The Intentional Father: A Practical Guide to Raise Sons of Courage and Character

Reviewed by: Pastor Scott Schwertfeger

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Type of Resource: Parenting help.

Author: Jon Tyson

Publisher: Baker Books

Costs: $12.49 on Amazon (2023)

Audience: For dads, grandpas and expectant fathers.

Format: 245 pages divided into 5 parts. Part One, “Introduction,” speaks about how there is a great need in our society to mentor and raise up men of courage and consequence. They need to know who they are, who God is, and how to stand up against the negative culture in today’s world. Part Two, “Preparation,” speaks about the planning needed to go about doing this very thing. It will take time, it will take money, it will take willpower, but you are raising boys to be men of God! This is your calling. Part Three, “Initiation,” explains how the author created a rite of passage for his son and setting up a dialogue with your son about this journey. Part Four, “Formation,” will talk about the high school years and the age of discovery that is taking place. It helps foment the idea that this is all about “being good at being a man.” Part Five, “Recognition,” talks about a ceremony at the end of this journey. It doesn’t have to be a month trip to hike the mountains of Spain, but make it memorable.

Time needed to Complete: Feel free to take your time on this one. There are “Questions to Think About” and “Intentional Steps” at the end of every chapter.

Strengths of this resource: We want to raise boys to be good at being men. The world offers little help in this regard. The dad, grandpa, mentor, or expectant father can serve as a great help to teach what it means to do this very thing. (We can discover things about ourselves on this journey as well). Although the possibility of doing everything laid out in this book probably will not happen, everyone will come away with some good ideas to implement.