

# IDAHO DADS MATTER!

*A Specialty Publication by The Down To Earth Dad® Featuring Idaho Parents!*

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## The Interactive Dad

***...He Prioritizes Doing Things with His Family***

ST. ANTHONY— Road tripping to Silverwood Theme Park in North Idaho or motoring south to Lagoon Amusement Park in Utah are great family excursions, but “home nights are fun” too, says Herb Mason who describes his family of eight watching movies, playing board games and “just bugging each other” on such evenings.

The St. Anthony Sand Bar draws parents and children from all over Fremont County, Herb Mason’s family included. “I think we’re there almost every single day,” he said of the local swimming hole on the Snake River with a water slide, diving board, picnic tables and a playground.

**“All of us are born and all of us die. Not much happens in between that makes life more meaningful than family.”**

—Herb Mason

We mess up big time. Parents don’t often apologize to their kids, and I think that’s a mistake. Parents might lose their temper for example. They’ll justify it by saying, ‘well, I’m the parent and you messed up, child, and that’s the reason why I was mad.’ I’ve made a habit to sit them down, look them in the eye and say, ‘hey, I want you to know that I’m sorry’ ... and it’s okay for me to say sorry when I mess up.”

“Always look for ways to boost their self-worth not only in encouragement and in their accomplishments, but also in how they see themselves—with love and respect. Our children learn how to talk to themselves in their hearts in part by how their parents talk to them.”

“I love being a dad. I think the key is un-selfishness, and if you don’t have that, then everything else is harder. There’s nothing better than being a parent. Anything else that comes up that seems like it’s more important, it’s just not,” he said. “As soon my wife (Tessa) and I go somewhere on a date, we’re like, ‘Oh, the kids... I miss the kids.’ We spend the entire night out together just literally only talking about them.”

Parents need to acknowledge their mistakes, says Herb. “As parents we aren’t perfect.



*Left to Right: Camille, 13, Daphne, 7, Breken, 16, Tessa, Ethan, 1, Herb Mason, Alyson, 19, and Danielle, 17.*