

Knights of the 21st Century

Trail 16

You know gentlemen, I was telling you right up here on Trail 16, I said, we're going to move forward and we're going to talk about the concept of what's it like when a man enters a room, because every time a man enters a room, he changes its mood. He either takes life out of it or adds to it. I don't there there's anything more interesting than that moment when a man is anticipated coming home, when he's been longed for and waited for and suddenly, there he is. And when he arrives, it's like a soldier returning from war. It's like that surprise moment when somebody special just entered the life of the family.

Here we are on Trial No. 16. It's called Family: War and Peace. It's about the family that you and I have to grapple with as to whether we add something or whether we take something away. I want you to think about that concept in light of the phrase that's written at the beginning of Trail 16, about what's it like when you enter your home, when a man enters a room. Look at this statement. One of the warrior's most important tasks while fulfilling his life calling is to take care of his family. That's one of the most important things that you can possibly do is to take care of your family. Now I know as I'm saying this, I'm thinking about you guys

that are going, I don't really have a family. I don't really have someone I'm connected to. I, I, my, I'm divorced. I'm kind of messed up. You know what that's like. You made some choices that weren't very knightly, so you don't have connections or maybe you've never had a family that you grew up with, a normal, normal nuclear home that you lived with. Maybe you've come to a place in your life where you're sort of out on your own or whatever. For me, I know exactly where I'm at obviously, I'm almost an empty nester. My sons are almost all left home. I'm at a place where I'm a grandfather so I know where I'm at. Some of you guys have, are married without children, some of you are considering marriage, some of you have young children. So we're all at a variety of levels. Here's what I want to define in order for us to do this together. I want us to think in terms of any family, any people that we consider to be part of our family that we're connected to, we're connected to emotionally, we're connected to in social ways, the people that we've brought into our lives. Some of it maybe even surrogates that are just kind of people that sort of function like our moms and dads and we may even call the moms and dads or uncles or aunts or cousins or friends that have sort of become brothers, sisters and those kind of things. So wherever you are, when we talk about family, we all have it. Some of us are very natural connections and some of them have been developed over a period of time. So keeping that in mind,

here's the question. When you enter the room as a knight, what kind of knight do you enter the room as? Do you make a difference when you come in? I remember when I first got married, when I would enter the room, I don't know why Lynn was happy to see me because at that particular point in my marriage, I want you to know I loved Lynn from the moment I met her. So when I married her, I loved her. I wanted to seek her highest good. The problem was it kept on getting, her highest good kept on getting in the way of my highest good, right. You know what that's about. So when I would come home from the day, I would bring flowers but Lynn wasn't necessarily excited to see me because it was all about me taking. I would take, she would give. She might receive something, but it was after I would take. I was a taker. In fact the only thing I can think I was like was a fish called the angler fish. Now there's many species of angler fish but the one I'm thinking of is the angler fish that you saw in the movie "Finding Nemo". Now I know don't admit in your campfire if you saw if you don't have kids, but Finding Nemo as this fish that lives way deep down in the ocean, this particular species about a mile down in complete darkness. It has a little light that kind of dangles over so that somebody who, some fish that's looking for something to eat is drawn to the light and they go near it and then that fish eats them. It's kind of an ugly looking female fish that takes care of this particular light and all the objects that are eaten.

But the fish I'm thinking about his her husband. This little angler fish is about 125th of her size, one of the smallest creatures in the sea. He comes along and he has this great, the only thing he really has that's going in his favor, he has this marvelous ability to smell and he will smell and smell until he finds a female. He will then swim up to her, he will open up his little mouth and he will chomp down on her scales and absorb into her system. Over a period of time his digestive system, his respiratory system will all be connected to hers. As a matter of fact, his lips will literally morph onto her and it will just look like she has a growth off her body. And the only things that remains functioning in him, his brain, everything else stops, everything else goes, the only thing that remains functioning is his ability to produce a sexuality, sexuality for her as a male to give her life. He's basically just a sperm bank that's locked into her whenever she wants to reproduce. So often guys, I got to be honest with you, I feel like that's what I was when I was first involved in my marriage. I would zap off of Lynn and all I was was a sperm donor and I actually found pretty contentment in that whole area. I felt like that was pretty cool spandex living. Guys, when you walk in the home, I don't care what's hidden behind your back, if all you are is a drain that thinks of himself as a sperm donor, you can throw the flowers away. But when you're a man, a man like a warrior, a knight, soldier who has returned from battle

throughout history that comes home and everybody is happy to see him, if you're that, then you're going to learn how to enter your house, enter your home, that we call in a way that deals with both the war and the peace that needs to take place in the family.

