# MEN'S FRATERNITY

## *Knights of the 21st Century*

## Trail 8

**KEITH:** Hey guys, we're really glad you guys are here. We actually said, hey come on, let's go back up in the roundtable room and do this because we're going to evaluate like you're going to evaluate your dad. But there's something really, really amazing about what we're going to do in the next few minutes, guys.

I do something very different with my sons probably even that I would with my daughters, but very different with my sons. My goal is to launch them. I feel like I'm Cape Canaveral or Cape Kennedy or whatever it is now and the rocket is going to take off. I'm the launching pad, holds that thing in place until it's time to go. But I also don't want them to stay on the launching pad. Once that rocket goes, I want them to take off and so they're going to be launched. What I'm going to give to my sons is I love you. I'm proud of you. It's what you're good at. I'm going to give them a sense of direction. I want them to go and just accomplish some things that are pretty interesting. So when we evaluate ourselves, guys, we got to see how well we launched, how well will we launch others. This is really what this is all about. It's really saying, what are the things I want to put into that capsule that my sons are going to need years from now? So when I'm preparing to launch my boys, when they're 5 and 10 and 15 years of age, you know. You've heard about some of my struggles

even last week when we were talking about it in your beliefs. So you know that I have a son dealing with cancer and what did I want to put into him before he got cancer not knowing he would get cancer. What are the things that you're going to put into and this is what this is all about. This is one of the most fun trails out there. I know you're going to evaluate your dads which will be tricky for some of us, because some of us don't even really know how our dads are. And this is kind of us guys sitting around the table talking about I got a great dad, and I don't have a dad and how that feels. So in just a minute I'm going to have the guys go around and tell you about their dads. But I think if we grab this, you're going to understand sort of the picture that kind of goes with all the slides of this well worn path going into the forest and this is a path that your dad created and the question is will you remain on that trail? Will you continue to do what he designed you to do or will you need to deviate a little bit? Will you need to create a new path in the forest? Where are you and who are you? This is actually a very, very fun exercise. There is some scoring involved. There's actually two key sections to this. The first section is just dealing with sort of the principles that we're going to walk through and does my dad reflect them and then the second one is did my dad give this to me in my launch? These are very clear statements. It is of all the years we've evaluated dads and helped us to understand it, this is the clearest most important because we're actually saying we're launching you guys. This is where you're going. If you're a

5, you're there, you're a defender and so kind of enjoy the journey with us and what I thought I'd do, before you open your books and do anything is just have the guys real quick just share about their dads in context of who they are and where they are.

Now I had, I have a very, very good dad, alright, for 12 years of my life. Not so good as he degenerated over the years as he stopped trusting God for the next 45 years. But in it, it's interesting. My dad was loyal. My dad was faithful. My dad was really engaged to one degree or another, lesser in the later years, but with me. I never felt deserted by him. I never felt like he didn't care. He was a follower of God but in a legalistic kind of way so it didn't seem very intimate to me. And so, my dad has in the world we talked about a couple weeks ago, in week 5, about you know, dad being great, dad not so great or somewhere in the middle. Dad is somewhere in the middle. That's sort of where he's at in the journey. My dad is dead, passed away about 6 years. So just to give you that context, alright, that's mine.

**CLAIR:** So my dad is still with me, not in great health. I think we're looking at maybe the final years of his time on this planet and my dad, if I had to think about, about how he's defined and how he defined me, he had a terrible father, honestly. People when I ask about my grandfather, rarely say much I think just sparing me and when I think about my dad, there have been disappointments. He was not perfect and I've shared with you guys over the years. Not perfect, but man, I give him

a lot of grace because of a distance he put between the example he had and how he raised me. And I just feel like my job is to take it to the next level. So an amazing man of forgiveness. The wounding that he got from his father, the fact that he was functional at all as a dad to me, I gave him a lot of credit for that.

**T.C.:** Um, for me, I've spent 9 years without my biological father in my life, but I did have some male role models, guys that I could look up to. My high school coach was one of them. My mother's best friend, her husband, which I ended up being pretty much his unofficial nephew. You know, I still call him Uncle Kenny to this day. My father, my stepfather did come into my life when I was about 9 and then he was there on throughout. But he had a hard time disciplining me and bonding with me. He didn't know me and he didn't want to ever offend my mom, you know, in terms of disciplining me, but I did have him there, so there are times when I can reference him and there are times when I can reference other people who stepped in but I'm happy to say for the last three years I have developed a relationship with my biological father and so there are some cases in here I'll be evaluating him. So I get to use a variety of men, but I was not without some sort of leadership even though it didn't come from my biological father, so I did have that.

