

## **When I Became a Father**

**By**  
**Steve Rhyne, Sr.**

### **When I Became A Father I Was:**

28 years old.

Debbie and I had been married 7 years.

We both had good jobs and the start of solid careers.

We thought that we were ready!!

Ignorance truly is bliss!!

### **When I Became A Father:**

I never imagined that a baby boy of 8 lbs., 10 oz. would eat so much and so often.

I did not know a thing about diapers (clean or dirty) and I had never really wanted to learn.

I was used to going to bed when I wanted and getting up when I wanted. Boy, did that change.

I don't think that I had ever read so many story books—most of them repeatedly.

I thought that when he could communicate better and get around on his own that things would be easier.

That is when I learned what it meant to “have eyes in the back of your head”. That baby required constant attention.

### **When I Became A Father:**

I did not know that I would be going back to school—Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle, and High School.

I did not know that I would need to bone up on my English, Math, and History.

I did not know that events from the life that I had lived would be a part of that history. Boy, that really makes you feel old.

I did not know that I would get to meet and know so many other wonderful young people and their parents through our son and his activities.

### **When I Became A Father:**

I did not know a thing about soccer. Yet, I ended up helping to coach both spring and fall soccer for six or seven years.

I did not know that I would help to teach Sunday School and spend time preparing lessons.

I did not know anything about Fall Festivals, Spring Flings, PTA, and all of the many other school activities that we ended up to our elbows in.

I did not know that our son would be in the Cub Scouts, Webelos, and Boy Scouts—just as I had been.

### **When I Became A Father:**

I did not know that I would spend endless hours picking up rocks, raking the infield, putting down lines,

setting out the bases so that our son and his friends could play baseball.

I did not know that I would throw so much batting practice that I could not lift my arm above my head at the end of the day.

I did not know that I would actually schedule to leave work early so as to not miss the start of a game.

I did not know how excited I could get to see a bunch of young boys and girls having fun with a bat and a ball.

### **When I Became A Father:**

I did not know that it would physically hurt me when our son broke his arm.

I did not know that I could feel so much disappointment when he had a bad day.

I did not know that I could get to the hospital quicker than an ambulance, until his appendix ruptured.

I did not know how important that his friends and their families would be to us.

### **When I Became A Father:**

I did not know how smart, experienced, and helpful my parents, and Debbie's parents could actually be. I had always assumed that they really did not know much of anything.

I did not know how much I would need to be around other fathers who might be experiencing some of the same things that I was.

I did not know how much that I would need to rely on Debbie and the many other mothers that we came to know.

I did not know that I could juggle work, responsibilities at home, and all of our son's activities and maintain any semblance of sanity.

### **When I Became A Father:**

I did not know that I could be angry, worried, discouraged, and sad one minute and then happy, relieved, and proud in the next.

I did not know why my parents had always insisted on knowing where I was going, who I was with, and when I would be home.

I did not know that discipline was hard for a parent, but that it was very important and had to be done.

I did not know that I would ever get so frustrated that I would say "Because I said so, that's why"!!

### **When I Became A Father:**

I did not have any idea what I was getting into.

I did not know that it would be the greatest adventure of my life.

I did not know that it would open doors to new things.

I did not know that it would allow us to get to know so many other children and their families.

I did not know that it would make us closer with our own family.

**When I Became A Father:**

I did not know how much that I would pray for patience, security, guidance, and safety.

I did not know how important our church family would be in our son's formative years.

I did not know how good God could be.

**When I Became A Father:**

I did not know that our son would grow to marry a wonderful young lady who would be so very special to us.

I did not know that they would gift us with a beautiful, healthy grandson.

I did not know what our friends meant when they told us that grandchildren were the best thing yet.

**Until I Became A Father:**

I do not think that I really knew what totally unselfish love was.

Our Father in Heaven loves us so much more than we will ever know how to love. He experiences the same joys, frustrations, and disappointments in us as we do in our children.

We really do need to try and be obedient to His will as we would have our children be obedient to us.

So in closing, let us thank God for all of the earthly fathers and give praise to Him as our only true Father in heaven.

Thank you.

Steve Rhyne, Sr.