So let's walk through this. Now here's what we're going to do. I want us to grade yourself on these. We're just going to walk through a series of a bunch of areas and I want you to give yourself anywhere from an A to an F – an A to an F. And then what I want you to do is I want you to go to somebody that's significant in your life and go through the same questions because as you think about these, I want you to think about these in light of the person you're going to go to and have them grade you. So don't look at your answers, they'll just grade you themselves. Now if you're going to have a female do it, A to F will not be enough. They'll have B pluses, C minuses, they'll have all those kind of things. You're going to want them to grade you, alright. Now why do you want to do that? Because I really believe that part of the area that allows us to hit the target as men, as Knights of the 21st Century, has to be centered around the importance of the family. So as you do this, you're going to think about a person you want to grade you. I might think of one of my sons, I might think of Lynn, somebody that's going to grade you in this process as we go through this. You want to give yourself a grade, how well you think you're doing, then find

out how they think you're doing, alright? So there's two parts of this. You'll share your grades with the guys in your campfire, so don't forget, if you see a guy next to you not grading himself, just nudge him so he – we want a grade at each answer whether I remind you to do it or not throughout. So let's go take a look at these areas that we want to grade ourselves in.

A warrior is expected to love his family well creating a positive family bond which will be evident when his family, okay these are the things that are going to be evident when his family notices and these things all the numbers that we're about to do will have to do with your being graded. When his family believes that he listens to them, write that down, number one. Does your family believe that you listen to them? Listen to them. Now it doesn't mean are you present when they're talking. It means that you engage eye contact, nodding, moving in, the things we talked about earlier when we said, okay here's some power that a man has. Are you listening? Do you know what your kids are going through? Do you know what your mate is going through? Have you heard about their day or do you just kind of turn on electronics and sort of ignore them and try to blank it out. How are you doing listening? Now give yourself a letter grade. A to F. How you do in that particular area. That's actually an area I've become very good at so I'm going to score myself fairly high in this area. Why it's important, people only know how to share

what they're going through verbally. I mean there's a whole bunch of body language we can send but it really comes through language and when we shut them down, especially as your kids get older, as they start to grow up and they start talking less, all of a sudden you find yourself, man you better be listening when the opportunity arrives.

Number two. Feels safe with him, feels safe with him. Does your family feel safe with you? Now you say, okay, where's the war and peace come in on this thing Keith? Well if they don't feel safe with you, the family is at war. If they feel safe with you, it's at peace. Family, war and peace comes by when you enter a room. Remember every time a man enters a room, he changes its mood, every single time. You either raise it or you lower it. So do they feel safe with you. Now that question of feeling safe means this. They feel like you judge them. I don't mean do they are afraid you're going to hit them. That might be the case and you already know what a problem that is. If you're just going to be reacting, swatting around. But do they feel like you judge them, do they feel like you devalue what's important to be them. Do they feel like if they hand you a report card, you'll only see the low grades and not the high grades? Do they feel like you won't think what they experienced that day was important. They think that you will somehow put them

down especially with others around. It gets overwhelming when we move in this direction.