**KEITH:** And that's really important guys for what you're doing is that it is going to allow you to know that some of you guys will be a compilation of guys that you'll evaluate through this. You probably

almost, every one of us had a role model in one phase or another, but if you've had a dad and he's been in your life all along, I'd like you to stay with him. If you haven't, if you had that in and out kind of experience, then let's do that. Roy, you're next.

**ROY:** My dad worked all the time so we had a relationship where he would come wandering in sometimes at dinner and often late at night. One of the things he was doing was out saving the world. My dad was a minister and he was a good minister in the sense that he spent a lot of time caring for others despite not being present in the home and he taught the Bible well. In fact, every church he ever preached at, they built another building within a year or so, six for six new church buildings to house the people that came to hear him teach.

My dad grew up with a negative legacy and he never quite freed himself from it. His father was in prison for a number of years for armed robbery, was actually shot and almost killed in that, and his mother then told him while he was – that he was born while his dad was in prison. I wanted to get you aborted but I couldn't find anybody to do it. And so he had this negative legacy. I think he tried to help other people as a way to overcome it, built all these churches, has been gone now – died about the time of 9/11, actually the week of 9/11 he died, because you couldn't fly to his funeral. People couldn't get there but sadly, towards the end of all this minister career, in terms of a lot of people find out who Jesus Christ was and growing, despite what he didn't do at home, he ended up

divorcing my mom and marrying the church organist and church assistant who was about a year and a half older than me towards the end of his life.

**KEITH:** Now I know some of you guys right now are saying did Roy just make that story up. It's true guys. It is the history and you need to understand that we all have history. We all have history so even in your groups, it's good to learn from each other a little bit about that history. I love the fact that you can go generationally deeper. That really helps tremendously to understand that, and it gives it perspective.

**ROBERT:** My dad, well first of all, I grew up in a Christian home and my dad is one of the hardest workers I have ever known. Growing up – you know my dad is an immigrant, came to this country from El Salvador and he just without anything, barely any clothes on his back, I mean he just worked his tail off and he got married, had two kids. He was a great dad in that regard, always – I don't remember waking up any morning where my dad wasn't praying. I don't remember ever missing a Sunday at church. My dad was a pastor also for many years and in that regard he was amazing. But no father is perfect, you know, my dad struggled a lot many times with his own temper and trying to control that. It's, you know, some call it the Latin kind of thing, but, but really still no excuse for that. It's something he struggled with and he's had to learn how to work with. But my childhood as far as my father is concerned has been pretty exceptional.

**KEITH:** So as these guys evaluate their dads, and actually I won't do this with my dad. You've probably heard enough for my dad over the years, but as they evaluate their dads, those are the context by which we do it. So when you get in your campfires, this will be the context in which you're going to evaluate your dads. Here's the path my dad's taken. Is that the path I'm going to follow and so we're going to find out how to do that.

I want you to take your books. You're not going, Trail No. 8. You're not going to read the first page. I want you to read that sometime. It's really important. In fact, I want you to read right through I. We're going to start with II. II., and it read this way. As a knight, you need to evaluate your dad, your father figure as T.C. mentioned in order to differentiate from him. You got to be able to pull yourself apart a little bit from this.

A knight learns to assess his father's beliefs and build a strong future for himself. So your dad has beliefs. You're going to assess it. So here's how we're going to do it.

Look at A. After each belief listed below, score your father on how much he lived according to each belief. We're going to give the belief; how did your dad do it? Then score yourself on how much you live according to each belief, whether you're a dad or not, how do you do? So 1, it's not good, lives according to his belief very little, just doesn't do it. Five, lives this belief consistently throughout his life, okay. So these are

statements we're going to say that we as knights believe. As we walk through them, here we go, understanding that. This paragraph is important.

As a knight, you take ownership of your beliefs and do not use your previous role models as an excuse for male behaviors and responses. A knight believes. Alright, so here's what we're going to do. We're going to walk through these 25 knight believes and then 10 statements at the end and I think you're going to find this experience good here, but make you do it well in your campfires because this is some of the easiest sharing you'll ever do with a group of guys. This is where a lot of bonding takes place here on Week 8. Alright, here we go.

1. In the best interpersonal relationships, both participants in the relationship feel better as a result of their interactions with each other, i.e., a win-win kind of situation, right. My dad encouraged my success and did not compete with me. This is all about how comfortable your dad is. Was he valuing relationships, right? That's what we're going to ask guys. And so as you guys are going to answer this, we're going to ask did my dad want me to win as he wanted to win. In other words, was there a mutual thing or was he competing with me. Did he want something different? So as we do that I want you to first evaluate your put a number 1 to 5 for her dad and then a number 1 or 5 for you, got that. It's important that you do that even as we kind of go through this so as the guys are giving their score, make sure you're putting your score down

because when you get to your campfire, it would be great to have this already done, alright. So guys, how does that work for you? The first one.

