



DADCAMP Equipping Dads, Strengthening Families



by Byron R. Johnson and William Wubbenhorst



Baylor University

INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES OF RELIGION

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DADCAMP

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DADCAMP:

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"My kids literally ask from the month after we leave DADCAMP as to when the next DADCAMP is. They know they have my full attention that week, and they long for it. So as soon as they start asking, I know it is a time to check in with them and spend some one-on-one time with them. They know who I see them to be, because of the blessing [exercise] that we do [during DADCAMP], and they have grown in their confidence of approaching me robed in the way I see them, rather than clouded by the way they see themselves."

INTRODUCTION

The issue of Fatherlessness has dominated the discourse of social science for decades, with a particularly strong focus over the past 20 or so years. While this issue mostly examines the effects of the absence of a father, another key matter is the role and value of fathers that are with their families, a critical component of a healthy family. This case study examines a program geared towards strengthening and affirming the unique role of fathers for their children's development and identity.

DADCAMP is an intensive weekend 'fatherhood bootcamp' for fathers and their children that is aimed at reaffirming and supporting the irreplaceable role of fathers in the lives of their families. DADCAMP offers specialized programs for fathers with elementary school, middle school and high school children, providing opportunities to engage one-on-one with their child and through intensive workshops with other fathers to improve their listening and communication skills and overall understanding of a father's role in his family.

This case study evaluation consists of four sections:

- i. Background on the origin and development of DADCAMP from a church-based activity in Kokomo, IN, to a stand-alone non-profit organization supporting DADCAMP events in 7 states and internationally in 15 countries
- ii. An overview of a typical DADCAMP weekend.
- iii. An evaluation of the DADCAMP program, based on surveys of over 300 dads, as well as over 200 surveys of their wives and children (ages 15 and up).
- iv. An examination of next steps for DADCAMP, both across the U.S. and internationally.

I. HOW DADCAMP STARTED

DADCAMP started as a church-based ministry by Doug Mygrant and Jason Braun at Oakbrook Community Church in Indiana in 2003, using the church's 60-acre camping/retreat facility. Before launching what would become DADCAMP, Mygrant and Braun visited a program sponsored by Willow Creek Church in Illinois, also called Dad Camp. That visit gave them some ideas for how they would plan a father—focused retreat for its congregants.

The first DADCAMP was held in September of 2006, with Mygrant managing the logistics and Jason responsible for developing the content. The original DADCAMP targeted fathers with elementary school aged children, with 24 Dads attending with one of their sons. Jason's formula for developing content for the retreat was simple but powerful. Braun would select passages and chapters geared towards fatherhood and transform them into 4-5 workshops, with participating fathers doing 'homework' between sessions. For the initial event, he chose a book entitled *You Have What It Takes* by John Eldredge. Eighteen years later, Braun uses this same formula, choosing a book entitled *Bad Dads of the Bible* by Roland Warren.

Braun described the overall goal for the participating fathers of this first DADCAMP:

Our goal from the beginning was to break down and strip down the fathers, physically and emotionally, so God could begin rebuilding them as a man and a father.

DADCAMP Grows

By 2015, DADCAMP had grown to 12 retreats per year, involving about 700 fathers and their children. The pastor at Oak Brook suggested that Mygrant and Braun form a separate 501c3 organization. DADCAMP has remained committed to only charging participating fathers and their children the actual cost for the retreat facility rental.

To provide revenues to staff and operate DADCAMP, they established what they called the DADCAMP army, consisting of men willing to commit \$1,000 a year to support DADCAMP. As of 2024, the revenues generated through the DADCAMP Army, which now numbers around 600 Dads, consists of about 40% of DADCAMP's annual budget. These funds also allow DADCAMP to provide scholarships to fathers that cannot afford the full cost for the retreat and also support almost all of the international arm of DADCAMP, which comprises about 70% of all dads/kids who attend every year.

Exhibit 1 below shows the growth in the number of Dads participating in DADCAMP since its inception.

Exhibit 1: DADCAMP Participation Trend

Year	Number of Events	Number of Dads	Number of Students
2006	1	24	24
2010	4	125	140
2015	12	350	400
2021	40	1,000	1,250
2024	120 (15 countries)	4,500	5,500

II. A "TYPICAL" DADCAMP WEEKEND

This section provides an overview of what takes place at a DADCAMP event in the U.S. ¹, based on the agenda for DADCAMP 2024. The structure of DADCAMP has remained relatively the same since its inception, with minor adjustments. There are also variations among DADCAMPS based on whether they involve fathers with elementary, middle school, or high school children, while some DADCAMPS focus on Father-Daughter or Father-Son. The agenda for the example here is based on DADCAMP for fathers with middle school-aged children in 2024.

As previously mentioned, Braun develops the curriculum each year by reviewing and researching books about fatherhood, selecting a book, and excerpting chapters and passages that resonate with DADCAMP's mission (see Appendix 1 for a listing of books used for DADCAMPS over the years).

Friday Evening

After registration, DADCAMP begins with the first of four workshops for the fathers while their children, referred to as 'students' by DADCAMP, are outside doing organized games and sports with DADCAMP volunteers. The 2024 DADCAMP is based on a book by Roland Warren entitled *Bad Dads of the Bible*. These Dads-only sessions are not only important for the insights provided by the curriculum but are also an opportunity for fathers to connect with and support one another, and to

¹ The international DADCAMP events, which are not the subject of this particular case study, differ in that they are mostly one day events without overnight stays and engage in different types of activities and workshops.



hold one another accountable. As one DADCAMP participant explained:

It has stressed the importance of having a support structure and that we are not alone in our feelings of self-doubt.

The friendships formed through these group sessions often continued beyond the weekend, and are also an important way that DADCAMP participants carry the lessons forward. As one DADCAMP father explained:

Since attending DADCAMP, I have been more intentional about spending time with other men, particularly fathers, so that we can support one another in our journey. This includes both Friday and Saturday morning gatherings.

