



*The Rock is a Youth
Ministry of Ascension
Lutheran Church*

Arms Wide Open!

Based on Proverbs 4:11-13

Narrator	Allee
Elliot	Michael (Expectant Father, Husband of Sarah)
Aadyn	Matt W. (Husband of Ella)
Ella	Lauren (Wife of Aadyn)
Olivia	Annee (Daughter of Aadyn & Ella)
Nick	Joe (Son of Aadyn & Ella)
James	Matt S. (Elliot's Father, husband of Michelle)
Jacob	Toby (Nephew of James)
Charlie	Ryan (Nephew of James)
Doctor	Chandler
Ethan	Oliver (Expectant Father)
Wally	Johannes (Son of Ethan)

Narrator: Considering today is the 100th Father's Day, we thought it would be special to dedicate this skit to our Dads and dads everywhere. You've always been there for us, supported us, believed in us and most important of all, loved us, no matter how badly we might have messed up. We really do appreciate everything you do for us. We wish you all a Blessed Father's Day and hope you enjoy and possibly relate to the skit.

Setting: *Elliot is nervously pacing in a waiting room. Another father and son, Ethan and Wally, are also waiting for a new baby. Aadyn and Ella enter with their kids Olivia, Nick and Nick.*

Aadyn: Hey Elliot! How's Sarah?

Elliot: Oh she's alright, she's good.

June 21, 2009

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Ella: Why aren't you in the birthing room with her?

Elliot: I kept fainting, so the nurse thought it would be safer for everyone if I waited out here.

Ella: So how are you doing? Are you excited to be a daddy?

Elliot: Huh? Oh yeah, I guess. I don't know, I think so.

Aadyn: It'll be great don't worry. Their first words, first steps, it's all great.

Elliot: Don't get me wrong. I'm really excited but I am nervous. I mean I don't want to mess this up.

Ella: You won't mess it up. Sure, you'll make mistakes just like everyone else, but God will be with you.

Elliot: The last time I even held a baby was when Nick here was little...what if I drop the kid?!?

Nick: That probably wouldn't be very good.

Olivia: Wow, way to be supportive Nick.

Nick: Well maybe you'll get lucky and the kid will bounce or something.

Ella: Nick!

Nick: I'm just saying...

Aadyn: Yep, you love them to death and think you'll never want them to leave...and then they become teenagers. (*Looking at the kids*)

Nick: Hey we're not that bad!

Aadyn: Yeah right putting up with you three gives me more grey hair than I thought possible.

Olivia: Grey hair is natural Dad. By the way, I saw a vending machine down the hall. Can I have some

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money?

Aadyn: No.

Olivia: Why not?

Aadyn: Because then I would have to give your brothers money and I would like to be able to buy your baby cousin some balloons later.

(James enters, with gray hair and cardigan sweater.)

Nick: Hi Grandpa James! I didn't think you were coming up 'till later.

James: Well I figured I should come up soon since we don't know when our newest addition will arrive. How are you holding together El?

Elliot: Hey Dad, I'm doing alright.

Aadyn: He's a wreck.

Elliot: Thanks.

James: Well I remember the day you were born. They didn't allow us in the birthing rooms in those days, and it was just as well because I was so nervous. I had no idea what to expect or how to even change a diaper. Your mother sure taught me how to do that quickly. But I got some good advice and I think you turned out all right. All you can do is model yourself after your Heavenly Father and love the kids unconditionally.

Ella: Elliot, just relax! The baby will be happy and healthy and born into a family full of love.

Elliot: It's just that I've never done this before. What if the kid doesn't stop crying? Then what do I do?

James: Wait 'til he grows up, just like I did with you, little crier!

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- Elliot: Or what if I spill the bottle all over the floor or get thrown up on?
- James: Or worse? (*Knowingly looks at Elliot.*) It happens.
- Ella: Those days aren't much fun, but they do pass. I think we're going to go grab a bite to eat and pick up a present. We'll be back soon. Want to come Dad?
- James: Well I didn't eat before I came up here. Tell you what, Elliot, we'll be back before you know it and we'll bring you something to eat ok? Just promise not to spit up on me, like the old days. (*Smiles.*)
- Elliot: Ok, that's fine I'll see you in a little bit.
- (*Aadyn, Ella, Nick, Olivia, Nick and James exit*)
- Ethan: I'm sorry, I don't mean to bother you, but I couldn't help but to overhear your family's conversation. I'm here waiting for my wife to have our third child so I know what you're going through. Wally here is my oldest. It is very nerve wrecking, just waiting and not knowing what to expect, but look at it from another perspective. That baby doesn't know what to expect either.
- Wally: (*Drops book he's holding.*) And don't worry, you probably won't drop your baby. I never dropped my sister when she was a baby.
- Ethan: The joys and challenges of raising a child are many. Sometimes you'll cry because your so proud of them and sometimes you'll cry because you don't understand what was going though their head when they made a mistake. God the Father knows exactly how you feel. He has billions of children, some who love him and obey him, and others who don't. You can always turn to him when you're feeling a little lost and he will be there with open arms.
- Doctor: Mr. Smith, your newborn son is ready to meet you.
- Ethan: Great! Well, you hang in there. Everything will be fine.