**T.C.:** Well I had a 1 for my dad and I'm referring to a lot of time, I'm just going to make it simple, I'm referring to my stepfather because he was in my life for half of my childhood, you know, 9 to 18 years old and he's still in my life, so I'm just going to use him. And 1 because he just, you know, there was a disconnect in terms of affecting me in that way. For me personally, it's a 5. Man, I'll have a lot of 5s, not because I'm great, but because I've seen all the 1s which reveals the 5s. For me, I just do the opposite.

**CLAIR:** I gave my dad a 5 on that one. I thought he was amazing wanting me to succeed along side of him. Just didn't feel the competition at all and I think if I'm reading this right, talking about my sons in this one?

**T.C.:** Yeah, how do you see yourself doing it?

**CLAIR:** I am encouraging them to blow past me in every way possible. I think some areas I'm going to be skilled in but I can't wait to see how God has created and gifted them and I want them to succeed way beyond me.

**ROBERT:** That is cool. I gave my dad a 5. My dad definitely was always about pushing me to be better than he was and I think I got that from him. And I like the way you said it. I can't wait. I just have a 5

year old daughter, but I can't wait to see how God develops her and hopefully get her to succeed well beyond what I've been able to do.

**ROY:** It's not like my dad didn't encourage me, but whenever I would share anything with him, there would always be a better way he could do it or, you know, somehow he would quickly move the conversation from something I share to what he could do better or something. So I always felt an underlying competition there. I hope from my perspective I expect my children to go beyond me and I like to think that I gave myself a 4. It's hard to say 5 because I got some 5s here, but I like to think I do different.

**KEITH:** It's interesting guys that when you and I work through this issue with our dads, we need to be careful that sometimes we are so desirous of being recognized by our sons as valuable. Your dad has to recognize – as a dad you have to really say, I'm not trying to figure out how to get them to like me. I'm trying to figure out how to get them to be the men they need to be and whenever I'm struggling and I tell my boys I'm struggling, it throws them off a little bit, really. _____ guys I'm struggling, they handle it very differently. My sons, to understand that nature of that role, and what we're talking about there and how that belief system works.

So look at 2. It's about creativity. Creativity is highly valued. Trying new ways of doing things is encouraged. That's a belief we have. My dad allowed me to do things differently than he did them. In other words my

dad was willing to grow beyond me, and become. And so how does your dad do with that? Now we sort of touched on that a little bit but let's play with that a little bit deeper.

**CLAIR:** It's interesting, trying to figure out when we – how many areas we're going to claim that we surpassed our dads and how many areas he was amazing in. This is my first one where I'm giving my dad higher credit than I'm giving myself. My dad encouraged me to do things differently. I remember a project early on. I didn't know it was a test at the time. I didn't even get the feedback from him. I think I was supposed to build a cage for chickens or something on a farm I grew up on and I never knew it was a test. I found out later from my mom how proud he was of me and she went on to say specifically you did it very differently than he would have. I thought that was pretty cool. I probably struggled a little bit here. I'm a stronger leader in my home than my dad was and I'm probably more like your dad. My sons come at me with ideas, I want them to succeed so badly and I probably squash them a little bit with my ideas.

**KEITH:** So you're like 5 and 3 context?

**CLAIR:** 5 and 5.

**KEITH:** 5 and 4.

**ROBERT:** Yeah, I have a little bit like a 3 and a 2. My dad, he wasn't as – he was right in the middle as far as how much he wanted – or allow me to do things differently than he did. He just wanted us to

succeed and he felt like he'd worked so hard, come up with a pattern and wanted us to follow that. But what's interesting is I scored myself a little lower, probably – you know again, my daughter is very young, but as she grows older, I just, I don't know. I don't see myself being as flexible as my dad.

**KEITH:** That's interesting guys. I just want you to think about this, what he's saying as he was talking about it. I was thinking, okay, Robert's daughter is 5. My boys, my youngest is 20. And so I'm at a different place with that, but sometimes you can think about this when you want to score yourself as how would your mate perceive you. Does Lynn feel like I value her independence and her development? Well I'll challenge you guys this time as a defender, will you find out what makes your wife's heart come alive and help her do it? So I think sometimes checkout, you know, how good are we doing, because I want you to not just evaluate yourself only as a dad, but as a man. How am I doing with this belief as we go forward. Roy.

**ROY:** Yeah, I gave my dad a 4 when it came to being creative himself and I think he encouraged me to be creative and I think I tend to be creative and try to pass that on to my children.

**T.C.:** I got a 1, just simply because I just, that wasn't something that I experienced from really – the only person that could do this would be my stepfather. He was in the home, so, for that reason there is a 1. Me, it's a 4 and the only reason I don't get a 5 is because I

do, there's this sense of because I played football, he should play. Because I'd love to see it so you know, when he was born I put like a football in his ... _____ and things like that. But he's free to be whatever he wants to be and I'm excited to see it.

