



STUDY GUIDE:

June 21, 2026

Message Series:

More Than Gold

Message Title:

Standing on Your Shoulders

Teaching Pastor:

Elijah Schiarelli

Warm-up / Icebreaker (10 min.)

What is a classic dad phrase you heard growing up that you'll never forget?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the people You have placed in our lives to guide, teach, encourage, and carry us through difficult seasons. Thank You for being the perfect Father who shows us grace, patience, and unconditional love. As we study Your Word today, help us learn how to better reflect Your heart in our relationships and leave a legacy that honors You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Get Started (30 min.)

Read **Deuteronomy 1:30-31**.

- What stands out to you about the image of God carrying His people as a father carries a child?
- Can you think of a time when God carried you through a season that you could not have navigated on your own?
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Pastor Elijah said, *"It's our great responsibility, from the moment they're born until they're ready to leave, to give attention, show grace, discipline, and teach them so they can be ready for the future."*

- What has been most impactful when it comes to the influence of your father? OR if you prefer another question, Who has had a significant influence on your life, and what made their impact so meaningful?

Read **Luke 12:48**.

- Why do you think God places such a high value on stewardship and responsibility?
- How can this principle apply to all of us, whether we are parents or not?

*"In an effort to carry our kids and get them from one place in their life to another, we can get impatient. It's with good intentions of course - we want our kids to be the best they can be. But maybe we get too caught up in that pursuit to appreciate that, maybe, we don't need to be as in a hurry as we think we do. And to rush things is to cause unnecessary pain on the back end. I don't know what lesson, skill, or moral you're trying to teach your kids right now, but if they're not catching on and it's beginning to frustrate you, perhaps it's time to **Slow Down**. Because what's frustrating you might also be frustrating them, which can lead to pain between you down the road. As Paul puts it in Colossians: 'And for fathers: don't provoke your children to anger, otherwise they might lose heart.' (Colossians 3:21)" — Pastor Elijah Schiarelli*

Read **Colossians 3:21**.

- Why do people often become impatient with those they are trying to help or lead?
- How can slowing down strengthen relationships and create opportunities for growth?

Reflect and Commit (30 min.)

Pastor Elijah said, *"You are not your kids."*

- Why is it important to recognize that people may learn, grow, and respond differently than we do?

One of the central ideas of the message was: *"Start with grace."*

Read **Ephesians 4:32**.

- Why is grace often harder to give when someone has disappointed us or created a mess?
- How has God's grace toward you changed the way you respond to others?

"Our kids would be able to look back on their relationship with us and say we carried them well." — Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Read **Proverbs 22:6**.

- What kind of legacy do you hope to leave for the people God has entrusted to you?

"My prayer for you today, dads, is that you would see your kids as the gift from God that they are and, in your effort to do the absolute best you can for them, you'd consider slowing down where you need to, understand that, because they're not you, you might need to adjust your strategy some, and ultimately, learn to start every interaction with grace because when you combine these principles, the bible tells us that most of the time, when we: Start children off on the way they should go,...even when they are old they will not turn from it. (Proverbs 22:6)" — Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Gather Prayer Requests (5–10 min.)

Share prayer needs and take time to pray for one another.

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You for carrying us through every season of life. Thank You for Your patience when we struggle, Your grace when we fail, and Your love that never gives up on us. Help us to slow down, extend grace, and see others the way You see them. May we be people who reflect Your heart and leave a legacy of faith, love, and encouragement for future generations. In Jesus' name, Amen.