

Life Lessons from Mushy Mac!!!!

Life lesson # 1. You will never be a man until you are a man of your word! Numbers 30:2 “When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.”

- Dads, when we tell our kids that we are going to do something with them or for them, we need to follow through with it!!! Example: A few weeks ago I told the boys I would take them fishing. I had a long day and didn't want to go fishing, BUT I went anyway and this happened.
(show picture of Christian holding his fish.)

Illustration: My first deer hunt. The night before the big hunt my dad calls to tell me that he wasn't going to be able to take me hunting the next morning. When you're 12yrs old and have cleaned your gun 100 times and have your overnight bag setting by the door, that's crushing news. Dad was sick and was in too much pain to go but I didn't know that. About 30 minutes later my dad calls back and said, “Get your stuff ready I'll be there in an hour.” That next morning I killed my first deer and my dad was so happy. I'll never forget that weekend and I will

never forget what my dad had to push aside to keep his word
to his 12 yr. old son.

He was teaching me the value of your word and I didn't even
know it.

- Life Lesson # 2: Don't Be Afraid to Apologize to Your Kids
When You Have Goofed Up!!
- Ephesians 6:4 "Fathers, do not exasperate your children;
instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of
the Lord."
- Illustration: My Dad helped me buy my first car. It was a
blue Mustang. One weekend my dad called me and asked
if I was going to come and see him over the weekend. I
said no because I had a date that weekend. My dad then
said, "Oh, I get it, now that you have a car you don't have
time for dad anymore." And he hung up on me! I couldn't
believe that he talked to me that way and then hung up on
me. As I sat in the living room tears rolled down my face
and to make matters even worse, my girlfriend was setting
beside me. As I wiped the tears away from my face the

phone rang again and it was my dad. He said in a low voice, “Jimmy I am so sorry for the way I talked to you and that will never happen again.”

- Don't allow pride to stand in the way of a right relationship with your kids!!! Your sincere apology will be an epic statement that will accompany them for the rest of their life!!
- Life Lesson # 3. Just because you may be divorced or your kids have moved out, doesn't mean your influence has diminished.
- Don't focus on the times that you don't get to see them, instead, focus on the time you do get to spend with them!!
- There is a thing called the 'telephone' or a cool invention called 'Skype' that makes you feel as if you are there with them.
- Dads, don't ever diminish the value and great need of your influence in your kids' lives, no matter how old or young they are!

- Life lesson # 4: Be a Giver: \$10.00 pledge to the Christian School.
 - Even after I had a family of my own my dad was still teaching me and influencing my life.
- So what does your \$10.00 look like to your kids? What part of yourself are you giving to your kids, young or old, that will stay with them for the rest of their lives?
- Life Lesson # 5: He taught me how to handle adversity and failure!! He didn't set me down and say, "Write this down." Instead he demonstrated it to me by the way he handled his sickness.
- Dads, our kids need to see how a man reacts to adversity, failure, disappointment, anger, and more importantly, how to treat a lady!!
 - Video: "I've been watching you"
- Thomas Edison once said, "I didn't fail 1,000 time in trying to make a light bulb, I discovered 1,000 ways how not to make a light bulb. Prepare your kids for life and "bring them up in the instruction and training of the Lord."

- Even when you think you have nothing to offer, you always have something to offer. My dad had virtually no earthly possessions when he passed away, but I can tell you that Kenneth Ray McDonald succeeded famously as a Father to me and my brothers and sister because his influence remains with me even as I speak to you today.
- I had these words placed on my Dad headstone: “A Father that out lived his life.”
- If you want to live forever then invest in your children!!!