After this initial 30-minute session, the fathers rejoin their students for 90 minutes of scheduled games. Braun's previous training as a physical therapist helped him to understand the importance of physical activity on achieving the transformational goals for the weekend. The evening ends with a rousing game DADCAMP calls "Gorilla Wars" outside around a fire pit, which is basically an elaborate derivative of rock, paper, scissors. Gorilla Wars helps to build a collective sense of community among the fathers and students.

Saturday Morning

After breakfast, the fathers gather for a second session for 60 minutes, and are given a specific task to carry out in a one-on-one session with their student for an hour. One of the themes for DADCAMP 2024 was about honor, so dads were encouraged to ask their child: 'Do I make it difficult for you to honor me?' This deliberate and intentional father-child interaction is a key element of the DADCAMP weekend. As one father described:

During this last year's event my 13-year-old daughter really opened up to me during our 1:1 time about some of the things and issues that she deals with at school. In that moment, I listened and offered encouragement but didn't try to solve her problem. I feel this has opened up the door for her to be more comfortable in having conversations about hard issues with both her mom and I.

Saturday Afternoon

Saturday afternoon is free time from 1pm to 5pm for fathers and their students to enjoy some unstructured time together. This can involve anything from hiking to swimming to kayaking to fishing.



Saturday Evening

After dinner, there is a meeting of DADCAMP Army members. As mentioned previously, the DADCAMP Army is a critical source of support for the financing of DADCAMP events, giving the organization funds to sponsor scholarships for Dads that might not be able to afford the DADCAMP event fee (DADCAMP only charges participants the cost for staging the event).

Saturday evening is the third and most critical session just for the dads and usually involves a special speaker sharing his personal story, giving time for the dads to unpack the challenges presented to that point and to prepare thoughts to share and write to their children at a later point in the event (the blessing). This is followed by another rigorous round of Gorilla Wars.

Sunday Morning

DADCAMP concludes with the fourth and final session of the fathers. The picture frame craft is an annual tradition - a gift from the child to the father in which they decorate the frame and write words of affirmation to their father on it. This year's craft was a picture frame holding a picture of the father and student.

The final act of the DADCAMP weekend is the writing of a blessing by the fathers over their children. These moments involve Dad's having about 30-45 minutes to think through what words they want to use to bless their children, then they write and sometimes illustrate that blessing on a piece of wood that differs in shape, size and pattern each year. For the 2024 DADCAMP, for example, dads thought through some of their "bad dad moments" then wrote down some "Good Dad Promises" that they wanted to make to their kids and family. On another year, Dads picked a power word or words that captured how they see their children and who God made them to be, referencing positive attributes and strengths that their child possesses.

As one DADCAMP participant explained:

We now have DADCAMP memorabilia throughout our house (currently this year's gifts from me to the girls are in our living room) so I am reminded about the conversations we had and the thoughts I had about what I needed to work on and improve on this year after leaving DADCAMP.

III. DADCAMP EVALUATION

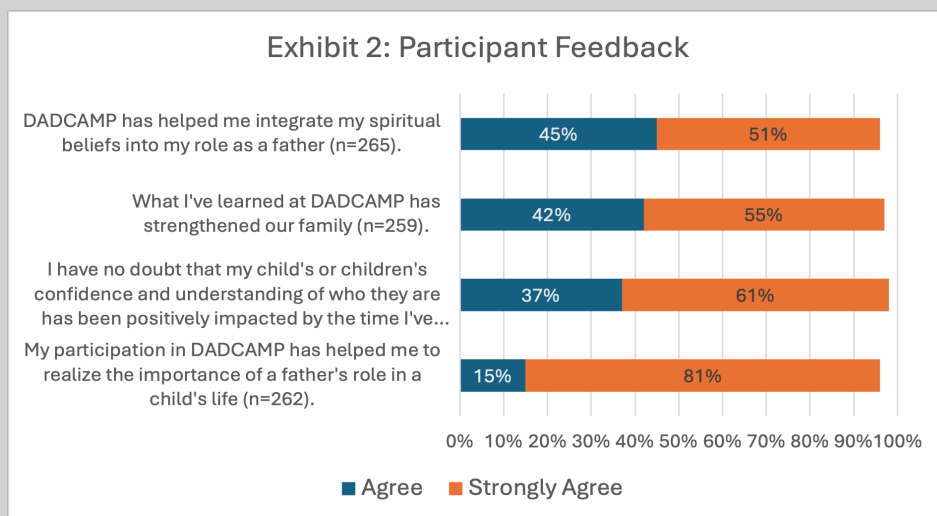
DADCAMP engaged Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion to develop, disseminate and evaluate a survey of DADCAMP dads, their wives, and their children (aged 15 and older). A submission to the Baylor University IRB ² was made and approved, and consent was obtained from the dads participating in one or more events in 2024 for both their wife and child(ren) to participate.

This section provides both a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the DADCAMP program, based on surveys completed by 305 fathers, 191 wives and 53 students.

Quantitative Evaluation

General Questions on the quality and value of the DADCAMP experience

The response from fathers participating in DADCAMP was overwhelmingly positive, as shown in Exhibit 2 below. Of particular note are the percentages of fathers that Strongly Agree with the statement about their children's confidence about their identity (61%) and especially the statement on realizing the importance of a father's role in a child's life.



² An institutional review board (IRB), also known as an independent ethics committee (IEC), ethical review board (ERB), or research ethics board (REB), is a committee at an institution that applies research ethics by reviewing the methods proposed for research involving human subjects, to ensure that the projects are ethical. Institutional review board - Wikipedia.

Participants were also asked to “rate DADCAMP’s effectiveness in communicating to you how much you matter in the life of your child or children.” Survey respondents rated DADCAMP at 4.8, with (1) being ‘Not effective’ and (5) being ‘Very Effective’. (See Appendix 2 for additional survey findings related to DADCAMP fathers’ experience).

