

The Compass



THE MEN'S MINISTRY NEWSLETTER OF NEW BRUNSWICK SDA CHURCH



Mission Statement

The New Brunswick Seventh Day Adventist Church is home to a diverse number of men of various ages and cultural backgrounds. Our mission is to help men develop and grow their faith as an individual, as a son, as a father and as a friend.

Vision Statement

To engage men in service to God and the community. To provide opportunities for men to develop spiritually, socially and physically.

Things Every Man Should Master

Joe Martin

I grew up in a rough, inner-city ghetto in Miami, the son of a 16-year-old mother. And as tough as it was growing up without a father, not having him attend any of my wrestling matches, football, basketball, or baseball games, one of the most difficult things I had to endure was his never teaching me how to swim. That may be hard to believe, but I'm not talking about that kind of swimming. In fact, the swimming I'm talking about doesn't involve water. It involves skills every man should know.

They're like each of the strokes swimmers need to use. And if we didn't learn them from our fathers, we need to learn them from another man—somebody you love, trust, and respect. I didn't meet such a man until I was 33 years old. That delay cost me a 16-year marriage, broke other relationships, and caused financial hardships. If nobody has taught you yet, it's not too late.

These are the 4 skills every man should know.

1. The Backstroke

"As men, our past may explain us, but it doesn't excuse us from present and future decisions."

Every man must learn to come to grips with his past and learn from his past mistakes, hurts, habits, and hangups. As men, our past may explain us, but it doesn't excuse us from present and future decisions. It is said that a man who doesn't learn from his past is destined to repeat it. You won't have to repeat the past if you learn to master the backstroke.

2. The Butterfly Stroke

Every man must learn to find, accept, and live his God-given purpose in life. Every man, metaphorically, starts out as a caterpillar, but he wasn't intended to remain a caterpillar, crawling on his belly for the rest of his life. He was expected to transform into a butterfly because he was destined and designed to fly, not crawl. But the butterfly stroke doesn't happen by osmosis; it has to be learned actively.

3. The Breast Stroke

Every man must learn to win the heart of his wife. Many men have found themselves treading water when it comes to this part of life. Whether you become a husband or not, every man must learn not only how to love a woman but also to understand the inner workings of her heart.

4. The Freestyle Stroke

Every man must learn how to communicate freely with his children, without fear, shame, or judgment. It's one skill to master the heart of a woman, but it's another to win the heart of your child. A father must learn how to provide his children with a safe place to hurt and a healthy place to heal by getting them to freely share their fears, doubts, and insecurities.

Although it took me longer than most to learn how to "swim," my current wife and my blended family are so glad I did. I'm living proof that it's never too late for swimming lessons.

Are there any other skills every man should know? Make your list and embed them into your daily life..

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong"

1 Corinthians 16:13

If you interested in submitting material for the newsletter, please reach out to the men's ministry department.

Habits Dads Need to Teach Their Sons

Mike Landry

“Boys will be boys.” Spend enough time around boys, and you’ll hear that phrase repeated—but it isn’t a compliment. People say it to explain away bad attitudes or bad behaviors in our sons. Sadly, many of these stereotypes are well-earned. But this is precisely where we come into play, why there are habits dads need to teach their sons.

“We need to teach our boys how to rise above the stereotypes.”

We need to teach our boys how to rise above the stereotypes so they are able to exceed what people expect of them. We need to cultivate qualities in our sons that will turn them into good men. Here are 5 habits dads need to teach their sons.

Thinking of Others

It’s hard to argue that a number of boys in our society speak poorly and act selfishly. It often comes as no surprise when boys curse or leave their seats in the movie theater a mess. The first habit dads need to teach their sons is to be intentionally kind. This means looking for every opportunity to show care and concern in the way they speak and act. They should know that we expect them at the very least to be polite and to pick up after themselves.

Being Willing to Try New Things

Most of us can remember the period during which our sons became fascinated with all that we did, and wanted to try all of it for themselves. And so, we found ourselves washing the car, mowing the lawn, building a set of shelves, and even unclogging the toilet with a small assistant at our side. As they grow older, our sons tend to lose that sense of wonder and curiosity. This can allow them to descend into a rut of doing the same things over and over again. One of the habits dads need to teach their sons is a willingness to step out to try new things: new foods, new hobbies, and new adventures.

Losing Graciously

In January 2018, Lias Andersson served as captain of a Swedish hockey team competing in the World Junior Championships. At the end of the gold medal game in which his team was defeated by Canada, Andersson angrily threw his silver medal into the crowd immediately after it had been awarded to him. What Andersson did in that moment expressed the feeling many of us have when we lose: We hate it. It is important that we teach our sons to lose well and not to miss the lessons that can be learned from losing.

Having Good Hygiene

Most boys I know have a habit of playing hard. This can mean playing hard at sports and working up a sweat. It can also mean getting so engaged in a video game or other game that they lose track of time. The net result, in either case, is that boys can tend to neglect self-care, forgetting to shower, to apply deodorant, and the like. We need to teach boys to be good stewards of their bodies and to take care of themselves. This, in turn, will help boys to break the stereotypes surrounding their hygiene.

Loving People, Using Things

We live in a culture that gets this backward. The advertising and marketing machine goes out of its way to convince our sons of our essential need for more, newer, trendier things like phones and cars. Among the most important habits dads need to teach their sons is what it means to put these back in the right order. Once they learn what it means to love people, the other things likely will fall back into their rightful places as things to be used.

The list can go on and on. Being good steward, etc. What are some other habits dads need to teach their sons?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6