

# YOUR LIFE IN THE **RED ZONE**

## **BEING A FATHER – MENTORING A NEW PLAYER**

### **REPLAY**

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"Mack, I need you to do something for me," the coach asks you one day. "It will take time and commitment, but that's why I'm coming to you. I also know you'll enjoy it."

"Sure, coach. What do you need?" you ask. Coach never asks for more than you can handle. He might ask for more than you think you can handle, though.

"We've got a new player joining us. The kid shows potential, but he's as untrained as they come. Take him under your wing and make him a star." The coach turns around, picks something up, and hands you a blanket-wrapped bundle.

You undo the blankets and see... a baby. You look at the coach, puzzled.

The coach grins. "He can play any position on the team, but he needs you to show him how. I could have chosen anyone on the team, but I know that this boy matches you best. I chose you because I know you can do it!"

### **GAME BOOK**

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Raising children is the greatest responsibility in the world and the most rewarding experience ever. It takes time and effort, more time than some people want to give. Some people say they are going for quality time with their children. It isn't so much the amount of time they spend together but what they do in that time. Unfortunately, this doesn't work. You can't have quality time without quantity time.

The Bible shows that the most instructive people in a child's life are the parents, especially fathers. Fathers are commanded to teach their children the ways of God (Deuteronomy 6:7). They are also told to train them up properly so that even as adults, they will not depart from the right way (Proverbs 22:6). In the New Testament, fathers are instructed to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). The Bible also models how to teach children best in Deuteronomy 6:

1. Diligently. Nothing is more important than teaching your children how to live for God. No other task has greater implications than this one. This is both a privilege and responsibility.
2. Accurately. You must teach children the right things. If you teach wrong, they

will go wrong. You must be precise not vague.

3. Repeatedly. Saying it once is not enough. Everyone needs to hear things repeated several times to make it stick in their brain. You keep teaching your children until they know it both front and back.

4. As a natural thing. You should look for opportunities to teach in everything around you. Teaching moments occur when you sit around the house, walk along the road, rise up, and lie down.

5. Personally. Even children who go to church and Sunday school need the father to teach them through the week. Many of the lessons will not even be planned. Your children will learn more about what you think of right and wrong by watching what you do than they will from hearing what you say.

### **TAKE-AWAY**

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Nothing you do in your work life will have as much impact as what you do in your home life. The relationships you forge with your family members set patterns for generations to come. The time with your children is an investment in the future. Take the opportunity to turn your child into a world-class player. Set aside one-on-one time with each child every day.