

## THINGS I WANT MY SON TO KNOW

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I can remember being a kid and thinking that I was never going to get out of school. Twelve years seemed like such a long time. Class after class after class. Then I went to college and spent another ten years or so getting “educated”. I can’t tell you how many times I was asked “Are you ever gonna get out of school and get a job?” My son sometimes gets tired of school, thinking of all the things he would rather be doing. There are some things that he really can’t learn in school, however. It is my responsibility, as his father, to teach him some very important lessons that will help him be a successful man. Here are just a few of them.

He needs to know:

- How to catch and clean fish. It’s fun to catch them, but what’s the point if you can’t eat them.
- It is important to be humble, not arrogant. Always try to give others credit for jobs well done. It is OK to be proud of good work you have done, just don’t call attention to it.
- Always be honest when evaluating yourself. Being critical of yourself helps you improve.
- You can always find somebody smarter, faster, and stronger. But don’t let anyone be a harder worker. Everything won’t come easy. You have to work hard to get good.
- Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He thinks of you, and has a future and hope for your life.
- How to build a fire.
- Treat women with respect. Value your wife like she is the most precious thing on earth. Because she is.
- Take your hat off when you go inside.
- Wear the best clothes you have when you go to church. You’re going to worship the God of the universe. It is the least you can do.
- Take your boots off when you go inside. Momma doesn’t like it when you track in mud.
- Don’t take yourself too serious. Don’t be afraid to laugh at yourself when you say or do something stupid.
- How to plant anything and everything.
- Work until the job gets done. Don’t quit.
- Think about what you are going to do if the ball gets hit to you. Stay down on it.
- Always find good things to say to people. There are already too many critics in the world.
- Consider yourself a servant, even if technically you are the boss.
- Don’t buy cheap boots. Sore feet make you miserable. Keep the boots oiled. They will last longer.
- Be honest. Be the same person at work, home and church.
- Don’t worry about what others think of you. Do what you know is right.
- Keep your pocketknife sharp.
- Keep your temper under control. Anger will cause you to say and do bad things.
- Value the time you have with your family. Whether it is with your mom, dad and sisters, or with your wife and kids. It goes by fast.