Look at number three. Desires to spend time with him. Now I'm sworn pretty good here. Desires to spend time with him. As I walk through this, this one though I have to stop for a moment and make sure about that. Desires to spend time with him does not mean you desire to spend time with them. I'm not asking if you desire to spend time with them. You should. It's do they give you feedback by letting you know they desire to spend with you? When you come home, do your little kids reach up to you? If you have a surrogate dad where you just have a surrogate father in your life, when your around do you sense that he wants to be with you or does he kind of run and hide? Does he ignore you? I mean those are great questions to stop. Does they have desire to be with you? You'll get an idea of what kind of vibe you're sending off. Is it a peaceful one or is it a war one about whether or not they desire to spend time with you. Be careful by the way guys. When little kids reach up to grab you, reach up to hold you and you ignore them, they will learn to stop doing that. They're going to learn at a certain point anyway. You're going to have to fight for them during their teenage years to reach up and embrace and have a relationship with you. You teach them early on. So be very, very careful in this area. Same with your

wives, same with your friends, you know, whatever you're thinking about. How do you score yourself at this particular point?

Number four. Feels that he respects their life stage, their viewpoint and confidently receives his advice. In other words, do they feel like you respect them where they are or do they feel like you controlled them? See I don't respect somebody if I'm controlling them. What I'm trying to do is manipulating them to take care of me. Now even if you think you're being good as a parent and you're helping somebody to be what you want them to be. If they feel controlled, they don't feel respected. So respecting is do you respect them at their life stage, at the journey of where they're at? You know what's fascinating, I had to learn to respect Lynn as a woman who spent her whole day with little kids. Now I didn't see her as a mother. I saw her as a wife. I saw her as the woman I had fallen in love with. I wasn't thinking motherly. I was thinking when I would come home, how would she respond to me in, in certain ways that would make me feel like a husband, would make feel like it's about me, right. Would I respect through what she had got through all the day. You know when I come home at night when our kids were real little, I was the relief pitcher. Her arm was blown. She was tired of throwing pitches all day long so when I entered the room, she was saying, here, you pitch for awhile. And I'm sitting there going, I'm tired. It's all about me. How come you're not loving

me like you used to? Do you know what's real interesting? You know why a lot of guys have affairs? A lot of guys have affairs when their children are little. You know why? Because their wives aren't responding to them like they used to. Their wives are tired at night, the little kids are crashing into the room all the time, they've been giving. They don't feel romantically involved. They don't feel cared for. Guys, you have to guard yourself. There and midlife crisis, two of the biggest areas where guys who don't naturally move in sexual deviation, these are where you and I tend to look for somebody who makes us feel special. You have to understand, part of it is due to the fact that you're not showing respect to them. Let me give you something that's just kind of free and it's unfortunate I have to give this to you, because it's something of a trend I've been noticing. In the last several months, I've talked to a number of couples where the female had the affair, most of them started in gyms, interesting, I think. I had seven people in this category, five are from gyms, two are from the internet. Now as I started to examine each woman, as we talked about her journey and she started sharing with me what had created this affair, what it was, was she didn't feel respected. He didn't understand me. Now she also had some other problems because most of the women in this category, their children were somewhere between the age of eight and twelve. They felt like their children didn't need them either and their husband had learned not

to need them. So guys, these are areas that we got to be very, very careful in. How we bring in war and peace into our home.

Look at the next one and, and make sure you grade yourself. How did you do on this one? Do you feel like you respect their life stage? Number five. Considers his needs as a natural expression of appreciation for the ways he has served them throughout their lives. Consider his needs as a natural expression for appreciation for the ways he served them throughout their lives. Now I have to tell you I've gotten all As and Bs up until now. As a matter of fact, I grade myself all Bs. Lynn and my boys actually gave me a few As up until now. This one, however, I didn't score well and they didn't score me well. This is one that I want you to think about. If you're going to be a knight, and you want to be otherly, and this is where I got out of balance a little bit, I want to be otherly. I would give and not expect to receive. That's very important. It's part of what you do. You don't expect to receive. However, I kept on giving them no opportunity to give back. I never made it reciprocal. Guys, how are you doing on this? Are you letting your family care for you? Are you letting those you love care for you? Are you letting those around you build you back up, get back into you? It's a natural desire of them to express. You actually create tension in your home when you, when they say what can we do for you and you go, nothing, because nothing sounds like they have nothing to give and they

want to give back. So even in this journey that we go through, you see I was a taker, right, so when I became a giver it took me a long time and I'm still really struggling through this. I would much rather give than receive now. As a result of that, I keep denying my family the opportunity to serve. Even the guys on our team here will tell you that I will tend to over serve and under receive. So how do you score on that one? Alright, I'm at a C. I got a C plus from my family. I was a C on this one.

