

PLAY
*BECOMING
THE MAN
GOD CREATED
YOU TO BE* THE
MAN

Mark Batterson

A Gentleman and a Scholar



"Youth," Theodore Roosevelt Memorial,
Theodore Roosevelt Island

A Gentleman and a Scholar



"Manhood," Theodore Roosevelt Memorial,
Theodore Roosevelt Island

PLAY THE MAN



Josiah and Mark are all smiles as they begin their trek on the Bright Angel Trail.

THE *Son's Covenant*



I, Josiah, promise to commit myself to a year of discipleship with my dad.

I will submit to my dad's leadership and instruction with humility, respect, and a teachable spirit. I recognize that part of discipleship is discipline. I also pledge myself to complete three challenges—a physical challenge, intellectual challenge, and spiritual challenge.

THE PHYSICAL CHALLENGE

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

I will seek to honor God with my body because my body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. I will discipline myself and stretch myself so that I can say like Paul—I have finished the race.

I, Josiah, will train for a century bike ride with my dad.

THE INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGE

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:37

I will stretch my mind by learning new things. I will cultivate a teachable spirit in all things at all times. I will also keep a journal to keep track of the lessons God is teaching me.

I, Josiah, pledge to read twelve books and discuss them with my dad.

THE SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

1 Timothy 4:12

This is a year to ask questions and seek God. I will follow in the footsteps of Jesus by serving others. I will seek to discover my spiritual gifts and fan them into flame.

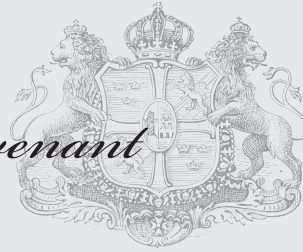
I, Josiah, pledge to read the entire New Testament this year.

As part of my spiritual training, I will complete a forty-day media fast during Lent. I will also seek to live according to our four family values and establish a list of life goals.

I, Josiah, make this solemn oath on February 16, 2014.

SIGNATURE

THE *Father's Covenant*



I, Mark, do solemnly swear to disciple my son to the best of my God-given ability over the next year. I will fast with my son and pray for my son. I will share my experience and wisdom with kindness and encouragement. And I will do my best to help Josiah meet the physical, spiritual, and intellectual challenges he will face this year.

I promise to make time each week for a Father-Son Meeting. We will talk about God and talk about life. Every question is a good question. And I will do my best to answer every question honestly and openly.

I will seek to model the lessons I want my son to learn. I will admit when I'm wrong and ask for forgiveness. And I will seek to bless my son with the same blessing bestowed upon Jesus by His heavenly Father:

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:17 KJV

I will seek to help Josiah discover the gifts, passions, and convictions that will guide his life. I will seek to help my son find his true identity in Christ. And I will seek to help Josiah discover a sense of destiny that is his birth-right as a child of God and by virtue of his namesake, King Josiah.

"[King Josiah] did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left."

2 Kings 22:2 KJV

I hereby pledge that, upon Josiah's completion of the physical, spiritual, and intellectual challenges set forth in this covenant, I will take my son on a pilgrimage to a place of mutual choice. This pilgrimage will be a celebration of his accomplishments during this year and a Rite of Passage into his teenage years.

SIGNATURE



Mark and Parker celebrate crossing the finish line.

NOTES

Introduction

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