

# TRUE NORTH: A SERIES FOR MEN

## Episode 05 – Kids Need Dads

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**1. Have you noticed a trend in our culture to devalue and mock fathers? Can you give examples of where you see this happening?**



**2. In any men's group, some of the men will not be fathers. How can dads involve those men in family life? And how can men without children support and encourage men who are dads?**



**3. Consider these quotes from the episode:**

"When I was sitting my O levels in the mid 70s, I had a 90% chance of living with my mum and dad. That today is about 50-50." *Ed Davies*

"Forty percent of children in America are growing up apart from their natural fathers." *Nancy Pearcey*

"In the Bronx...nearly nine in ten babies are born outside of marriage." *Ian Rowe*

**In Australia, about 16% of children are growing up without their biological father in the home. What do you think has lead to this huge change (absent dads) in the last 50 years?**



4. Consider this comment by Warren Farrell:

"The impact of boys growing up without dads is that boys and girls, interestingly, are likely to do worse in more than fifty five areas of success and health and emotional development...So for example, boys without dads are far more likely to suicide than boys with dads. Boys without dads are far more likely to be addicted to video games, be addicted to porn, be addicted to drugs, die from drug overdoses, drop out of school.." *Warren Farrell*

**Why do you think a father being absent can have such a detrimental effect on children, especially boys?**



## 5. Thinking about single dads:

“There are many single fathers who are doing the right thing, who are raising their kids, who actually have primary custody and are doing amazing things.” *Ian Rowe*

**How can churches and men’s groups support single parents (dads and mums) who are raising kids alone?**



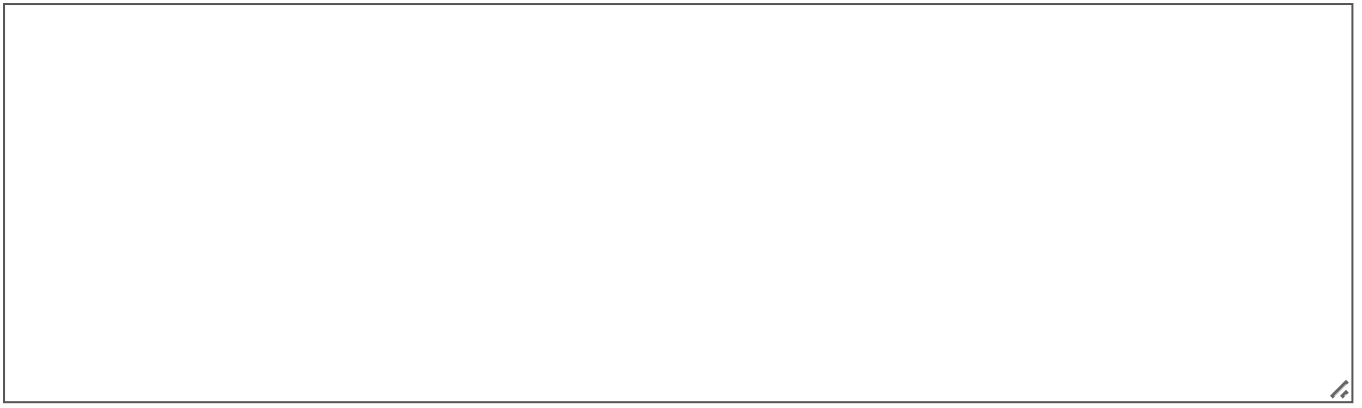
6. Warren Farrell spoke about dad’s “rough housing with kids.” We might call it rough and tumble play, play wrestling etc.

**Whatever we call it, why is it so important? Boys and girls love it, but they learn different lessons as they play with their dad. What do they need to learn?**



**7. What do you think of Sam Chan’s three things for dads to do: be there, be present, be vulnerable?**





8. Nathan Harris said:

"I've had to get better at managing my calendar, my time...Love is spelled T.I.M.E." *Nathan Harris*

**Was your own dad around enough when you were a kid? What gets in the way for dads?**



9. The role Christian fathers play is crucial to passing on faith:

"If the father is a Christian and goes to church, that has a bigger impact on his children than the mother. My female students say, 'That's not fair.' I say, 'It's a fact.' *Nancy Pearcey*

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." *Ephesians 6:4*

**What does Paul say is a Christian father's responsibility with his children? What should that look like day by day, week by week?**



10. Nathan Harris, in his personal story, said:

"We've been really careful with our approach to technology...It's a really big area for parents. In their formative years they can feel like everyone else is on it (social media)...but we've just had to draw the line..." *Nathan Harris*

**a) If you have kids in the relevant ages, how are you going with controlling technology in their lives? Have you seen a difference since the social media ban for children under 16 was introduced in Australia?**

11. Read the following Bible passages:

"For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name." *Ephesians 3:14-15*

"Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'" *Galatians 4:6*

**Christian men have a Heavenly Father who cares for them and who is the perfect model of fatherhood. How should that affect the way a Christian man lives his life?**