DADCAMP and Marriage

Although the primary focus of DADCAMP is on father-child interactions, many survey respondents also indicated improvements in their marriage as a result of their participation. As shown in Exhibit 3 below, close to 90% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that DADCAMP has helped to improve communication with their wife.

Furthermore, more than 80% of respondents said that DADCAMP helped them prioritize spending quality time with their wife, as shown in Exhibit 4 below.

Parenting Knowledge

Survey participants were asked to rate themselves on 4-point scale (with 1 for Poor, 2 for Fair, 3 for Good, and 4 for Excellent) for six different aspects of parenting knowledge, once for prior to their first DADCAMP and ‘As of right now’:

1. My knowledge about... how to listen effectively to my child(ren).
2. My knowledge about... how to help my child(ren) solve their own problems.
3. My knowledge about...how to use age-appropriate consequences.
4. My knowledge about... the importance of spending time together.
5. My knowledge about... how to adapt my parenting to achieve the desired outcomes.
6. My knowledge about...how to focus my encouragement and praise on character traits or my child of children.

Exhibit 3: Communication between my wife and myself has changed for the better since I participated in DADCAMP (n=275).

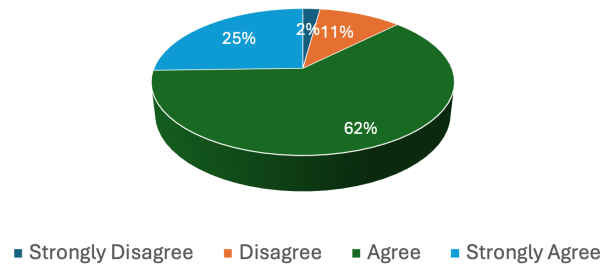


Exhibit 4: DADCAMP has helped me prioritize spending quality time with my spouse.

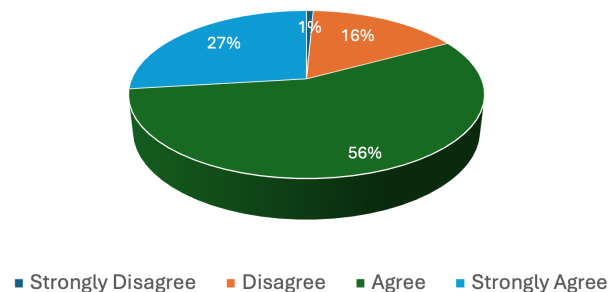
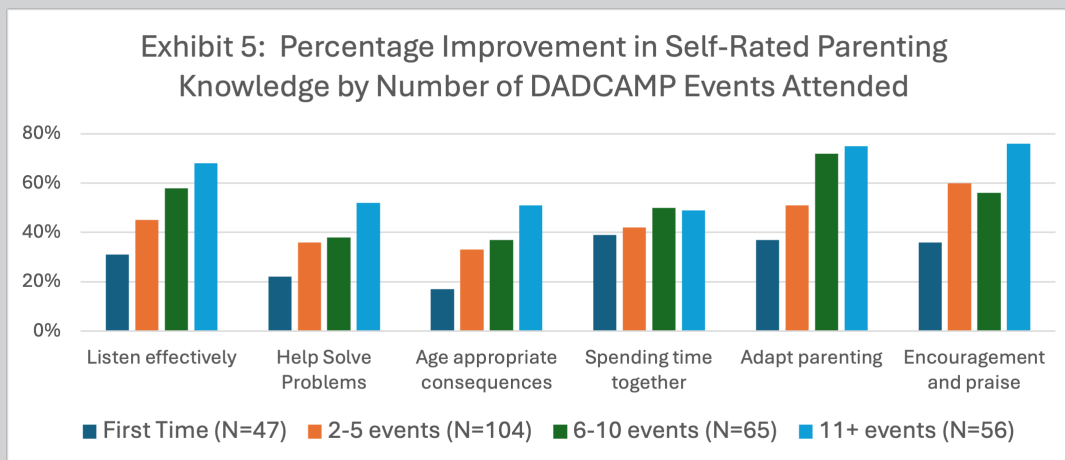


Exhibit 5 below shows the percentage improvement in parenting knowledge self-rating, based on the number of DADCAMPS attended.



These results show a consistent pattern of higher levels of improvements in self-rated parenting knowledge, in comparison to their self-rating before attending DADCAMP, as it relates to the number of DADCAMPs attended. This also reinforces the ongoing value of repeated participation in DADCAMP for continuing to improve parenting knowledge. Furthermore, it underscores the overall strategy of DADCAMP, which is for dads to return every year to receive new experiences, new content, and a different way to bless their child.

Inventory of Father Involvement

The Inventory of Father Involvement (IFI) is a self-rating tool to measure how well a father self-reports “how good a job” he is doing along a number of dimensions.³ DADCAMP made a few modifications to the IFI Short Form of 26 items to best reflect the areas of emphasis in the program (see Appendix III for a listing of the survey items and subscales utilized in the DADCAMP survey effort, as well as some additional items included in the survey).

The improvements in self-rated scores from pre to post were analyzed using a t-Test: Paired Two Sample for Means, both for overall statistical significance and for significance based on the number of years attending DADCAMP. This latter analysis helps to determine whether more years attending DADCAMP is associated with larger improvements in respondent

self-rating. In addition, Cohen's *d* was also calculated to gauge the effect size.⁴ (See Appendix 3 for detailed results of the statistical analysis).

As shown in Exhibit 6 below, the results, in terms of improvement in pre-post self-ratings, from all the survey domains and additional questions were statistically significant. In addition, six of the nine domains were statistically significant based on the number of years participating in DADCAMP. In other words, the longer a father's participation, the greater the improvement in their self-rating in that domain of father involvement. The areas of greatest impact, as measured by Cohen's *d*, were 'Time and Talking Together', 'Father Fellowship', and 'Developing Talents and Future Concerns'.

