

Good Fathers | An Impact Documentary
Concept One Sheet | By Chris Burgess and Steven Siwek Jr.

Logline: Three men at different stages of fatherhood navigate through the wilderness, reckon with the legacy left by their own fathers, and realize how their role as fathers shapes each of them.

Summary: Audiences follow three men at different stages of fatherhood as they embark on a days-long journey through the wilderness where they confront their hopes and fears, joys and failures, and wrestle with the legacy left by their own fathers. Shot in a cinema vérité style with unscripted scenes focused on revealing and understanding each father's story, drawing out deep emotions, we see each man face a pivotal moment in this season of their fatherhood journey.

Voices like Dan Allender, Jon Tyson, Jefferson Bethke, David Kinnaman, and Nick Stumbo provide wisdom and insight into the roles fathers play in their children's lives. This film explores how fatherhood shapes men and how flawed fathers can still point us to the love of the one Good Father.

Characters:

New Father: Many young men enter fatherhood with no frame of reference for what the journey will entail. Their own fathers were absent, abusive, or addicted. What does it look like to be a father when you did not have a good model to follow?

Failed Father: Many fathers feel they have failed their families, whether because of divorce, addiction, work or financial struggles, or other challenges, and they wonder if redemption is possible. How can a father lead his children when he harbors deep shame about his own life?

Releasing Father: Parenting does not end when kids reach young adulthood, but it does change. Many fathers feel unsure of how to launch their adult children into the world, and they wrestle with their continued roles, their new identities, and the legacies they leave behind.

Setting: A five-day rafting journey on Idaho's Salmon River through the Frank Church Wilderness of No Return, the largest wilderness in the lower 48. The film also spends time in each father's home, following him through pivotal moments with his family.

Why This Film Matters

Research confirms what many fathers already feel: the stakes of fatherhood are high, and most men feel underprepared for the journey.

- 50% of U.S. dads say they did not feel fully prepared for fatherhood — Barna
- Only 26% of Christian fathers are intentionally discipling their children spiritually — Barna

At a time when fathers are often absent, dismissed, or unsure of their place, *Good Fathers* addresses a growing number of men who long to be present and intentional in the lives of their children. This film gives those men an imperfect yet inspiring picture to follow, leading thousands of

fathers to connect with hand-selected impact partners and take the next step in their fatherhood journey.

Impact Statement

We want every father who watches this film to take the next step of their fatherhood journey. For some that might mean connecting with one of our impact partners through a retreat, men's group, or study. For others that might simply mean spending intentional time with their kids and leaning fully into their roles as fathers. We believe fatherhood is one of the most pivotal ways God spiritually forms us. We hope this film is a catalyst for fathers to recognize that the parts of their stories they are ashamed of, afraid of, or even hate might be the very places where God is inviting them to be seen, embraced, and loved.

Target Audience

Primary: ~30 million practicing Christian fathers (of any age child) in the U.S. **Secondary:** U.S. practicing Christian mothers (~30 million), ministry leaders (~500,000), and Christian fathers in English-speaking countries: Canada, the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Australia (~25–30 million).

Distribution

As both a documentary and a long-term impact campaign, the project will combine potential theatrical and eventized releases. We will also create supplemental curriculum to work in tandem with the film.

Partnerships

This impact campaign will collaborate with organizations like [Forming Men](#), [Pure Desire](#), [DadAwesome](#), [Wild Courage](#), [The Quarry Project](#), and [The Allender Center](#) to give viewers clear next steps, extending the reach of this film beyond traditional distribution.

Creative Team

Director: Chris Burgess | chris@chrisburgesscreative.com | 208.391.9976

Award-winning documentary filmmaker whose four theatrical features— including [Casting Crowns: Home by Sunday](#), [Ends of the Earth](#), [The Insanity of God](#), and the upcoming *The Weight of Water* —have premiered in more than 700 theaters and streamed through AppleTV, Prime, and RightNow Media. Chris has a master's in theology, has worked in over 30 countries, and is a husband and father of two girls.

Producer: Steven Siwek Jr. | steven@gloryunlimited.com | 602.502.1379

Steven is a passionate Jesus follower and award-winning director. He and his wife are the parents of three amazing children. His documentary films include [The Future of the Church](#) and [Dear Church: I'm Gay](#). He has directed and produced multiple video curriculum series — [Christian Sexuality](#), [Forge](#),

[The Center for Faith, Sexuality & Gender](#) – featuring respected teachers including Jon Tyson, John Mark Comer, Jackie Hill Perry, Dan Allender, and Francis Chan.

Current Phase & Request

We are seeking \$30,000 to begin the Development Phase. To do this we need three individuals, families, or organizations who will contribute \$10,000 each. This phase delivers research, casting, story development, and a proof-of-concept teaser: the assets required to define and raise the full production budget. This is not a financial investment. It is a charitable contribution through the Windrider Institute.

Windrider Institute, an Idaho-based 501(c)3 is our fiscal sponsor for this project. Please make all checks payable to "Windrider Institute" with "Good Fathers" in the memo. Windrider will issue you a receipt for year-end tax reporting.

Windrider Institute
P.O. Box 1640
Eagle, ID 83616

Website: www.windriderinstitute.org/donate
Tax ID: 20-2726607

Development Budget (current phase): \$30,000
Estimated Total Budget: \$800,000 (Production and P&A)
Target Release: Father's Day 2028