Look at the next one. This will help a little bit. He looks to his leadership skill – they look to their leadership skills to assist them in decision making. They look to their leadership skills to assist. That means basically this. They see you as a problem solver not a problem creator. When you come in the house, have you just created a new set of problems, or when you come in the house are you the one that can help them make good choices? Do you react? No, you're probably not good in helping them make good choices or do you take a moment, breathe in the information, breathe it out and then decide here's how I'm going to help you do it. And do you tell them what to do or do you help them make the decision making process? It depends on what stage of life they're in. It depends on what kind of day your wife is having. It depends on what kind of relationship that your mom is going through. Whatever it is or

whatever the person is here and how do you score yourself on this?
What kind of grade do you give yourself in that one?

Look at the next one, number seven. Follows him as a model for principled living. Follows him. They're following you because you're a model, so it basically means the majority of time when you walk in the house, they're glad you're home. The majority of time when you arrive in any room, they're glad you've arrived in the room, right? It basically means that you practice what you preach. I think that is an area that is so important for us as guys. Do you practice what you preach? Do you have one set of rules for your kids and one set of rules for you? Are you consistent? If you say don't lie, do you not cheat on your income tax, alright? Do you see how it works? This is so important. How do you grade out on this one? I got to be honest with you, one of the things that shocked me is every one of my family members gave me an A on this one, every single one of them, which is encouragement which means my principles are now being lived out in such a way that as a knight they feel like, man I'm doing it. I wish I could tell you I got As in everything. I don't. But in this one, I do. How are you doing in that one? Are you practicing what you preach?

I want you to think about a guy who I thought was very, very good in doing that as a warrior from history. His name is Schwarzkopf. He was a general. General Schwarzkopf was the one

in charge of Operation Desert Storm. He was a man who through a whole series of decisions and experiences in his life was an observer of war. He was an observer of war and the importance of being all that you needed to be as a soldier. He actually signed up as a leader for a second tour of Nam. Most upper officers did not sign up to do that. He actually was given a platoon of men in which were rag tag, not very disciplined and he drove them into discipline. Under his leadership he will create one of the finest military forces in the world. There was a period of time in U.S. history in the last thirty years where we were not the finest military in the world. We were inept and we had lost our focus. Under Schwarzkopf's leadership it became very focused. As a matter of fact, when everybody else wanted to prepare for certain types of war, he wanted to prepare for desert warfare in the Middle East. So for years while everybody else was trying to push another type, he kept on saying no we prepare this way, we prepare this way and so when Operation Desert Storm took place and he had a half million troops under his command in one of the most impressive short term victories that a nation, our nation had ever known, this was a man who was ready for a such a moment. He was a man who practiced what he preached. He was a man who when he would walk into a room, you knew who he was and you'd respect him. I want to put up for you a quote on the screen from General Schwarzkopf. Here's

what Norman Schwarzkopf said: Leadership is a combination of strategy and character but if you must be without one, be without strategy. Leadership, leadership is about a man who has character and a man who has strategy and if you got to be without one, be without the strategy, be about character. That's the kind of leader you can follow. I have a feeling, and I have never met Schwarzkopf even though he lives in Jersey not too far from where I am in Pennsylvania, the fact is that if he entered a room, I have a feeling, I have a feeling that we'd go, woo, glad he's here, a man of character, a man of character.

Consider the next one in family, war and peace. Number eight. This was somebody that he gives inevitably for his family. He seeks him out to be comforted. When they need comfort, they seek us out. When they feel like they're in trouble, they feel like this person walks up to them and will understand and comfort. There's a statement we ask of men to make to their daughters. This is actually from a guy by the name of Max Locato and wrote a book about children in case you ever wondered. It's about his three daughters. And what he, basically what he said is, I will always love you. I will always be here for you and then he says this: I will always be on your side. It doesn't mean he'll always approve of what you do. It means that I'll always be there to help you when you get a bruised knee, when you get a bruise from a guy, when you get

a bruise because of a stupid choice, I'll be there for you. Are you that kind of guy? Does your family come to you for comfort or are you just, hey, buck up. Get over it. You know, you have to decide where you are. I had boys, you know, and they would forever get cut and scratched and beat up and all that kind of stuff and the decision to know when to really truly comfort and when to say, hey yo, it's okay. Key decision, war and peace. If you're not very good at comforting, you have another problem.

