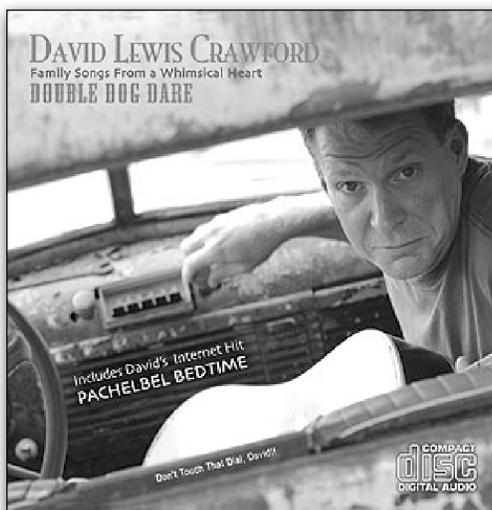


Facilitator's Guide

7 of 11 Interactive Bible Discussions on Family Relationships

based on the songs of

David Lewis Crawford's Americana CD
DOUBLE DOG DARE
Family Songs from a Whimsical Heart



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Lesson 7 – Track 7

"Heelies"

STAY GROUNDED

TOPICS

- How to be a well grounded parent and not a "pushover"
- The role of Parents in regard to "friendship" with your kids
- The role of Grandparents as "best buddies" for your kids

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVE

By the end of this lesson parents and grandparents will be able to explain the Biblical principles surrounding the relationships of children to their parents and grandparents and choose to be godly leaders in their homes.

OPENING QUOTE

"The objects of a walk are often disappointing, but the accidents are magnificent."
(G.K. Chesterton. "Walking Tours." 1901)

THE SETUP

Begin by asking participants for examples in their lives, when a parent started acting like a teenager or a child instead of as a parent. After three or so appropriate examples stop the discussion and introduce the song along these lines:

For those of you who like allegories, here is David Lewis Crawford's tale of woe when he tried to be too much like his kids. See if you identify with the metaphor. It's all in good fun.

Play TRACK 7: HEELIES.

BIBLE REFERENCES

As best suits your group, read the following Bible passages and allow a short comment or two about each, as they pertain to the Biblical relationship between parents and children.

Old Testament

- Deuteronomy 1:13; cf. Exodus 18:17-26; I Samuel 2:12-17, 22-36—Choose wise and discerning and experienced men from your tribes.

Poetry

- Psalm 127:3-5— Lo, sons are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in

the gate.

- Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 — There is a time for everything. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to laugh and a time to mourn. A time to love and a time to hate.

Epistle

- 1 Corinthians 13:11 — "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways."
- 1 Timothy 3:4-5 — "A deacon must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity, but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?"

Gospel

- Luke 7:31-35 — In this oft debated parable, Jesus draws a parallel between children arguing over what innocent games to play and adults disagreeing over religious non-essentials such as the life-style of John the Baptist compared to the life-style of Jesus. The passage finishes this way: "But wisdom is vindicated by all her children." (c.f. Matthew 11:16-19)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Facilitator Tips

Before you begin an open discussion, remind your group of the following:

- Every family is different. Each embraces various activities differently, even as they have rules and policies that differ from another family. As you give examples, please qualify your remarks with the character of the family you're talking about.
- Let's openly share our experiences and thoughts realizing that our conclusions are heavily influenced by our personal experiences and that what is a fast rule for one family may not apply to another.
- Try to keep your comments short so others have an opportunity to respond.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Shared Experiences

- What is the secret to a well managed home—children, chores, etc.?
- What is the balance of parents as authority and parents as friends? Do you schedule play-dates with your kids?
- What are some childish things that need to be put away when you become a parent?
- Compare and contrast being a friend and being a mentor or guide to children.
- How can civil and government leadership be modeled after family leadership traits?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Bible and Church Teaching

- Reflecting on the Bible verses mentioned earlier and others, what does the Bible say about

this topic?

- What does our Church teach about this topic?
- To have the respect of your enemies, you need the respect of your children. To have the respect of your children, you need the right perspective of your relationship with your children: gentle but firm, friend and disciplinarian.
- Comparing David's "Heelies" with Ecclesiastes 3 could we say that as parents, "There's a time to put your foot down, and a time to skate on your heel?" While you, as a parent, may not be into heelies, what kind of play activities do you engage in with our children? What are some of the benefits and values that come out of that play?
- Looking at Luke 7:31-35 could we say that the wisdom of doing goofy things with our kids vs. acting like "adults" is in the fruit that the balance produces?
- How do we find the balance between the heeling and the wheeling?

MORAL PREMISE

Trying to be friends with kids all the time, leads to foolishness and uncertainty; but Being the mentor and guide as a parent, leads to wisdom, confidence and good character.

FINAL THOUGHT

The family is a mini-unit of government. It is where future leaders and saints are formed and nurtured by loving, conscientious parents. We need to help society get back to true principles of respect, responsibility, and commitment to family. Having family time, promoting family pride, and participating in worship and prayer as a family can nurture the respect of children for their parents, their siblings, earthly authority, and God.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, You were a kid once and we were, too. It was fun to be carefree, young, and full of energy. But now, I'm grown and responsibilities limit my freedom. Help me, Lord, to accept my role as parent and example. Give me the courage to require obedience from my children, the patience to let them make mistakes and bear the consequences, and the wisdom to follow You so that they can follow me. Amen.

SONG SYNOPSIS

Stanza 1: Dad knew there was something strange about the way kids were walking, so he decided to check it out and found that the source of these movements were thick-soled shoes that on command would send the kid gliding.

Refrain: They wore heelies/wheels in their heels. They made it look so fun and easy that Dad wanted to try it, too. But, take it from Dad, adults should keep their feet on the ground and leave the "heelie glide" to the youngsters.

Stanza 2: Well, Dad found a pair of heeies his size and tried them out very slowly, but five seconds into that first ride, the ground became the sky and he was sprawled on the driveway with a serious back problem.

Stanza 3: Dad gave up on heeies, which was just fine with him. Later the kids took their heeies to Grandma's house to test drive in her driveway, and when Dad picked them up... there was Grandma doing the "heelie glide" with her roller walker. And she was good, too!

Last Refrain: Grandma wore heeies. And she was having fun. (What a blow to Dad's ego!) But still, Dad recommends that adults keep their feet on the ground, because God made our feet to walk and not for rolling. That's why we have a heel and not a plastic wheel. So, parents, lace up your walking shoes.