**KEITH:** Yeah.

**ROY:** They're waiting to go to his first dance recital. (Laughter)

**T.C.:** That's actually my 11 year old daughter. She's the one that wants....(laughter).

**KEITH:** No. 3. Failure is the doorway through which success is achieved. Because of this, forgiving yourself and others must be a regular way of life. So how well does your dad forgive? Did your dad deal positively with his imperfections and with yours, with you own imperfections? How did your dad do with that one and my dad is a perfectionist, so he was horrible with it. He was much easier with me, believe it or not, but not good with himself. It was kind of interesting kind of thing. So how did you guys score on that one? Dad and you.

**ROY:** I gave my dad a 2 regarding dealing with his imperfections because partially he spent a lot of time trying to ignore them instead of working his way through them and then, you know, I gave myself a 4.

**ROBERT:** I give my dad a 5 in this regard because I grew up, I mean he was well aware of my imperfections but yet he was always willing

to deal with them and work with me through them. I gave myself a 3. I don't think I'm as good as my dad in this regard.

**CLAIR:** Yeah, my dad beat me out on this one as well. I touched on when we were sharing about our dads, the amount of forgiveness that had to be in his life because of his childhood experience. And I'm not doing as well. I got a 4 on that.

**T.C.:** Well my stepfather, I give him a 5, simply because he was an alcoholic, did drugs, _____ at the present time – this is my stepfather. Right now, he is a true Christian and a Deacon and a leader in a church. And it's just as consistently. His needs never went back. He has never – he hasn't taken a drink in years, you know, and so that's cool to be able to say that and for me, I'm right there with him. You know, I made a transformation and I was inspired by his transformation. I made a transformation to a true following and I've never looked back. So that's cool to be able to say that.

**KEITH:** Awesome. Look at No. 4. Relationships are more valuable than gold and should be protected accordingly. So everything is about relationship. My dad demonstrated that he valued our relationship. Just give me the scores on your dads and you.

**ROBERT:** 5.

**KEITH:** And how about you?

**ROY:** 2.

**KEITH:** And how about you? How do you value relationships?

**CLAIR:** The same, actually, my dad...

**KEITH:** So 5, and 5.

**ROY:** 2 and 4.

**CLAIR:** And we got a 4 and a 5.

**T.C.:** 0, 5.

**KEITH:** Wow. And so, again, it's all about relationships. How do we value relationships? Look at No. 5. Working hard not only leads to financial and promotional rewards, in other words to go further in your company, it also helps us grow internally, so working hard, hard work.

My dad worked hard at developing himself on multiple levels. Now that doesn't mean just that your dad had a good work ethic. This is that my dad was developing himself. Alright, and growing, and therefore he helped you to do the same. Alright, so keeping that in mind, that's really important. Okay, guys, how did your dad score?

**ROY:** 4, 5.

**KEITH:** 4, 5?

**ROBERT:** 5, 3.

**KEITH:** 5, 3.

**CLAIR:** 2, 4.

**KEITH:** 2, 4.

**T.C.:** 3, 4.

**KEITH:** 3, 4. Alright. And keeping that in mind, I mean again, in your campfire we're going to make a little bit of time up but in your

campfire I want you to also to expand on that. What does that mean? What happens when you do that, right. Look at the next one.

When a man has a plan with clearly established goals, he's treating the value of energy he's invested with respect. My dad didn't act impulsively. He made decisions carefully. And again, my dad would do really well on this one. So how was your – was your dad a planner? Are you a planner?

**CLAIR:** He wasn't. I gave him a 3, again being a little bit gracious. I am a strategic planner probably to a fault and so 3, 5.

**KEITH:** Yeah, that's interesting.

**T.C.:** 2, 4.

**KEITH:** And that would be your dad, step dad, who would that be?

**T.C.:** My dad was not very good, but he was a product of not being taught himself and I learned from his mistakes and therefore I plan.

**KEITH:** Yeah.

**ROY:** 5, 5.

**KEITH:** Interesting.

**ROBERT:** 3, 3.

**KEITH:** 3, 3. It's – sometimes it's really good for us to just say are we equal? Do we wish we were higher? You know, it's really good to do that. I would have never thought of your dad as a 5, 5. That's

interesting Roy. I didn't know, in all of the stories we've ever talked about.

**ROY:** Well he's always, he was always doing something and he always had a plan.

**KEITH:** That's really… (Laughter)

**ROY:** Not always the best plan, but a plan. There was no, he wasn't sitting.

**KEITH:** No. 7. An optimistic approach to life along with a positive attitude is the best strategy for maximizing your well being and your success as a man. Dad's view of life was like a glass half full not a half empty kind of guy. A little more optimistic than pessimistic. How was that and how are you?