These three domains of father involvement were also statistically significant based on the number of years attending DADCAMP. Although 'Attentiveness' showed the weakest effect in comparison to the other domains, one reason for that is survey respondents rated themselves higher in the pre-survey in this domain (5.6), while their pre-survey rating for 'Time and Talking Together' (3.8), 'Father Fellowship' (3.7), and 'Developing Talents and Future Concerns' (4.3) were considerably lower. (see Appendix 4 for more detailed information of these statistical results)

Exhibit 6: Statistical Analysis

Survey Domain/Question	Effect Size (Cohen's <i>d</i>)	Statistically Significant (Y/N)	Statistically Significant for Years Attending DADCAMP (Y/N)
Time and Talking Together (IFI)	1.549 (strong)	Y	Y
Father Fellowship (Additional Question)	1.278 (strong)	Y	Y
Developing Talents and Future Concerns (IFI)	1.211 (strong)	Y	Y
Discipline and Teaching Responsibility (IFI)	1.180 (strong)	Y	N
Praise and Affection (IFI)	1.122 (strong)	Y	Y
Mother Support (IFI)	1.098 (strong)	Y	N
Promoting Positive Character (Additional Question)	1.034 (strong)	Y	Y
Fostering Spiritual Well-Being (Additional Question)	1.032 (strong)	Y	Y
Attentiveness (IFI)	.662 (strong)	Y	N

⁴ Cohen's *D*, or standardized mean difference, is one of the most common ways to measure effect size. An effect size is how large an effect is. Generally speaking, a Cohen's *D* value between .1 and .3 is deemed a weak impact, .3 to .5 a moderate impact, and greater than .5 a strong impact.

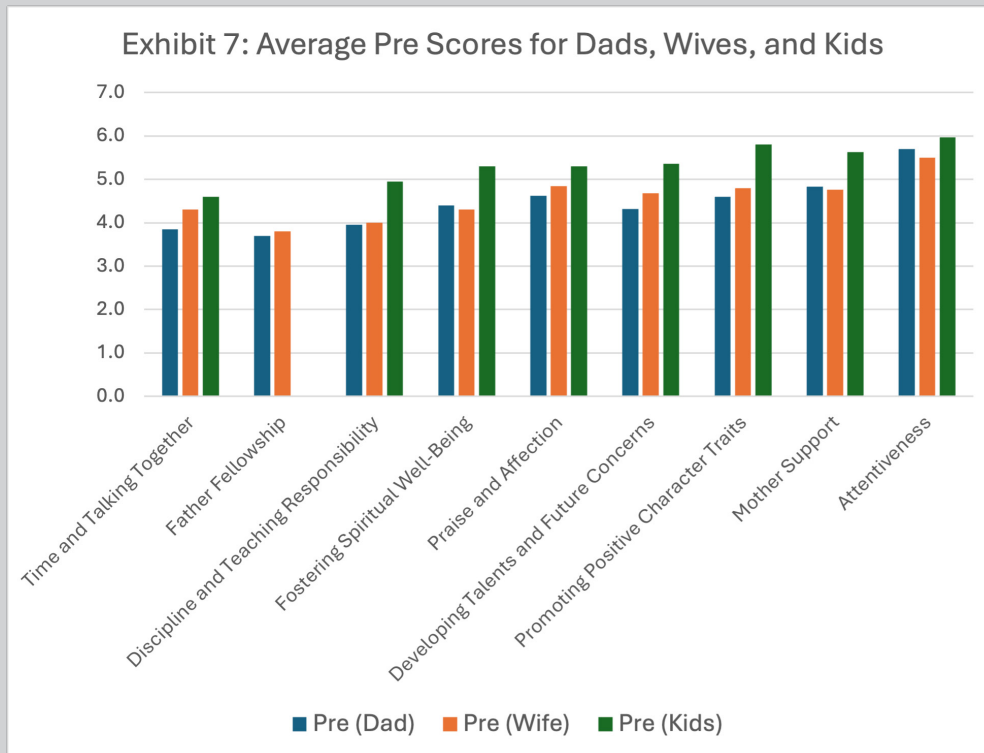
Checking in with the Wife and Kids

One of the challenges on survey research involving men, and fathers in particular, is a tendency for them to ‘over-rate’ themselves (i.e., giving themselves a higher self-rating than they perhaps ‘deserve’). To test this, we also surveyed the wife and child (aged 15-18) with the same IFI survey items to see if this was the case for the DADCAMP participants. Exhibits 7 and 8 below provide evidence that Dads gave ‘honest’ pre and post self-ratings, scaled from “1” (‘only OK’) to “7” (‘Outstanding’), which were comparable or sometimes lower than the ratings provided by the DADCAMP wives and children.

Qualitative Evaluation

The DADCAMP survey also provided an opportunity for survey respondents to offer text-based responses. Respondents were asked to provide examples associated with the three following questions:

1. After attending DADCAMP have you noticed any changes in your relationship with the child or children with whom you attended?