Number nine. Expects to be challenged by him. They expect to be challenged by him. If you don't comfort, well they won't let you challenge them. My wife expects me to challenge her, to call her up. I also expect her to challenge me. When I walk in a room, do I challenge people in my family upward? Am I always calling them up or am I tearing them down? Tearing them down, war. Calling them up, peace. Your job, your mood that you can set has everything to do with that. Now how are you grading yourself? Make sure you give yourself a grade on this. Be as honest as you can because you're going to at least let one other person that is intimately involved with you remember to grade you.

Number ten. Pursues his reflections and thoughts as feedback on their growth. Pursues his reflections and thoughts as feedback on their growth. We talk about the importance of feedback around here. Does your family come to you and say here's what I'm

thinking. Here's the feedback. Seth is going to the prom and he wants to do this kind of a cool thing. He's not just renting a tux. He's doing a whole variety of things. He's coming to Lynn for feedback regarding ideas. He is not coming to me for feedback. Do you want to know why? Well look at me. I have no social context. You, for the last 16 trails, you've been wondering, doesn't that guy know how to tuck in his shirts? Dude, this is as good as it gets. Number one, this is not a great body to tuck in and number two, I, I have to ask Lynn, does black go with grey and should I wear blue, black, well what color and how do I do. I am clueless. Seth goes to her for feedback, but when it comes to things that Seth needs to come to his dad about, does he come to me? Do the people that you're caring for, do they come to you for feedback? Help them readjust. Do you know how important feedback is? It will help them readjust in the course of their life to the stage of their life and more importantly, as important as that is, if they don't trust you with feedback and they start holding it in, it means they're going to get feedback from other sources. You know one of the hardest things for me to do is let my sons love another woman more than they love their mother. And believe it or not, it's hard for me to do and more importantly, it's actually hard for me to let them protect them more than they protect their mother. So when one of my sons make a decision that hurts their mom because they're trying to protect their

woman, boy I bristle with that. Now I do we get through that journey together? Well it's feedback along the way. Josh and I, my oldest son and I have had the privilege of talking through in depth the relationship because he's the first, just about everything, first in marriage, first to have a grandson. He's the first, obviously he's my oldest son, first in a lot of areas and our feedback, he has taught me how to respond to the other brothers. I'm a much better father because of the feedback I've received from Josh. I'm sure glad we didn't lose that connection. Feedback coming in means you also have feedback going out and so this is the opportunity we have to think of.

Another one that I think will help in the war and peace struggle of the family is number eleven. Looks to his presence in their life. Just wants to look at what we're involved at, in. They look for us to just be around. They, they, they want us to be part of their journey. They want us in their memory pictures. They, they think about us. It's so much fun to watch my family grow and think in terms of wanting Lynn and I with them. When they want us there every single time, it makes you feel like you've done something right. How do you score in this area? Do people want your presence or is the family better off without you? Go back to the picture that's behind me. The picture of the guy. He's now obviously coming home as a military guy maybe from a day at the office or maybe from a tour of

duty. As he hands those flowers, the family has been functioning without him for a period of time. Are they glad? Are they glad he's there? Are they finding that he's, they're okay with him? Are they finding that in the journey of that moment, that his presence is all they've longed for and they want or has it been easier to function without him? How are you grading yourself in that area?

Look at number twelve. They understand his sacrifice on their behalf. They understand his sacrifice on their behalf. Do you understand what you've done? We understand we're the soldier, the sacrifice, but does your family, does your mate, does your friend, do your parents, they understand what you've done from time and finances and energy. They understand that? How do they understand that? I think sometimes you tell them. You don't tell them when you're in the heat of a battle. That's not, that's war not peace. You tell them, you know one of my greatest joys, let me tell you about a story and you tell them a story that just gets them understanding, wow, don't take mom and dad for granted, don't take my wife for granted, don't take me for granted, don't take being a parent for granted. How are my sons going to learn how to be parents? By me, right. How do I grade in that area?

