

A diverse group of men of various ages and ethnicities standing together against a white background. The group includes men of different heights, builds, and hair colors, representing a wide range of male diversity. The text is centered over the group.

**“An Ode to Guys”:
Father’s Day 2022**

The first Father's Day: 19 June 1910

Father's Day, in the United States, holiday (third Sunday in June) to honour fathers. Credit for originating the holiday is generally given to Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, whose father, a Civil War veteran, raised her and her five siblings after their mother died in childbirth. She is said to have had the idea in 1909 while listening to a sermon on Mother's Day, which at the time was becoming established as a holiday. Local religious leaders supported the idea, and the first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910

--Encyclopedia Britannica

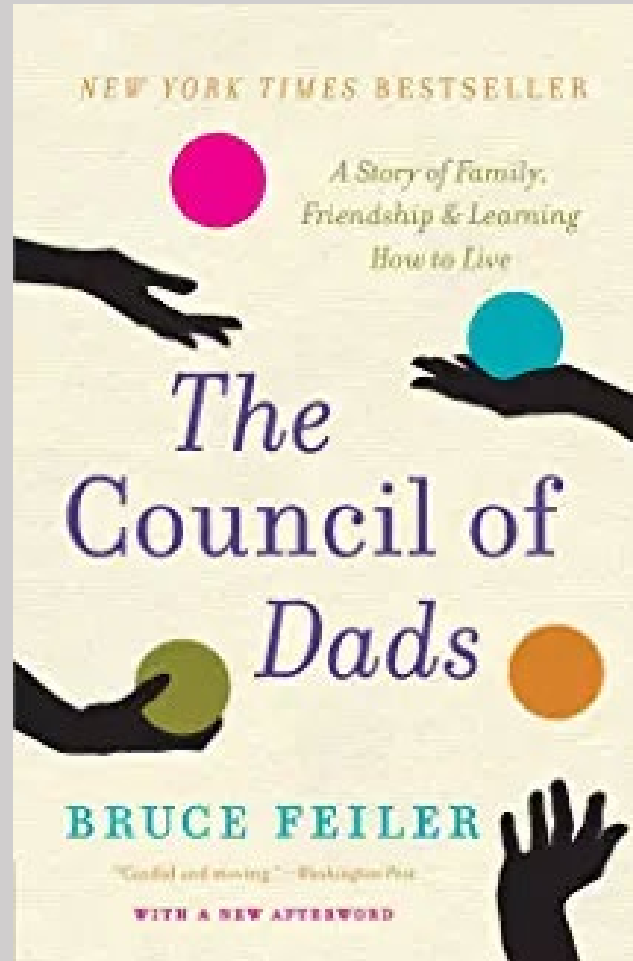
Definition of an “Ode”

- “A relatively long, serious, and usually meditative *lyric poem* (private thoughts and emotions of a single person who speaks in first person) that treats a noble or otherwise elevated subject in a dignified and calm manner”
- “Ode on a Grecian Urn” by John Keats (1819)
- “Ode to a Nightingale” by John Keats (1819)
- (Well, maybe a little informality and even humor will slip in today)

Today's Question: What do Guys know?



The Council of Dads by Bruce Feiler (2011)



Guys know there are a lot of moving pieces when it comes to being a good role model . . .

- Bruce Feiler to the six members of his “Council of Dads” regarding his three-year-old twin girls if he should die from the cancer in his leg:
- *“Will you listen in on them? Will you answer their questions? Will you take them out to lunch every now and then? Will you go to a soccer game if you’re in town? . . . Will you give them advice? Will you be tough as I would be? . . . Will you tell them how proud I would be?”*
(12-13)

Philippians 4:13

Despite the challenges, you can do this!

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

--New King James Version

Guys know the importance of planning . . .

- “We needed a set of guidelines” (Fieler 35)

Luke 14:28

Make a plan

- “²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?”

Guys know the value of doing a good job . . .

“The one treasure no one can ever take away from you is the self-confidence from knowing you have done a good and earnest job”
(Feiler 48)

Colossians 3:23 (Amplified version)

Always do your best work

“Whatever you do [whatever your task may be], work from the soul [that is, put in your very best effort], as [something done] for the Lord and not [simply] for men”

--Amplified Version

Guys know the importance of admitting when they are wrong . . .

“² For we all stumble in many ways.”

--James 3:2

Nobody's perfect (except Christ)

1 John 1:8

“If we say that we do not have any sin, we are deceiving ourselves and we're not being truthful to ourselves.”

Eric Carmen: “Boats Against the Current” (1977)

- “But perfection is consuming
And it seems we're only human after all”



Guys know they are called upon to be calm and level-headed . . .

- “The values he [Bruce Fieler’s father] conveyed were throne-like: wisdom, stability, calmness. He was, in the best sense of the word, settled” (79-80)

Philippians 4:6-7

Prayer: the source of quiet strength

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Guys know they need the wisdom of Solomon to know how to respond in different situations. . .

- ““He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to *do justice*, and to *love kindness*,^[a] and to *walk humbly* with your God?”

--Micah 6:8 (ESV)

Guys know it's their job to help others succeed . . .

“The moment was classic Ed Feiler [the author's father]: trusting, indirectly emotional, constantly nudging us out of the nest. It was his way of saying, as he often did, that he was our cheerleader. His goal was to provide the shoulders on which we would climb into the sky”
(Feiler 80)

Colossians 3:21

Encourage the younger generation

- “Fathers, do not provoke *or* irritate *or* exasperate your children [with demands that are trivial or unreasonable or humiliating or abusive; nor by favoritism or indifference; treat them tenderly with lovingkindness], so they will not lose heart *and* become discouraged *or* unmotivated [with their spirits broken].”

--Amplified Bible

Guys know the importance of being a good friend . . .

- “Part of it is sharing experiences over time, the encyclopedia of knowing someone forever. But the most important part is just being good friends. Someone who is there when you need help, there when you have something joyous to share, there to hold up a mirror so you can understand how you’ve changed” (Feiler 73)

Good friends



Friendship Loyalty

Proverbs 18:24

“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Friendship Exhortation I Thessalonians 5:11

- **11** Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Guys learn from others . . .

“Emulate”: match or surpass (a person or achievement), typically by imitation

“Moral exemplar”: “Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) believed that many things were needed for optimal moral development, but one of the most important was a role model or exemplar that **one can imitate, cultivating morally appropriate habits that become moral virtues over time**” [See also the writings of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)]

The ultimate “moral exemplar”: **Jesus Christ**

**Guys know it is their responsibility
to be spiritual leaders . . .**



Daniel 6:10

Spiritual steadfastness

“¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

“steadfastness”: dutifully firm and unwavering

Ephesians 6:1-4 (ESV)

Spiritual leadership

- “**6** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:25, 33

Sacrificial love

- “²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, *as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . .*
- let each one of you *love his wife* as himself, and let the wife see that she *respects her husband.*”

Hebrews 12: 1-3

Guys know they do not have to go it alone

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”

Isaiah 40:28-31

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Happy Guys' Day!

