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**Phil's Forum 6-22-05 - Fatherhood**  
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Can I just say that I love being a father?

And that's not just because last Sunday was Father's Day. I love being a father every week. My two young boys bring me so much joy that I can't imagine life without them.

Of course, it does help that I have a wonderful wife who takes great care of them and allows me to work the long hours I do.

But there is nothing as magical in this world as when I walk through the door to our house and hear the stampeding feet of two boys running full bore down the hall yelling, "Dadddeeeeee!" It reminds me of the Flintstones when Dino would knock Fred flat on his back when he came home from work. Fortunately, I'm more than double my boys' combined weight so they have yet to knock me down. But some days it's close.

Those boys love to play and wrestle with Daddy especially when I magically become the "Tickle Monster". And a day spent playing with those boys is as good as a day can be.

A few years ago for Father's Day, my wife gave me a book with inspirational stories for fathers. One story that stuck in my head talked about a dad who finally, after much pleading, took a day off work to take his boy fishing. Years later, when reading both the father & son's journals about that particular day, the father wrote about not getting any work done and how the day was lost. The son, however, called it the best day of his life.

Me? I would agree with the boy and call it a day well spent, one that would reap huge returns on the investment.

I may be passionate about car seats, but that doesn't hold a candle to my feelings of fatherhood.

That explains why, when the Storkclub of Foote Hospital asked if I would be interested in teaching their class for new dads, I jumped at the chance. Heck, I told them, you won't even have to pay me.

The chance to talk to guys about to become dads and to share my passions, my mistakes, and some of the lessons I've already learned on this journey into parenthood was an opportunity too good to be true.

The class is a two-hour discussion about how life is going to change the moment your wife looks at you through a tight-lipped, painful grimace and says, "It's time!"

In those two hours we talk about how to change diapers, calm crying babies, and help mom recover from childbirth. We also talk about what to expect during childbirth and what resources are available. It is a fun open discussion with lots of stories mixed in with practical advice and tips for maintaining a healthy relationship with your spouse and becoming the father you want to be.

Am I a perfect father? No way. But despite my shortcomings, I have embraced my role as a father and hope to help as many other new dads embrace their roles as fathers, too.

So if you, or anyone you know is about to become a dad, have them call the Storkclub and sign up for Babies 101: The Basics for New Dads. The phone number is 788-4954.

We all know that kids need fathers. And fathers need support. I'm lucky. I have a great role model in my own father. And today's dads are lucky, too, because programs like the Storkclub exist to give them the tools to be father their child needs.

Make the call. Come to the class. It's two hours of guy-talk just for dads.

Happy Father's Day!

-Phil Wrzesinski