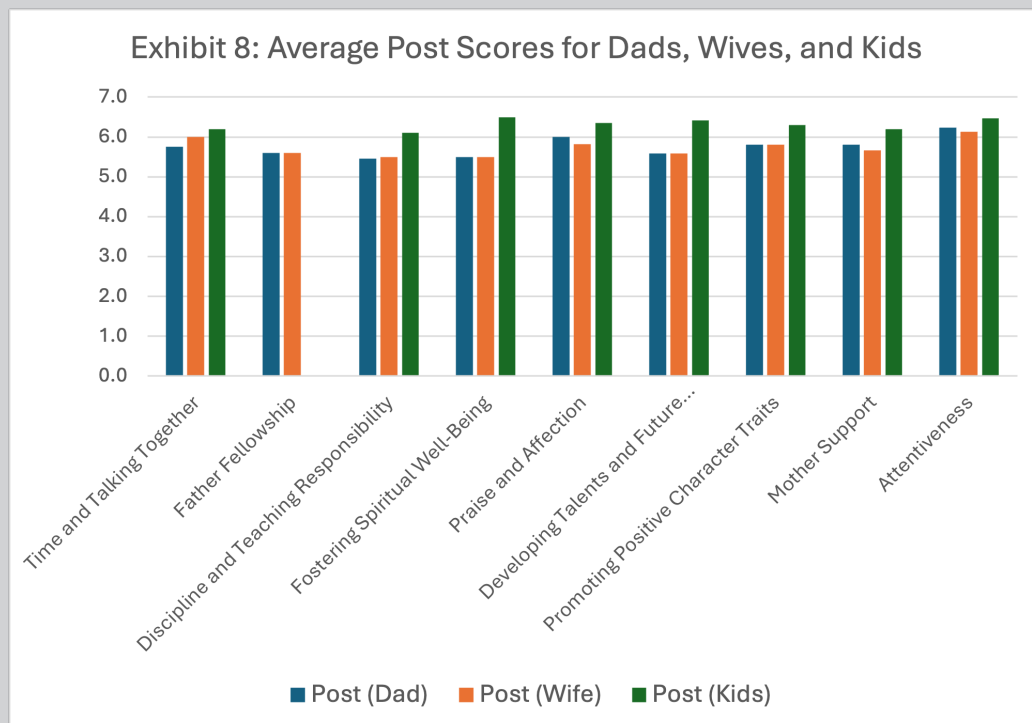


Many fathers cited how DADCAMP helped to open up channels of communication with their child that carried forward from DADCAMP into everyday life, and how those conversations were deeper and more meaningful.

As one participant explained:

We have more conversations about serious topics. I believe my children feel more comfortable talking with me, and I feel more comfortable and empowered to talk with them about important things.

One of the terms used frequently in these responses is the intentionality of those times they spend with their children during DADCAMP, and how that helps them to understand the importance of their role as a father.





As one DADCAMP participant explained:

DADCAMP does an excellent job of developing intentional time with your children. It's amazing how much time we can be around each other and not share quality experiences or truly invest in each other. DADCAMP has helped reinforce the fact that I am the only one that can be the father to my children and husband to my wife. I am irreplaceable in those roles and carry tremendous value in bringing my entire family to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

2. To what extent has DADCAMP emphasized the importance of building and maintaining friendships for you?

Another aspect of DADCAMP that showed significant impact in the quantitative survey analysis above (see Exhibit 6) is the fellowship that DADCAMP engendered among the fathers themselves. For many, just knowing that other fathers shared some of the same struggles was very helpful for them. As one DADCAMP father explained:

It has stressed the importance of having a support structure and that we are not alone in our feelings of self-doubt.

Another key aspect of that fellowship that a number of fathers cited was the accountability that comes along with the fellowship. As one DADCAMP father described:

I've gained a better understanding of how friends can help hold each other accountable and foster personal and spiritual growth.

3. Do you think participating with your child at DADCAMP helped you find ways to parent your child or children in the future?

Many of the survey participants cited the previously mentioned importance of intentionality to help fathers improve their ability to communicate with their children and, in doing so, to deepen their relationship and bond. Another aspect of DADCAMP's impact that was raised by survey participants is the generational effect of building stronger families.

As one participant explained:

But I know, without a doubt, DADCAMP has changed my family for generations to come. My kids will know what a Dad is supposed to be, and I know, they will be the Dad, and for my daughter, she will marry the Dad that her kids need. This isn't something that will stop with my kids. DADCAMP truly has changed the world for years to come.

(See Appendix 5 for additional responses provided for this item).

IV. NEXT STEPS FOR DADCAMP

DADCAMP expansion in the US

DADCAMP is currently planning on expanding the program with new sites in Tennessee, South Carolina and Southern California. Preliminary work to identify camp sites and developing relationships with anchor churches are already underway. Besides churches, DADCAMP is also trying to expand its network of relationships with existing fatherhood and family strengthening programs in those states as well as elsewhere. As Braun explained:

We see DADCAMP as a kind of accelerant that could come alongside existing fatherhood and family strengthening programs to improve their outreach to dads. We are not trying to establish ongoing programs on the heels of DADCAMP events, but simply sticking to providing the best possible experiences for fathers and to help them become more engaged and involved.

DADCAMP goes International

DADCAMP's international growth, similar to its growth within the US, was simply an organic process whereby some of the fathers that participated in DADCAMP were also involved in international missions and saw an opportunity to bring the idea abroad. DADCAMP's first international event was in Haiti in 2014 as an outgrowth of a mission trip. DADCAMP now has programs in 15 countries (see Exhibit 9).

DADCAMP International stages 1-day events rather than weekend retreats in response to the availability of fathers and certain cultural factors regarding camping out with their children. Nonetheless, DADCAMP has been encouraged by the level of interest and enthusiasm about fatherhood. As Braun described:

The positive reception and excitement we have seen from our international events underscores the fact that we have touched upon something universal when it comes to the importance of fathers in their families. We had to make some adjustments in terms of the delivery of the program, but the core message is the same.

Exhibit 9: DADCAMP International Sites





CONCLUSION

The success and rapid growth of DADCAMP, for co-founders Mygrant and Braun, has confirmed a deeply held conviction they both share on the acute need, at this day and age, for support and guidance for men to be the fathers and husbands that their family needs. The survey results presented in this case study also reinforce the need to ‘fill the gap’ with strong messaging and workshops to strengthen fathers in families. Below are three key findings about the impact of DADCAMP that have emerged.

