

## **My Greatest Joy as a Dad**

**Pastor Jake Jacobs**

The moment I met my first child, I specifically remember thinking, *What a gift! What a miracle!* I was blown away by how God uses nature and humans to create new humans—little miracles. “God, You made that little child through us...wow!”

But my second thought was, “Oh, God, You are entrusting me with this miracle? Me? I can’t even be trusted to drive a car well, and You are giving me a boy? You love my wife and me so much that you are giving us two sons to raise.”

I was so excited to hold him and introduce him to our friends and family in the waiting room. That moment was like no other moment I had ever had.

Our sons are such incredible gifts. Oh, the things they do that amaze us! The joy of what they say, what they sing, and what they do is wonderful.

The Word says, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17 NIV).

It is a joy as a dad to teach our children to know God by taking them to church and singing and praying with them. God confirms our role and purpose as dads as we are faithful to raise our children. Third John 1:4 tells us, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth” (ESV).

This joy might seem like something we earn through our diligence or hard work, but it too comes from God: “He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents” (Malachi 4:6 NIV).

The joy as a dad is to watch my sons grow and develop the talents and gifts God placed in them to fulfill in the kingdom. We have joy when our sons accept the pattern of godly living and keep Jesus the centerpiece of their faith, family, finances, and health. I am so grateful to God for teaching me parenting skills I will pass on to my son’s children. My ultimate greatest joy will be that my sons see Jesus in me and when others would ask about me. They would be able to say; first, my dad loves Jesus!