**CLAIR:** I gave my dad a 2 and I gave myself a 5. I can still remember begging him to find one positive thing on the front page of a paper. He could always find the negative. I'm like come on.

**KEITH:** And you can find a positive thing in anything.

**CLAIR:** And I've screwed up on the other side. I agree.

**KEITH:** If Clair's foot was on fire, he'd be thankful the other foot wasn't on fire. (Laughter).

**T.C.:** I'm actually the same – 2, 5.

**ROBERT:** And I was a 1, 4.

**KEITH:** 1, 4.

**ROY:** 5, 4.

**KEITH:** Interesting. Look at 8. Conflict occurs naturally as a result of a relationship between two uniquely different people. Therefore, a man should not avoid conflict, he should learn from it. Dad expresses anger appropriately and directly. And here's what we're about to do guys, we're about to reveal whether or not – how we handle our anger. And it's fun at my age now to say I do really well with it. Boy, when the guys were growing up, I wasn't as good at this, you know, so how does your dad score, how do you score?

**ROY:** Well I gave my dad a 2, 4. I remember a time in my life when my mom came at me physically and I defended myself and then he came home and she told him that I defended myself and my dad looked and said if you ever swing at your mom again, I will kill you and I actually believed him. So then I had to figure out other ways of dealing with her because I couldn't physically defend myself so I tried to stay away.

**ROBERT:** For me it was a 1, 5. My dad was anything could sometimes really set him off and he would pop and it was hard for him to deal with his anger appropriately. I am the complete opposite. By the grace of God, I have just learned to be a little different.

**KEITH:** Wow.

**CLAIR:** I gave dad a 4 on that one and gave myself a 3. I think he did an excellent job. The amount of anger that he would have had or could have had with some circumstances, I think I'm 10-12 years younger than you. I think I'm on that curve you were on. My kids are about ready

to leave home and I wish I could go back a few years, but I'm starting to get it right.

**T.C.:** I'm 3, 4. My stepfather is not, he's not very confrontational. But the thing is he can be passive. Like he'll sit there and think all the wrong – like he'll be angry in here. He just doesn't act on it. You know, he's _____ he would be upset with people. And me, the only thing stopping me from being a 5 is that, you know, I want to affect my – I always want to do things for my kids and if they don't get it done, you want something for them more than they want it for themselves in a certain situation, it can lead to frustrations – you know, why won't you just go, come on, come on. So you have to just learn that they'll get it. They'll get it, just give them time. But, yeah, I handle anger pretty well.

**KEITH:** What I'm going to do guys, I'm going to fly through a couple real quick and just, we won't even comment. We're just going to give them to you so you make sure you have it and any explanation that needs to go with it.

Look at the next one, 9. A narrow self-focus diminishes the quality of life. Life is best experienced when a knight has broader perspective on which to focus on others. So it's about others, right? My dad gave to others before giving to himself and was sensitive to the needs of others. We'll score that one guys and we'll keep moving on. How do you score and he scores?

Look at 10. The use of your emotional I.Q. E.Q. actually is your emotional Q. It enhances your relationships and provides passion in your life. My dad was able to express the full range of emotions with love and self-control. We're actually going to deal with this in a little bit so you can kind of handle that one.

Look at 11. True freedom is the result of setting personal standards and living by them. My dad was able to live a sober lifestyle, free from addictions. He controlled his impulses well. How well does your dad handle that? And that's almost obvious. You'll all kind of know that one.

12. Self-discipline which includes learning to say no to certain things and delaying gratification is the price that a man pays for his achievements. My dad was able to manage his financial resources well. I'm going to stop for one second real quick and just say, all I want to know is how did your dad do with that?

**CLAIR:** You had to pick that one.

**KEITH:** Yeah, I know. I thought it would be more fun.

**CLAIR:** Yeah, I know. Dad got a 2, I'm a 5 on that one.

**KEITH:** How did your dad score on that one?

**ROBERT:** My dad got a 5 on that one. He was excellent at the finances. I am still not up to his par. I'm like a 3.

**KEITH:** How about you, Roy?

**ROY:** I gave my dad a 2. There was times I looked at the table to don't eat much. There's not a lot of food there and I realize that he spent the money on books.

**ROBERT:** 1, 3.

**KEITH:** Wow.

**T.C.:** My 5 there, still suffers from not doing well with that and then I suffer for it. I was probably a 1 for years, but I've been moving towards a 5 from learning how.

**KEITH:** No. 13. The establishment of a larger social network leads to supportive relationships which increase learning, add fun to your life and give you chances to grow in new ways. My dad spent time with his friends and supported me in my social activities. How did your dad do socially, okay. You can deal with that one.