Number thirteen. Expects his confrontation, they expect, my family expects confrontation when they choose self-destructive lifestyles and fail to guide their instincts. They expect me to put

boundaries on them. They expect me when they make choices to confront them. Alright, now I want you to think about that. I want you to think about the courage it takes to be a strong leader. Now war and peace in a family means there are times when you will do, get peace have to do that which feels like war to them. The best example of that is in your Knightly News. There's a guy in there named Malchus. Malchus is actually a guy who's been sent in the middle of the night. He's a guard for the temple guard, so it would be basically like, if you know of the Vatican, he's a Vatican police officer. He's a temple guard and his job is to arrest Jesus at this particular point. That's what he's on his way to do, so he's not a military guy from that point of view, but he's like a special police, the secret service for a religious organization. When Malchus goes to approach Jesus and arrests him after Judas has kissed him, Peter whips out a sword. When Peter whips out his sword, he comes walking over and Peter's not a swordsman. He's a fisherman. Peter is the guy that wants to build little structures everywhere. Peter's the guy that talks before he thinks and he swings a sword before he's thought it through too, because Peter chops off Malchus' ear. Do you want to know whether a man is a good warrior or not? Tell me how he swings a sword. When you swing a sword guys, everybody knows in battle you don't ever swing down. The only way you chop off an ear is to swing down. You swing across, right? You

chop off that head. Malchus sees Peter coming, Peter slashes with the sword and chops off his ear. He drops to the ground in pain. Jesus Christ needs to comfort Peter and says, this is not the time. This is not the place and he reaches down on the ground and he puts the ear back on Malchus. Do you want to kill a battle real quick. Start fixing everybody that gets chopped up in the middle of a battle. Jesus fixes the guy and when Malchus gets fixed, things change. Things change so dramatically in him that this ear is like a living example to Peter about what's important and what isn't, what's to be done, what's not to be done. That's the art of confrontation, to set the boundaries. You need to learn to do that in your family's home, in your home. That's part of walking in and being a leader, being a knight.

Look at the next one. The next point is number fourteen which will be evidence to his family when he assumes he will be willing to involve himself in their interest. How do you score this one? You're willing to be, involve yourself in the interest of your family. That means basically what is important to them is important to you. I had three athletes and one son, my youngest who tried every sport there is but is a musician, is an actor. Um, he is so gifted in those areas. Now as having sons who were athletes, even though I was not necessarily very athletic, I could engage in all those things. I could coach them when they were young. I could do all those things and

never miss an event. With Seth, there's less I can engage in because of my ability. While I can act, I can't sing and I don't even really appreciate music that much. So one of the joys has been learning to make Seth's interests mine. In Knights of the 21st Century at LCBC this past year, I did twenty-three of the twenty-four, actually I did forty-seven of the forty-eight sessions we had. We do it twice a week, one at 6:00 in the morning and one at 7:30 for two different groups of men, about three hundred fifty guys, about seven hundred fifty guys to eight hundred guys and the only one I missed was a Thursday night and it was a Thursday night when Seth was Hyde in the musical Jekyll and Hyde. He was phenomenal, absolutely incredible. Best evil guy you ever saw in your life. It was opening night of the show. I told the guys in the beginning of the year or as soon as I knew he made that part halfway through the year, that I would miss that night. Why? His interests are mine and I hate to miss opportunities like we're having right now. But I missed because that night it was about Seth and his interests. How are you doing in that one? Actually I scored well in this one. How are you scoring?

