

“My father taught me, “Take my words to heart. Follow my commands, and you will live. Get wisdom; develop good judgment. Don’t forget my words or turn away from them. Don’t turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you. Love her, and she will guard you.” Proverbs 4:4-6 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 4:1-9

Unfortunately, this idea of a father in the earlier days of my life was nonexistent or at the least very inconsistent. Both bio-dad and adoptive dad had far too many personal demons to overcome to even think about raising a son. Yet, surprisingly, Jesus found me at fifteen. And at fifteen, God began to do just what fathers do in their children’s life - teach me wisdom, good judgment and discipline my lack of boundaries and learn to hear his voice. I still depend on hearing my father’s voice! The Holy Spirit still teaches me, guides me and even disciplines me. So, although I did not have dads (I picked up a step dad in my Junior year of High School) provide me with the tools I needed to navigate life, God picked up the responsibility and personally became these words in Proverbs to me. I am eternally grateful!

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Dad,
I know I write about and talk about this far too often, but every time I spend a little time in Proverbs (which is EVERY Friday) I am taken back to overwhelming gratefulness for not only rescuing me, but giving me a life, a wife and a family to be proud of. I look out in my neighborhood and in our church and see such an ache of sons and daughters who have not had a dad to love and lead them. I see men & women on MY streets who have been devastated by either lack of or stubbornly rejected love from their fathers. Help me, help them.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root