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(Everyone exits except for Elliot, who begins to fall asleep in his chair- "Dream" music)

Jacob: Hey! Hey you! Can't you see we're trying to play here mister?

Elliot: *(Confused.)* Huh? Oh sorry, I'll move. Say where am I?

Charlie: You don't know where you are?

Elliot: No I can't say I do.

Jacob: This is Ames, Iowa.

Elliot: No it's not. I live in Ames. What's going on?

Charlie: Nothing out of the normal, well at least not for us.

Jacob: Except that our aunt Michelle is having a baby right now!

Elliot: Really? My wife Sarah is having a baby too. Wait a minute. What's your uncle's name?

Charlie: James, why?

Elliot: Well this is odd. Oh he's a friend of mine. Are they at the hospital?

Jacob: Yeah, they've been there all day.

Charlie: Well we gotta' go eat lunch now. Nice meeting you mister.

Elliot: Yeah, you too.

(Walks up stairs to the waiting room with a book in his hands and sees a younger version of his father napping in a chair. No gray hair or sweater.)

Elliot: Dad? *(Stunned, he drops his book, startling James.)*

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- James: *(Startled.)* Whoa, what was that!
- Elliot: Oh, sorry, it's just that I...that I...er...a...
- James: What's the matter, man? Did your dad drop you on your head when you were a baby or something?
- Elliot: Well, a no...at least I don't think so.
- James: Never mind. Sorry to put you on the spot. Have a seat. *(Elliot sits in chair next to James.)* My name is James.
- Elliot: My name is Elliot.
- James: Ely, huh? Say that's a interesting name.
- Elliot: So I hear you're expecting your first baby.
- James: Hmm....it shows, does it? I'll have to lay off Michelle's pecan pie.
- Elliot: That's funny. That's just what my dad said whenever I commented about his weight.
- James: You're father sounds like a great guy...so maybe I can forgive him for giving you that funny name. What was it...Ely?
- Elliot: Elliot.
- James: Sorry. What with this baby stuff, I'm a nervous wreck? I can't even change a diaper!
- Elliot: Well, someone once told me that all you have to do is love them.
- James: What kind of knucklehead told you that? *(Pauses for reaction, as he stands to exit.)*
- Elliot: Well, a...my da...
- James: Oh I'm just messing with you, Ely...

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Elliot: It's Elliot. My name's Elliot.

James: Yeah, I know. I'm just funnin' with you. That name—Elliot—it's growing on me. And that advice, Elliot, it's pretty good. No matter what they do, you love them. Model yourself after God the Father and you'll do just fine. *(James exits & Elliot falls asleep again sitting in chair.)*

("Dream" music again, as Elliot awakens from his dream. James exits & puts on gray hair and cardigan sweater. Ella, Aadyn, Olivia, Nick, & Nick enter.)

Ella: Elliot.....Elliot.....Elliot! Wake up!

Elliot: What? What's going on?

Aadyn: You fell asleep when we were gone.

Elliot: Oh. Is the baby here?

Olivia: Not yet. It's taking its own sweet time.

Ella: Which I'm sure Sarah loves.

James: So have you relaxed?

Elliot: A little. I just want to be the best dad I can be.

James: And you will be. Just remember that you must set a good example on how to live for the Lord so that your children will also. Always let them come running to you with arms wide open.

Aadyn: A Bible verse my Dad gave to me when Olivia was born was Proverbs 4:11-13 "I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life."

Elliot: Meaning my Heavenly Father will guide me and those I love my whole life. I need to do the same for my children and pray that all that they might also

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live for God who loves them even more than I will.

James: Exactly. You're already off to a good start.

Doctor: It's a boy!!

Elliot: Wow, he's here. He's finally here! And I think I've got just the name for him: Ely!

James: Now where did you come up with a name like that? Oh well, let's go meet our newest member of the family...and don't drop him! *(Put's arm around Elliot as they exit.)*

Elliot: Say...Dad...you never dropped me on my head when I was a baby, did you?

James: *(Laughs.)* No...*(long pause)*...not much.