Let's look at another one and see how we score in that area. Number fifteen. Knows he will try to be part of their friends' lives. How will you do in being friends, friends with your kids' friends. As they grow older, do you know who they are? Friends with your

wife's friends, friends actually with people that are important to them, whether the person you're thinking of is a parent, whether the person you're thinking of is an aunt or an uncle or a cousin or whether it's in my case, my sons or my wife. Do I value Lynn's friends or do I put them down? Do I want to be involved with them? Do I value my sons' friends at every phase? You know what's interesting, is my home the kind of home where his friends feel comfortable coming? And besides my crazy Golden Retriever dog who wants to lick everything, we're a pretty nice warm, friendly house and we are one of those group of people that just, I want my friends, sons' friends to make us their friend. That takes work. It takes the opportunity to do that. Score okay on that one. How do you score on the next one?

Number sixteen, realizes that he will separate from a family member whose intent is on self-destruction. It means I'm going to separate from somebody who their intent is to hurt themselves or hurt others. Guys, you might have to separate from certain family members for their own good to not help them, not enable them to keep destroying themselves. You might have to separate for your own good if it's pulling you down. I tell my sons I will never, ever, ever kick you out of our house, ever. However, you might have to leave our house because you choose not to stay within our guidelines. Now I know it sounds like one in the same thing, but it

actually isn't. I'm not kicking them out. They're choosing to not to stay within the boundaries. There are times when I can't help them do that which is destructive. I have a rule. My sons do not live with their mates before they get married. My sons do not have sex before marriage. Now it doesn't mean that my sons do or do not have sex before marriage. It means that a guideline within our house. I have another rule. You don't lie. You don't lie. So if my son is going to perpetually lie or if my son is going to choose to live with another woman, a woman that is not his wife, I will not help that. I believe it is hurtful. I think it is destructive. So in our family they choose to step out of our bounds of our family. If they can't tell the truth within our family, then they're doing destructive behaviors, especially if you have younger children. You know, and so what are the guidelines. Sometimes you have to separate for your own being, probably even more often for their well being so you don't make it easy for them to do destructive things. Hard. It feels like war but it actually leads to peace.

Look at the next one. He trusts that when, he will let go when it's time for his grownup child to have a more intimate relationship with someone other than him. He trusts that you will let go when somebody is going to move forward. Now this is purely a parental one. This one is, are you letting go of your children? Are you letting go of them when it's time to let go? Now I've already mentioned to

you that my children have certain guidelines. If my sons choose not to live within my guidelines, I will still value them and love them. I won't enable it, but I will still value them. Will I let them go to another person that might even not be thinking the way I think? Yeah, I will. That's their choice. At a certain age, that's just the way it works. Do they understand that I value them? Now, what about the healthy relationship? When Josh married Coreen, when that relationship happens and both Joel and Caleb were involved in somebody they're going to marry probably down the road, as, as I look at those women, my job is to entrust them with my sons, that my sons will care for them, right, and them to care for my sons right. So we have to let go. How well do you let go? A lot of time, guys, we hold on way too tight. It feels like we're controlling because we are, right, got it, alright, got that.

Look at number eighteen. Knows that he will celebrate the success that they attain and will not compete with them. He'll celebrate the success and not compete with them. In essence, if they grow beyond you, you rejoice in it. If Lynn, if Lynn is more successful in her career than I am in mine, I am the happiest guy in the world. As a matter of fact, we'll probably at some point in our life live in Colorado because it brings the greatest joy to Lynn, right? It's, it's her success. Don't compete with your kids. Don't compete with people you love in your family unit. Rejoice and

celebrate their success. One of the things that I went through in my dad's life as he started to degenerate, he stopped enjoying my success. You know my dad has said I love you. He has, before he died. My dad said to me, um that he was in some way or another knowing that I was good at communicating. You know what he didn't say? I'm proud of you. You want to know why? Because I think if he said I was proud of me, he'd have to acknowledge that I've grown beyond him. My dad was an amazing man. I should have never grown beyond him but I did because he chose to move backwards. He chose to degenerate down. Guys, when you enter a room, how are you setting the mood? Peace, war, where do you go with this as your family? How are you scoring? Are you still scoring yourself? Keep it up.