Okay, look at 14. Each person must evaluate their own self-worth because others cannot establish their character, self-definition or identity. My dad had confidence in himself and did not rely on power, anger, authority or money to make him who he was. Well that's a key area and I just want to talk real quickly guys about your Knightly News at this particular point.

And it's interesting, we've chosen dad to put Satan right down in the middle of it. Some of you are disappointed with your dad and you feel like man, my dad did not take care of me. He wasn't a good guy. Let me tell you, your dad wasn't Satan. It's very important for you to know that.

Even if he's not on the good category, he's on this difficult category, your dad is not Satan. Satan always seeks to destroy, always seeks to take away. He always is looking for damage. He is never good, never righteous and sometimes when we're evaluating our dads, you have to realize that he's not the enemy. My dad is not the enemy, regardless of what he did or didn't do in your life. We have an enemy. That enemy is Satan. Here's a statement we put with it. It's in your Knightly News. It says this. Satan, our true enemy is never trustworthy. He wants us to imitate him. He wants you and I to put on the other side of the spectrum our score based on him who is trying to seek and destroy and to kill. That is not really – you know what I've met very, very few fathers that really would ever want to destroy and kill. They just don't know how to do what's right. So keep that in mind, guys. Let's fly through the rest of these.

No. 15. A smile, a compliment and a good sense of humor adds spark to your daily existence. Dad set aside time for fun. He smiled often. He complimented me regularly. He liked to joke around. That is the guys sitting at this table.

16. Breaking up the daily responsibilities of work by creating time for relaxation is important for emotional refueling. My dad created interesting family activities. He organized vacations which allowed all of us to relax together. And you had a good vacation experience kind of thing, right.

17. Being prejudiced against someone who is different from us is a sign of personal weakness and is not tolerated. My dad respected me as well as others who were different from him. Volumes can be written on this one, guys, and learning a lot in that area.

Look at 18. Trust is a valuable gift when given from one person to another. It should never be violated or misused. My dad could be trusted. Your dad was not faithful, you got to understand. It's where a lot of tricky things come into that page and that doesn't include he was sexually unfaithful in a lot of other ways.

Look at 19. Loving another person is a choice. It causes you to value them and make sacrifices for them. If trust disappears, it's difficult to experience the practical realities of loving another person. My dad was good at expressing love. We're going to talk about that in a few minutes.

Look at 20. Participating in new learning is an important part of increasing your internal strength as a man. Learning about diverse topics is helpful. My dad continued to learn throughout his life and he supported my learning in a variety of ways. Again, these are principles we want to live by. How did your dad do? Keep evaluating yourself and your dad.

No. 21. A healthy marriage is hard work, but it's worth the effort. It also underscores that your commitment should be honored. My dad was able to love, to give, and to maintain his loyalty to my mother. An interesting statement.

22. The respect of a woman is an important aspect of becoming a man. My dad respected all women and treated them in ways that reflected his respect. If they're struggling with pornography, they don't respect all women. It's kind of obvious.

We're going to look at 23. Taking care of your body is one of the ways that you acknowledge your value as a man. My dad took care of himself physically.

24. Change is part of life. Stepping towards it is better than running from it. My dad was able to be flexible and make changes when it was important to do so.

The last one in this section. Spirituality is important in your manhood journey. You should deal honestly with your decision about a relationship with God. My dad was able to express his faith in pragmatic ways. Love to know how your dad did on that one. Because you're sitting around this table, we're assuming that you're pretty good at expressing your faith in pragmatic ways. How good was your dad in that area? Two ministers, two non-ministers, how was your dad, seriously?

**CLAIR:** I gave him a 4 on that, best he could.

**T.C.:** My dad was a 2 for most of his life. I would say now, he's about a 4.

**KEITH:** Okay, interesting. Roy?

**ROY:** I gave my dad a 5. He, I remember real quick a story. Once he caught these guys vandalizing our house, he takes to the District

Magistrate, they think they're going to get this massive judgment. He looks at the District Magistrate and says I want you to sentence these guys to coming for three months to play basketball on a Friday night in my church because otherwise they're never going to come to church. The District Magistrate did it and the guys continued to play basketball for years.

**KEITH:** Interesting.

**ROBERT:** Awesome. Like I said earlier, I don't ever remember waking up when my dad wasn't praying or we weren't going to church. I'm in a 5 all the way.

**KEITH:** You'll notice in your campfires, those numbers are going to be different for all of our life experiences, so keep that in mind, alright.

Now I want to do is a little change here. Look at B. Alright, now I want you to check the sentences below that are easy for you or your dad to say. So, we're not evaluating anymore. We're not going to give numbers 1 to 5 and all that stuff or in T.C.'s case, 1 to 5 and ½. And what we're going to do is I want you to just check, can I say that pretty easily. Did my dad say that pretty easily, alright. And so we're just going to kind of fly through this and what I'm going to do is just for a season, the guys are each going to just say, yes I checked my dad, no I didn't. Yes, I checked me, no I didn't, alright. So it kind of sees how we're doing on these. These are very important things for a man to learn to say and do, alright.

