

Being a dad isn't always easy, being a man isn't always easy, we need to be strong.

Men PLACE value in being strong, it just feels manly.

(ILL) I don't know if you have ever seen any of the Strong Man competitions. These guys are lifting huge rocks, carrying refrigerators on their backs, they pull vehicles with ropes, and none of it is very practical. They have to work out all the time but they would never really need to be this strong in real life.

Judges 13:24~ *The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him,*

Samson has been blessed with this physical strength from God, but we also learn a little bit about his mother and father from this first chapter and we discover that he had a very godly father.

His name was Manoah and we are going to look at his life a bit.

It takes a strong man to raise the world's strongest son. And I think that those of us who desire to be strong men, and strong fathers can learn something from him.

One of the things that you see in the life of Manoah is that he looked to God for help.

1. Pray for God's help.

This is the starting point to be a good father and it is the starting point to be a good man. To pray that in our lives and into the lives of our sons, and daughters.

2. Makes a intentional effort.

Once Manoah discovers that he is going to be a father one of the first things that he does is ask questions.

Judges 13:8~ *Then Manoah prayed to the Lord: "Pardon your servant, Lord. I beg you to let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born."*

Here is something that I have learned about dads. *I am not always intentional, but I always have good intentions.*

3. Guide and Warn with wisdom and courage.

This is a mantle for every man, every father. To guide our kids, we are protectors by nature.

So we want to warn them and we want it to be with Gods wisdom not ours, His courage, not our might.

It is hard to raise our kids to stand out when our parenting choices are designed to help them blend in.

We want to warn, and guide, we want to pray and depend on God, but ultimately what we have to do is to point them to Jesus.