MESSAGE FROM JOSH

The Father Factor Portfolio contains useful information for becoming the solid dads our kids need to mature and flourish. The Portfolio highlights the power of unconditional love and close family bonds. It outlines the stages of child development and how moms and dads inherently parent differently. It looks at ways to incorporate technology, including how to find ways to stay connected during separations often caused by jobs, deployment, prison, divorce, and health issues. It offers tips on healthy discipline, boundaries, and much more.

I hope the nuggets of wisdom contained in The Father Factor Portfolio are of help to you as you seek to become the great dad your children need and deserve.

[Signature]

Please access the full 778-page The Father Factor Portfolio at www.Josh.org/fathers.
**DADS, YOU MATTER!**

A 2012 study which examined the cases of more than 10,000 children from 36 studies around the world revealed that a cold or distant father can damage a child’s life, sometimes for decades – unless another man steps into the role.

Children with involved fathers or father figures gain a lot. They become more confident in unfamiliar settings, are better able to deal with frustration, are more likely to mature into compassionate adults, and are more likely to have higher self-esteem and grade point averages.

On the flip side, children from fatherless homes are more likely to run away or commit suicide, exhibit behavioral disorders, drop out of school, commit crimes, and have children while still in their teens.

Children are remarkably resilient until their trust in us is completely severed. The good news, parents, is that we can proactively work to repair, build, and deepen our relationships with our kids to prevent that – especially if we model God’s unconditional love, forgiveness, and grace.

---

**TEN TIPS FOR BEING A TERRIFIC DAD:**

1. Respect Your Children’s Mother
2. Be a Role Model & Teacher
3. Point Your Children to Christ
4. Guard Your Family Time
5. Read to Your Children
6. Demonstrate Affection, Love & Appreciation
7. Take Care of Your Children Financially
8. Allow Your Children to Ask Questions and Express Fear
9. Teach Your Children to Be Accountable for Their Choices
10. Keep Your Promises

---

Go to any playground and listen to the parents. Who is encouraging kids to swing or climb just a little higher, ride their bike just a little faster, throw just a little harder? The dads. Who is encouraging kids to be careful? The moms. Kids with both influences have the best chance of developing healthy boundaries, independence, and good common sense.