1. Time and Talking Together: This aspect of fatherhood involvement showed the strongest impact with respect to the survey responses by the fathers. DADCAMP's practical, intentional approach to getting fathers to communicate with their children was transformational for both father and child. Fathers reported a greater willingness for their children to come to them with the challenges they are facing, and fathers are learning to listen and not pre-judge their children through the communication techniques they are taught at DADCAMP. Survey participants asserted that they have become a much bigger part of their children's lives because of what they have learned through the DADCAMP experience.
2. Father Fellowship: Although the stated purpose of DADCAMP is about relating better to their children, the fact that they go through this experience alongside other fathers is a key component of what Mygrant and Braun envisioned. It also ties in with broader conversations about social isolation in the US, of which men are identified as particularly vulnerable. Survey participants indicated that fellowship with other fathers is a significant area of impact of the DADCAMP experience. One of DADCAMP's major strategic goals going forward is to how help reinforce and nurture the fellowship with other dads to carry on in between DADCAMPS.
3. Fatherhood and Identity: The society and culture in which programs like DADCAMP exist are beset with questions about identity, identity politics, and the growing levels of anxiety and depression among adolescents in the US. Fatherlessness and unengaged fathers contribute to this malaise experienced by youth in America as well. The survey respondents, especially in their text responses to the question: “Do you think participating with your child at DADCAMP helped you find ways to parent your child or children in the future?” (see Appendix 4) show how stronger fathers can reverse this trend. Fathers shared about going deeper with their children and developing greater trust to allow them to be, in essence, a bigger part of the child's support system and, ultimately, a voice for helping the child develop a healthy identity and sense of self in the future.

APPENDIX 1:

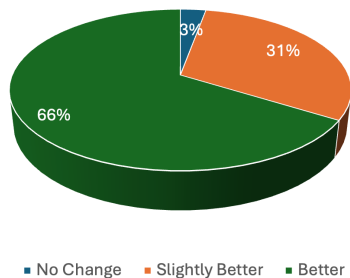
Books Used for Development of DADCAMP Curriculum

Book Title	Author(s)
Parenting	Andy and Sandra Stanley
DAD Tired	Jerrad Lopes
Father God	Dave Patty
Revolutionary Parenting	George Barna
52 Things Every Kid Needs from Their Dad	Jay Payleitner
Strong Father, Strong Daughter	Meg Meeker
Hero	Meg Meeker
10 Commitments Every Father Needs to make	Josh McDowell
Raising A Modern Day Knight	Robert Lewis

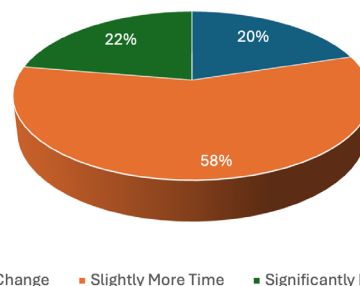
APPENDIX 2:

Additional Survey Findings

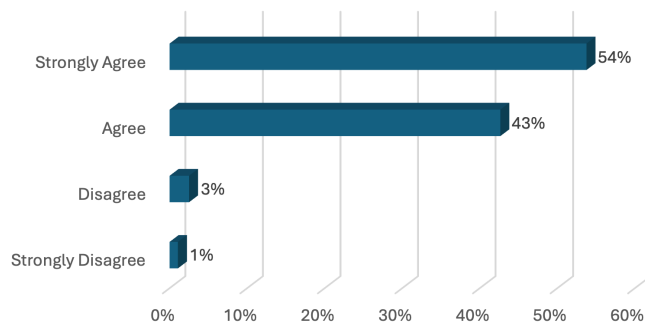
After attending DADCAMP have you noticed any changes in your relationship with the child or children with whom you attended (n=278)?



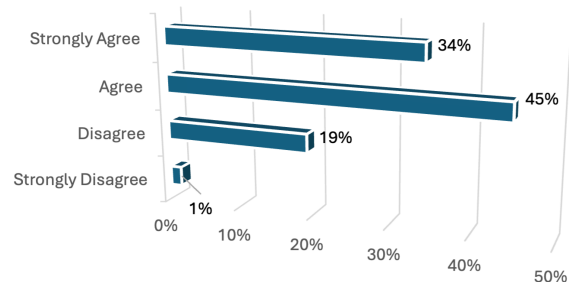
How would you rate the amount of 1-on-1 time you now spend with the child or children that have attended DADCAMP with you, as compared to before participating in DADCAMP (n=273)?



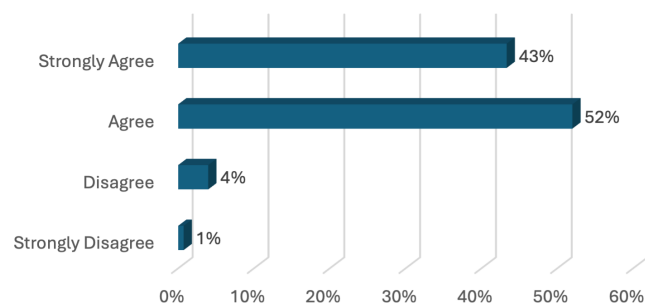
DADCAMP strengthens my ability to share my faith with my child or children (n=279).



To what extent has DADCAMP contributed to your spiritual growth and development (n=279).



I have noticed changes in my values and priorities since attending DADCAMP (n=277).



APPENDIX 3:

DADCAMP Survey Items and Subscales

IFI Domains	Survey Item "Please rate yourself in relation to each of the statements below, based on your experience as a father prior to attending YOUR FIRST DADCAMP [for first timers – for the past 12 months prior to DADCAMP] and AS OF NOW."
Attentiveness	<p>Attending events your child or children participate in (e.g., sports, school, church events)</p> <p>Being involved in the daily or regular routine of taking care of your child's or children's basic needs or activities (e.g., feeding, driving them places, etc.).</p> <p>Knowing where your child or children go and what they do with their friends.</p>
Discipline and Teaching Responsibility	<p>Encouraging your child or children to fulfill their household responsibilities (e.g., dishwashing, laundry, mowing lawn, etc.)</p> <p>Setting rules and limits for your child's or children's behavior</p>
Mother Support	<p>Giving your child's or children's mother encouragement and emotional support.</p> <p>Letting your child or children know that their mother is an important and special person.</p> <p>Cooperating with your child's or children's mother in the rearing of your children.</p>
Praise and Affection	<p>Praising your child or children for doing the right thing.</p> <p>Praising your child or children for something they have done well.</p> <p>Just praising your child or children for who they are. ⁵</p> <p>Telling your child or children you love them.</p>
Developing Talents and Future Concerns	<p>Encouraging your child or children to develop their talents.</p> <p>Actively helping your child or children to explore their talents, skills, and interests.</p> <p>Encouraging your child or children to continue their schooling and/or training (e.g., trade school) and skill development beyond high school.</p> <p>Guiding your child's or children's future.</p> <p>Developing a vision for leading your family.</p>
Time and Talking Together	<p>Spending time just talking with your child or children when they want to talk about something</p> <p>Spending time with your child or children doing things they like to do.</p>
Additional Items	
Father Fellowship	Understanding the importance of fellowship and support of other fathers to better understand and address their own shortcomings as a father.
Fostering Spiritual Well-Being	Fostering spiritual well-being in your child or children.
Promoting Positive Character	Promoting and instilling positive character traits in your child or children.