No. 1. I love you. I love you. Did your dad say I love you.

**CLAIR:** Yeah.

**T.C.:** No.

**ROBERT:** Yeah.

**ROY:** I taught him. (laughter)

**KEITH:** Is it easy for you to say?

**CLAIR:** Yes.

**T.C.:** Yes.

**KEITH:** Okay, look at 2. I'm proud of you. Did your dad say he was proud of you? My dad, my dad always struggled with saying he was proud of me, so that was one he didn't do.

**ROY:** He didn't do.

**ROBERT:** Yeah, he did.

**CLAIR:** Yeah.

**T.C.:** Mine didn't.

**KEITH:** Your dad was proud of you? (Laughter) And are you guys pretty good at saying I'm proud of you?

**T.C.:** Yes, absolutely.

**ROY:** Absolutely.

**KEITH:** Alright, I was wrong. I was wrong. My dad always thought he was wrong so he did this one easy.

**CLAIR:** My dad knew he was, could not say it.

**T.C.:** No.

**ROBERT:** No.

**ROY:** No.

**KEITH:** Wow, interesting. And all you guys can you say that pretty easily now or not?

**T.C.:** Yeah.

**ROY:** Yeah.

**KEITH:** And if you can't, that's okay. I mean it's good to, okay. I am sorry, I am sorry. Was your dad good...My dad was good at saying he's sorry too. It felt like he was a mess.

**CLAIR:** No.

**ROBERT:** Nope

**T.C.:** No.

**ROY:** No.

**KEITH:** Alright now, just get a sense guys. What the impact of not having that in your life is. I mean it just, it's going to mess with some of the beliefs we just went through, right.

Look at No. 5. Please forgive me for and whatever it is. Again, I'm going to be surprised if it changes from him not saying I'm sorry and all that, you know, so again, my dad didn't ask for forgiveness I don't think necessarily, now that I think about it. So I probably wouldn't check that one. I do, so. How about your dad?

**ROY:** When I confronted him at a couple points in life about our history, he did say will you forgive me.

**KEITH:** That's a good statement too, because there might be moments where they weren't doing it naturally, but you had to go out of your way.

**ROY:** I went out. He did respond on two or three occasions, and each time took full ownership of what I told him. Couldn't go there himself, but I took him there.

**T.C.:** I'm like Roy. That's happened with me. My biological father does it often for the last thee years.

**CLAIR:** No, not natural to him to ask for forgiveness.

**ROBERT:** I could see and my dad doing it but not naturally really.

**KEITH:** Wow. Thank you for. Is he thankful for you? You know, does he say those things very well?

**ROBERT:** My dad does, yeah.

**T.C.:** Mine actually does, yeah.

**KEITH:** Now you notice, you start to think what the difference is there. Thank you for is just sort of recognizing something that you're doing. To say I'm sorry is revealing character. It's revealing stuff inside of me that's very hard. Generationally it's hard. You are good at that or you can do it. So it's that chicken coup thing you were talking about. How good is your dad at saying you're good at something? My dad was great at saying I could do things, believing he couldn't.

**CLAIR:** Chicken coup was apparently an isolated incident. (laughter). Oh, but I do better. Again, the material we've studied for years has helped me.

**ROY:** Interestingly enough, the answer is no and yes. It's no most often that he didn't necessarily say I was good at something unless it was in the area of what he wanted me to follow in his footsteps as a minister because he wanted me to follow in his footsteps, he would tell me those zones I was good at because he wanted me to go in that direction.

**T.C.:** My biological and my dad now that I got to know him would always say that I could be something. They wanted me to. I was the last kid and they wanted me to succeed. And I definitely say it all the time now.

**ROBERT:** Yeah, my dad _____.

**KEITH:** That's interesting. Could you help me? Could your dad ask for help?

**T.C.:** My stepfather actually could. Once he made the decision to turn himself around, I was pretty good at follow Christ and he wanted help. That was really cool, a really cool moment.

**ROBERT:** Yeah, it depends on what exactly it was. If it comes to my dad's physicality, like he's sick or something, he'll never ask for help. He's just stubborn like that but as far as anything else that he's doing or something, he'd always be asking for help easily.

**ROY:** Yeah, I'd say rarely.

**KEITH:** It's interesting my dad, because again he didn't feel like he could do anything right, was always asking for help. You know, it's, he wanted to be taken care of is part of my dad. I didn't know that. I didn't know that. I don't, in other words there's a piece of information I don't have available. (Laughter) How about your dad?

