

## David, The Father

Intro: In the scriptures, one is hard-pressed to find many positive examples of good parenting. Maybe it's because good news isn't what's usually reported. In the case of David, clearly a great man, he is portrayed as one who had little success in this area.

1. The prescription for success was there for him as it was for anybody else.
  - A. Deuteronomy 6:5-6 - Teach them to love God deeply
  - B. Deuteronomy 6:7 - Teach them diligently
  - C. Deuteronomy 6:8-9 - Get it in their heads
  
2. David's character spoke well of his potential as a father.
  - A. 1 Samuel 16:7 - Had the "heart thing" going
  - B. 1 Samuel 13:14 - Compared with Saul who lacked the "heart thing"
  - C. 1 Kings 11:4 - Comparison, again, with his son, Solomon
  
3. But something went wrong.
  - A. David was in some way a warrior before everything else.
  - B. He had a house full of wives with the imaginable conflicts within.
  - C. His second most famous son, Absalom, was a pain.
  - D. He had another son who raped his own half-sister.
  - E. Absalom had an enemy's field destroyed to get his attention.
  - F. Absalom conspired against his father and lost his life as a result.
  
4. It's never too late - He mentors Solomon - 1 Kings 2; 1 Chron. 22:5-19
  - A. Be strong, show yourself to be a man.
  - B. Obey God to the fullest.
  - C. What you do will have an impact on your sons and their sons after.
  - D. May the Lord grant you discretion and understanding.
  - E. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed.
  - F. Be thankful for the peace you have around you.

Conclusion: If those of us who are fathers do a good job as parents, we likely won't be in the news either. But we should still be wise, learn from examples, whether positive or negative, and still honor God's word to and for us; despite the fact that so few who have gone before us have met the task.