⁵ This item is not included in the IFI short form.

APPENDIX 4:**DADCAMP Survey Evaluation: Regression Analysis of Inventory of Fatherhood Involvement Items**

(based on pre/post results and number of years attending DADCAMPS)

IFI Domain	Survey Item	Mean Pre Score (SD)	Mean Post Score (SD)	Effect Size (Cohen)	Number of Responses	Stat. Significant (Y/N)	Stat. Significant for Years Attending DADCAMP (Y/N)
Attentiveness	<p>Attending events your child or children participate in (e.g., sports, school, church events)</p> <p>Being involved in the daily or regular routine of taking care of your child's or children's basic needs or activities (e.g., feeding, driving them places, etc.).</p> <p>Knowing where your child or children go and what they do with their friends.</p>	5.6 (1.189)	6.2 (.778)	.6618	238	Y	N
Discipline and Teaching Responsibility	<p>Encouraging your child or children to fulfill their household responsibilities (e.g., dishwashing, laundry, mowing lawn, etc.)</p> <p>Setting rules and limits for your child's or children's behavior</p>	3.9 (1.289)	5.3 (.970)	1.180	240	Y	N
Mother Support	<p>Giving your child's or children's mother encouragement and emotional support.</p> <p>Letting your child or children know that their mother is an important and special person.</p> <p>Cooperating with your child's or children's mother in the rearing of your children</p>	4.8 (1.313)	5.7 (1.006)	1.098	239	Y	N
Praise and Affection	<p>Praising your child or children for doing the right thing.</p> <p>Praising your child or children for something they have done well.</p> <p>Just praising your child or children for who they are. ⁶</p> <p>Telling your child or children you love them.</p>	4.7 (1.190)	6.0 (.800)	1.122	236	Y	Y

IFI Domain	Survey Item	Mean Pre Score (SD)	Mean Post Score (SD)	Effect Size (Cohen)	Number of Responses	Stat. Significant (Y/N)	Stat. Significant for Years Attending DADCAMP (Y/N)
Developing Talents and Future Concerns	<p>Encouraging your child or children to develop their talents.</p> <p>Actively helping your child or children to explore their talents, skills, and interests.</p> <p>Encouraging your child or children to continue their schooling and/or training (e.g., trade school) and skill development beyond high school.</p> <p>Guiding your child's or children's future.</p> <p>Developing a vision for leading your family.</p>	4.3 (1.134)	5.5 (.923)	1.211	240	Y	Y
Time and Talking Together	<p>Spending time just talking with your child or children when they want to talk about something</p> <p>Spending time with your child or children doing things they like to do.</p>	3.8 (1.234)	5.7 (.964)	1.549	240	Y	Y
Father Fellowship	Understanding the importance of fellowship and support of other fathers to better understand and address their own shortcomings as a father.	3.7 (1.514)	5.6 (1.238)	1.278	239	Y	Y
Fostering Spiritual Well-Being	Fostering spiritual well-being in your child or children.	4.3 (1.422)	5.4 (1.116)	1.032	239	Y	Y
Promoting Positive Character	Promoting and instilling positive character traits in your child or children.	4.6 (1.277)	5.7 (.943)	1.034	239	Y	Y

APPENDIX 5:

Examples Provided in Response to the Question:

“Do you think participating with your child at DADCAMP helped you find ways to parent your child or children in the future?”

- It has taught me some difference tactics about how to parent them.
- Times spent with other men at DADCAMP is encouraging and offers a look forward when in conversations with fathers of older kids.
- Leaving a DADCAMP reminds me of how important it is to for our children to know we enjoy spending time with them, which builds their confidence and mental health
- Opened up my eyes to realize how different my children are and how to find ways to encourage and help them in an effective way that they need and understand.
- After attending the high school camp earlier this summer, Dr. Currie’s mantra “put God first, life goes best” has become a motto in my family. I love that motto as it’s such a simple yet brilliant way to understand what needs to be done to follow God. That lesson is helping me to build disciples in my family. I’ve also learned to discipline from a place of love and helping the kids understand the outcomes of mistakes and actions rather than merely punishing them.
- Being intentional is key with busy lifestyles
- Ideas on how to talk to kids about tough subjects or exploring ways to get them to open up to me about things.
- As my kids get older it is more important for me to tell them I love them and give them words of affirmation. I have been able to do this with my daughters and my sons.
- Every weekend are very practical steps of obedience that I can take to build up my children
- The Parenting: Getting It Right curriculum was huge in establishing a goal for parenting and keeping that in mind in the everyday actions of parenting.
- I try to affirm my children in who God made them to be, rather than in achievements or “spur of the moment” situations. I also have taken the lessons I’ve learned and dad camp and fold them into every day parenting.
- One of last year’s texts stressed that “later is longer”, meaning that my role as father does not end when my children move out or go to college. The time that they are in our house is just the first stage of parenting.
- Saying yes and watching how they react, and just listening better and seeing how they talk more.
- Being open with and intentional in their lives.
- As they get older, I’m seeing the role that I have in their lives evolving as well.
- Enjoying and finding what they like to do.
- I am a more intentional father, present in my children’s lives. I have learned to be more patient and to make sure I filter any advice I give to them is Godly and wise.
- The books and content shared at DADCAMP has conveyed new and different ways to parent and connect with my children. We’ve experimented and implemented some of these things in our household.
- When you have one-on-one time and truly remain quiet to listen to your child; you can be surprised at what they will tell you. You realize that they are listening even when you don’t think so. They have the opportunity to encourage you and validate your efforts to do your best raising them.
- It has helped me choose my words more carefully.
- Kids and parents both make mistakes and just staying calm while talking about it has changed the responses my son gives me now.
- I know my words matter more so I need to be showering my children with encouragement and being very careful about what I say in anger.

