

H**E****R****O**

HERO outlines a designmap for male development rooted in scientific, psychological, and biblical wisdom for helping a boy thrive all the way to manhood.

Honor: adhering to truth, values compassion, and principles beyond self
Enterprise: working at important things, whether they seem small or large
Responsibility: carrying important people and things throughout life
Originality: being a dreamer, a thinker, an explorer in the world

HONOR

Boys have a built-in drive to pursue honor by demonstrating such virtues as respect, honesty, integrity, self-control, leadership, and compassion. Their instinct is reinforced when they watch their parents exercising honorable choices. They see a person can choose generous instead of greedy, compassionate instead of apathetic, honest instead of deceitful. When parents stop mid-action and decide to do the right thing and be compassionate to someone in need, their sons are watching it all happen; they want to be a part of it, and they want other mentors to help them with the decision-making process.

ENTERPRISE

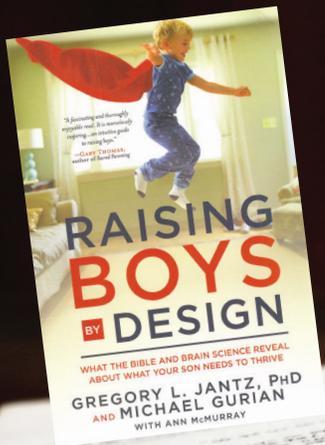
Part of our duty as parents is to direct and challenge our son's budding and growing personal energy towards work and enterprise. As we help a son find and focus on important jobs and opportunities for exploration, he learns new skills, self-motivation and self-direction. He also learns about his talents and how to become a leader.

RESPONSIBILITY

Given that most boys absorb so many more lessons through hands-on work rather than sit-down-and-listen interactions, responsibility training will be quite effective if we talk with them while showing them what to do. Boys want opportunities to test themselves, demonstrate their ability, and show what they're ready to do. One tool many parents find helpful is a "job sheet" that can be posted in the home, Make a grid or list of responsibilities, put it in a prominent place, and hold your son accountable. As he grows, the map will change to accommodate his new maturity, responsibilities, and privileges.

ORIGINALITY

Heroes are original thinkers and doers. They demonstrate the ability to look past the confines of a problem or situation and come up with a novel, inventive solution. Encouraging originality is a big part of inculcating healthy development in our sons. Yes, we want our sons to follow rules, but without the ability to think through why - and whether - those rules make sense, they may end up following anyone who speaks with authority. Your son hungers to learn what is original about him. His originality will include his unique heroic assets: his visions for himself and the world, his inventiveness, his particular talent sets.



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