**CLAIR:** I want to hear how Roy's doing on that one (laughter).

**ROY:** I have worked very hard not to know everything. (laughter)

**T.C.:** My stepfather was actually pretty good about that. He never claimed to be a genius, you know, and I think he, you know, it wouldn't allow you to set high expectations for him either, you know. And so that was, I don't know if that helped him or not. He choose to do that. Me personally, I do it.

**CLAIR:** My dad knew everything and he taught me everything he knows. So we both struggle with that one.

**KEITH:** Yeah, yeah, that's interesting.

**ROBERT:** Well my dad, well he lives there.

**KEITH:** The last one, I am disappointed in this behavior because. Now understand when you do that, there's going to be a rationale, a rationalization, not a rationalization, he's rational at that point. He's not angry, he's not – in order for him to have that statement, he is controlled as he's sort of dealing with the fact that he's disappointed in something. How would your dad do in that?

**T.C.:** No. They didn't know how to do this. This would have been an excellent trait to have for a lot of reasons. He just didn't know how to apply that type of _____.

**ROBERT:** Yeah, my dad would react but he would never like rationalize why he was disappointed with something.

**CLAIR:** Yep, same for me. Never an explanation and I try to go overboard with my sons here is why? I believe you're better than this.

**ROY:** Yeah, again, no. We were too distant. He wasn't close enough to observe it and if he did observe a behavior that he wanted changed it wasn't done in a rational manner.

**KEITH:** Interesting. When I share with my sons that I'm disappointed in something they've done, their response is almost always they want to be loved. They want to know that they love me. They want me to know that they are sorry they disappointed me, but it's funny because over the years, we've learned to do that very, very differently. When I say to my sons, you know, hey I'm disappointed in this because I'm concerned about that, when they – years ago they would have heard more of a reaction. Now they're hearing, this is really a maturing statement when you get to this point in your life, guys.

Now, I'm not sure to be honest with you which line is more important, the me or the them at this point. Me really reflects on where you're going, how you're doing. The them, your dad, sort of reflects on how he came across. One of the things that I'm most concerned about

that we do here guys, is this is an evaluation of how am I living according to the principles that a man should live by regardless of because of what my dad's input was. And so, as we do that, I just want to encourage you guys to value what God has given you as the guy in your life regardless of whether or not he lived within the design that he was supposed to or not. And what have I learned and what am I becoming with no excuse going in that direction.

Is there anything you guys, we're just going to wrap it up. Is there anything you want to just add to the guys at this point, since we've been talking through all this?

**T.C.:** I personally to something that was said, right at the beginning and I think it was just about – well I remember now actually. It was don't let your circumstances dictate the man you are. Man I am, I am light years different from anything that I ever saw as a kid. I know what to do right because of everything I saw wrong. And to sit here and be like what I saw and failing in life and not know how to love people and all different things, and then to blame my stepfather or my father who wasn't in my life, man, that's just an excuse. You won't grow. I'm, I'm not the greatest guy in the world but I can tell you I'm proof that through Christ and through not making excuses, I mean you can be the man you were designed to be. You can be everything this program is trying to tell you to be just by making a choice to be it, you know, and so I'm just encouraging you in that manner. If you are a guy sitting here and you just like, you felt

like you could have put a 0 at everyone, you never knew your dad, you never met your dad, or you didn't even have a positive influence, you couldn't even replace him with anybody doesn't matter. Worry about those me scores and worry about those me checks and listen to the stuff you've heard and apply it to your life and make sure that your son or daughter or whatever can check people because you were there.

**ROY:** One other thing too is that you have to understand how many young men are out there looking for father substitutes and as knights in the various campfires, as you grow as a man, there's a lot of young men watching you, trying to figure out what manhood is all about. And so it's important for us as knights to find young men around us that are searching for those father substitutes or another man to step beside them to walk a few blocks within life and it's important for you to take up the responsibility. We can't change our culture unless the men that are there reach out to the young men around them in order to bring them along so that our culture can be different.

**CLAIR:** For those of you that did have fathers growing up, I'm going to challenge you again to not judge them by exactly the father that they were, where they were at. Think about what the example they had. Where did they start their example of fatherhood? I think about a football going down the field. My grandfather had the ball for a while, didn't do so well. My dad picked that ball up and he did amazing advance down the

field. He handed it to me, wasn't the perfect dad but he advanced it. And now my job is to take it another step and my sons the next step.

**KEITH:** Here's what I want you guys to do as you go to your campfire. Remember the picture that's been on the screen behind each of these points that we've been making and that is there's a trail that your dad followed. You don't have to follow that trail. You can take advantage of the parts of it you can. You can cut a new path in the forest, but one thing you're not going to do is say I'm walking through the forest this way because my dad made me. You're not going to do that.

Hey, enjoy the time in your campfires. This is a cool evaluation. It obviously will take some time. You'll only do some highlights but enjoy that time together. See you next week.