Number nineteen. This family is going to be confident that he is truthful and reliable. It almost goes without saying. This family is confident that I am the kind of man that is truthful and reliable. I want to talk about a movie called "The Patriot" here, that the whole movie – the guys give me a hard time about this all the time. I will pick a movie that has all kinds of blood and guts and stuff going on, and the scene I'll show them or talk to them about is a scene that has no blood and guts. It's just this mushy kind of scene. So when I tell you I'm going to show you, talk about "The Patriot", and we're talking about family, war and peace, you go, this guy is so stinking

confused. I mean he doesn't know how to really be a soldier and what it's all about. But there is a part in the movie "The Patriot", um where the characters are engaged in certain things that just, man just bring it all together. The dad whose name is Benjamin Martin is coming home from battle, um in the Revolutionary War. He actually isn't able to come home to his normal home, and he's from the south and it has been, a lot of destruction has taken place and so they go to this area where the community has sort of been set up by a river that allows them to just kind of do life away from all the homes that have been burned and all the attacks that are going on by the British. When he arrives, Gabriel his son, who is a soldier with him is going to marry Anne and as the two of them are going to get married, he blesses them and you see in the scene an amazing celebration, an amazing celebration of their lives getting married together, his commitment to her as he shares something that was from his wife who had died before the war. Martin given it to her and just lets her know how valuable she is. You watch in this scene the kids celebrating their dad coming home, being with them, all but one who doesn't want to talk to her dad. She just can't get over the fact that he's left her and he's become this man that she didn't know and she's so afraid, she already lost a mom and she died, she's so afraid another one is going to die. In this scene, you see him engaging with Charlotte. She is the sister of his wife who has taken

now, taken on the family and cared for her. She is also a widow and how the two of them are starting to build a love relationship. And the most magical part of the scene is where his little girl as he's getting ready to leave one more time, going to go away one more time and leave her along, as he's saying goodbye to each of the kids, the wedding is over, he and Gabriel have to go back to the war, as he's engaging and telling him to be careful and he kisses Charlotte goodbye and the kids all giggle, his littlest one who hasn't spoken since her mom died, he goes up to her and says, here, just a little hug, a little kiss and she pushes him away. And you can just see his lips quiver and an emotion comes in his eyes and he goes, please. And she moves away, snuggles in with the rest of the kids. So heartbroken he turns and he gets on his horse and he and Gabriel begin to ride away and that precious little girl cries out daddy, daddy please don't go. Please. He gets off his horse and he hugs her and he embraces and they love each other so strongly as only a father can love a daughter, his baby. As that whole emotion of that scene unravels, here's what I want you to think about. As you come out of that scene, it's that tug at your heart that says if I do this right, if I do this right, my children will want to race over to me and not let me go. That they're better off when I'm here than when I'm gone. When a man enters a room, what kind of mood do we bring? We bring flowers out and it brings the light to everyone.

There are two more areas I want you to score yourself in, in light of that choice. Two more areas that I think become so critical that if you score yourself here, maybe as important here as anything I've asked you to do up until this moment. Look at the last two. Here it is.

Number twenty-one, number twenty, excuse me. Knows that he will correct his mistakes in an honorable way. Does your family know that when you've blown it, you will say you're sorry? Does your family know that you will correct your mistakes in an honorable way. Does the family believe not that you're perfect, guys, we're not. We're on a journey. Do they believe that when you mess it up, you'll say you're sorry and you'll ask for forgiveness and you'll correct it?

And then the last one, twenty-one. Knows that he is spiritually sensitive to their discovery of God's call in their life. Does he learn? Do they learn from you that if they're going to find anything of hope and anything of peace, anything of joy and anything of love, it is going to be reflected in you but it's going to be shown and seen in God?

So as we get to the end of this trail and we hit this moment where we look at the soldier arriving home, what kind of response is he going to receive, as the flowers come out? Are they going to feel like the family just got peace because you've just arrived or is it the

beginning of a war? Gentlemen, I so believe in you. I so believe in the man you're becoming whether you're fourteen years of age sitting here or eighty-four or anywhere in between. I believe that from this moment on your goal will be when you walk in the room you'll raise the mood and I actually believe if that's your goal, you'll do it. We'll help you continue in that process when we get together for Trail No. 17.