

10 Things Kids Learn from Their Parents' Marriage

By Doug Fields – in Thriving Marriages Blog - April 12, 2022

Not long ago, I was asked if I intentionally taught my kids about marriage. My answer was yes and no.

Yes, there were times when we talked specifically about marriage (*either ours or ones that our kids have observed*). But for the most part, we were wise enough to know that our kids were constantly watching and learning from us. Our actions (*both good and bad*) always taught them about marriage.

Here are 10 things that I know my kids learned from their parents' marriage over the years:

1. **Affection:** We are very affectionate, and I like having my kids see me holding their mom's hand, hugging, kissing, cuddling, etc., as often as I can.
2. **Saying, "I'm sorry":** I wanted to be quick to use this phrase and I wanted my kids to hear me say it.
3. **Affirmation:** Dish out encouraging words. My kids get a lot of verbal affirmation, but they also hear me directing it toward my wife.
4. **Attraction:** I think my wife is hot... and, I make it known around our family. I've regularly said, "*Isn't your mom beautiful?*"
5. **Time:** Our kids know that we like to spend time together. When they see us take time to sit in the backyard and talk, or go on a date night, or get away for a weekend – it's the message I want to send.
6. **Laughter:** We laugh a lot in our house and my wife's sense of humor cracks me up. I like the kids see us laugh.
7. **Respect:** Show each other simple signs of respect, like opening the door for her, affirming his decisions, say "thank you," & "please."
8. **Faith conversations:** We didn't always pray in front of our kids, but they heard and observed our faith conversations and knew that we're always talking about Jesus and what it means to be a follower.
9. **The value of friends:** Our house is well worn from the traffic of friends in and out of our house. We love having people over.
10. **Servanthood:** Serving one another is seen in the daily, little things and there are many opportunities to serve.

Kids are always watching their parent's marriage and yet too many marriages underestimate the power of modeling! Children are taking daily recordings of what a marriage looks like, and those recordings definitely influence and shape their view of marriage. So, live your marriage wisely to make sure the message you are sending your kids is the message you intend to send.