feeling a sense of panic or urgency? Describe what you are feeling.
3. There is a point in early tweens that dads become the primary influence in our young son's life. What are some of the important life lessons you are passing on to your sons? Make no mistake daughters need the influence of dad also as to what they will look for in a spouse. Are you modeling what you would like your daughter's husband to be like? What do you and your wife need to be doing to model an ideal marriage for your kids? What traits have you and your wife chosen to concentrate on for each kid?

### **DARE 39**

1. For each kid you have, recall the last time you gave them a compliment. How long ago was it? What, if anything, needs to change?
2. Describe how each of your kids takes criticism. Are you getting them ready to launch them into a world filled with criticism and disappointment? What are some things you might do to help them be better prepared for their new world when they leave home?
3. Describe the difference between a “participation trophy” praise versus honest thankfulness and appreciation communication.
4. Do you model a “never quite good enough” relationship with your wife or your kids? If so, what needs to change so that it won’t be handed down to your teen’s future spouse and children?

### **DARE 40**

1. Do you take time to pause life and watch the family in motion? What adjectives would you use to describe “the machine”? Rusty, well-oiled, in need of repair? What are some things that could make it better?
2. Reflecting back over the 40 Dares, name one thing that you have changed in how you relate to each of your kids.

Kudos for taking this journey with your wife! Only the bravest of men would venture through “female” stories to have conversation with their wife about parenting. Thank you for joining us. We’d love to have your feedback. You can email me at [debbiehitchcock@greaterimpact.org](mailto:debbiehitchcock@greaterimpact.org). Our prayer is that God will bless your family abundantly!