- DADCAMP has really helped me with communication and intention. And the age appropriate coaching I hear at DADCAMP helps me adjust my own style where needed.
- DADCAMP provides an intentional experience that also creates intentional space to spend together.
- It has really helped me think through the strengths and weaknesses of my children and provide encouragement from their strengths and awareness of areas they can work on.
- A lot of communication
- DADCAMP teaches you ways to bring up topics as well as the importance of speaking about difficult subjects
- Each of my three children are different and by spending one on one time with them I better understand to to communicate with each one differently
- I hope my children will be even better equipped to be parents than I was.
- They helped me understand different ways to approach conversations that will hopefully help your children feel more comfortable opening up and being honest.
- Better ways to break down barriers and properly communicate. Show understanding when they do make mistakes and having open discussions
- I am parenting now with future in mind.
- It gives me more space to think and pray about my child and my parenting, as well as practical tools to help make it happen.
- Local leadership connections, connections with other dads and access to resources
- Resources given. fellowship with other dads
- Dadcamp helped to break down walls between my children in and I. Walls that I put up as a result of my childhood.
- I've gained a lot of knowledge about listening, understanding and adapting to the needs of my child. my parenting style not strictly rules/punishment based and more understanding the root causes of my child's behavior and teaching them.
- Purposely spending time with my youngest has really changed the way that she behaves for the better.
- The communication aspect and just the books we study give us more material on how to parent better and how our kids see us.
- Every year I am so impressed with the content prepared for us dads. The content brilliantly evolves from one year to the next in order to put relevant information for us to access when we have times of struggles. This year in particular, there was a question "Are you doing something in your life that if your spouse or children knew about it would make it harder for them to honor you?". Wow!! Talk about self-reflection and challenging myself to be better. My father was not easy to honor and I want to ensure that cycle ends with me.
- It helped me understand my son better and to see the difference between him and his older brother.
- Taking time to hangout with my child and see there interactions with friends and what is important to them has given me things to help focus on at home.
- It has shown me that transparency and vulnerability are good things. When I learned to press into these concepts it allowed space for my parenting abilities to grow. I am able to be more real and approachable to my children.
- DADCAMP has exposed me to different strategies of parenting that I can pull from when we are experiencing different situations as a family.
- It's just easier because we are better connected.
- The weekend allows us to break away from the normal day to day and create great memories. This time away allows for me as a Dad to focus on the material being discussed and not be so distracted with everything else. A couple of years ago when DADCAMP did the material from Father God - Daring to Draw Near that book also allowed me to find a significant amount of healing in the relationship with my own Dad, which in turn has made me a better Dad.
- Spending dedicated time with my kids 1:1 has taught me how differently each one responds to certain situations and that I can't just parent them exactly the same. I can parent better knowing each of my kids more intimately.
- DADCAMP has helped me to grow as a father and learn what my son needs from me and how I can provide him that support in a loving way.
- Helps me use the right words and actions in certain situations

- I have built a relationship with them and understand their likes and dislikes. By attending dad camp and seeing how much they want a deep relationship with me allows me build into those relationships and then when parenting is needed we have a relationship that is strong and cups that are full with love.
- Yes, by them realizing I'm on their side and then can come talk with me about anything.
- Looking at what kids are into now and how to handle it.
- Always a great reminder to slow down and focus on my kids individually.
- Not only is the one-on-one time hard to come by outside of events like DADCAMP but the dad community that builds is encouraging. Dads talk about things they do back at home it becomes something like a real life Redditt thread about parenting techniques.
- It has encouraged me to do and say the difficult things that are uncomfortable to do.
- The material covered at the events as wells as the rest of the curriculum and books provided have added different things for me to try as a parent.
- Just focusing on dad role for a weekend helps. But each time I've went, I've found the content to be vision driven and applicable.
- The book last year on parenting....was phenomenal and had so many great things to do and to learn from! All this material you get from each dad camp is great and you can get little things from all of it to make you a better parent, spouse, and father.
- With a shared faith based experience in which many other fathers and sons were observed living out faith, I can draw on Dad Camp in discussions with my son.
- I have always wanted them to be confident And successful in all they strive for. DADCAMP has emphasized the importance of Christ in this journey with my children.
- Everything is a learning opportunity
- I found having a perspective to where I wanted to see my son's relation with me or God grow required goals and planning as well as being involved in his life.
- The one on one time with my oldest this year shown some light on something I need to work in parenting him well. It wasn't a shock, but it was good for me to hear it from him.
- Not saying no so often
- Yes I've been able to try and retain my child's innocence and let them be a child more and learning to say yes more
- Same as before, it's hard to see the trajectory before DADCAMP. But I know, without a doubt, DADCAMP has changed my family for generations to come. My kids will know what a Dad is supposed to be, and I know, they will be the Dad, and for my daughter, she will marry the Dad that her kids need. This isn't something that will stop with my kids. DADCAMP truly has changed the world for years to come.
- I know how to create time that is meant to have meaningful conversations and speak truth and love into them.
- Yes my listening more and being more patient
- It emphasized the importance of my son's friends, and knowing they have strong dads that will be great role models and men of faith.
- Less yelling, more coaching.
- It has become a key pillar in my development as a father to participate in so I can continue to grow. There weren't many other opportunities to join in other things in my area vs. this event.

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