



- Parent's Guide -

Much like Season 1, **this video series is a TOOL**. If you read the Parent's Guide for Season 1, you may skip to the next section.

This series is not a product just for watching. Yes, it is meant to be entertaining, but its value is completed by you when you talk about these Dangers with your son and come up with a way to *identify them* in his life and figure out a *strategy* for him to combat them.

To the father: what an honor and privilege we have.

To the mentor: thank you for investing in God's children.

To the single mom: you can do this, too! And don't hesitate to reach out to men to mentor your son. Most men would be thrilled to be asked.

I'll skip the blah, blah, blah... You know the statistics, you know the void, the need. You might even have felt the silent cry of the boys wanting to develop into manhood, but today's society keeps deteriorating the world in which kids grow up, frustrating their attempts to experience life freely, experiment, fail, succeed, and mature.

But their challenge is not just their environment. **Satan himself is particularly interested in destroying young men.** I know you know that. But sometimes we live as if this was not true. Now is the time to do something about it.

You owe it to him: prepare him for battle.

Use this tool.

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WHO IS THIS VIDEO SERIES FOR? –

The series brings the teachings of Jeff Voth's book *Serpent Crusher* to the level of a **tween boy and early teenager**. However, the core content is the same as the book, which is written for

men, so any older teenager or adult watching the series will benefit from becoming aware of the Dangers that the serpent uses to “kill, steal and destroy” (John 10:10).

Even though, the book is written for men, and the series is geared towards boys, the concepts are just as valid for girls and women since the devil is interested in ruining all of God’s treasured possession.

It’s evident that children develop and mature at different rates and ages. And even among those variables, different issues or topics become relevant or real to them at unpredictable moments in their lives. There’s not an established set age where children become interested in a certain topic or begin to be able to handle certain life situations on their own. However, we know that the tween years is when a lot of this happens.

That’s why it’s a good idea to bring up these important topics early on. The series *Dangers of Young Men* can help you do just that.

The tween might not catch everything that is said or meant during an episode. But by watching it he will:

- become aware of issues and challenges in life
- learn the possible Dangers in that area
- see he’s not the only one who faces or will face this Danger
- realize he needs to be pro-active and battle the Danger
- gather ideas on how to battle the Danger
- know God provides wisdom and weapons to fight against the Danger
- realize that God has made a way for him to be victorious.

If a parent or mentor is involved in watching the series with the boy, then the series will reach its **ultimate goal** which is for the boy to begin **applying what is being shared**. The parent or mentor can help the boy think through tactics to implement them in his own life, instead of just talking about these things in general terms, as things that mostly happen to “everyone else.”

Watching the boys in the series interact with their mentors, will hopefully inspire your boy to team up with you, and will also show a small sample of types of mentoring relationships.

The tween years is when they begin to make more decisions on their own --and some important decisions, I may add. You can prepare him to make wise choices.

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THE BOOK –

Jeff Voth’s book, *Serpent Crusher*, covers seven areas where Satan attacks men. In an effort to be practical, the series *Dangers of Young Men* pulls out only one “Danger” from each of these areas and focuses on coming up with applicable ways to battle it. But there are many more “dangers” in each of the seven areas you may choose to look into.

As a parent, the book not only will broaden your knowledge and understanding in these areas which will enhance your discussions with your son, but it will also benefit you in your own life.

You can find this book at the Cavetime website: cavetime.org

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IDEAS ON HOW TO USE THE VIDEO SERIES –

Participation. That's the key.

The episodes are an average of 12 minutes in length. This allows for spending a few minutes discussing and then praying, all within a 30-minute meeting time.

MAKING THE MOST OF IT:

A **study guide** is provided called, *Battle Plan Manual*. Download it and print it so your son can write on it. (It's available as full page or half page format giving you the option to print it on 17 pages or 9 pages, whatever is more practical for you or keeping in mind how large your son's handwriting is. They are both the same. It's also available as text only.)

The *Battle Plan Manual* indicates at what time to PAUSE the video to think through an answer and write it down. If you and your son are able to engage in this way, make sure you participate too. Your guesses and suggestions are just as valid and will inspire your son. These are the moments you can take advantage of and talk through what is being presented.

The series is meant to be a springboard to conversations between you and your son.

JUST WATCHING IT:

If your son already watched the series, or you are not set up to print the *Battle Plan Manual* and patiently watch the episode pausing it once in a while, you can still watch it together and afterwards discuss any of the issues that peaked your son's interest, or those that you feel are relevant in your son's life at the time.

Don't feel you have to present a lesson on the topic. Asking your son questions about it might be the best conduit to see where he's at and most effectively share your wisdom. Just a light conversation on a topic will let your son know you are available and open to discuss it and team up with him, even if it is later in his life when the issue comes up.

SMALL GROUP:

Donuts and hot chocolate on a Saturday morning with a group of buddies makes it a fun experience and relaxes the boys in sharing and accepting input. It provides accountability to

follow through the seven episodes and allows for each other's wisdom and experience to enrich the learning and application. What a deal! You can always eat healthy for lunch.

SECTIONS ON EACH EPISODE –

Each of these sections can be moments where the video can be paused to have a discussion. I'm not necessarily suggesting doing this as it can be irritating to someone who's trying to get into the story and enjoy watching the video. But being aware of the general format of each episode will help you decide how you would like to best approach the study.

1. Opinions on how Satan is trying to crush a boy.
2. Guessing the Danger.
3. Brainstorming ways to battle it.
4. Choosing favorite strategy and Sword of the Spirit proposed by the teams.
5. Jeff Voth's teaching using "C.R.U.S.H. IT."
6. Reviewing the strategy and Sword of the Spirit selected by the men at the conference.
7. Thinking through the final question presented in the episode.

Participating in these sections and making the content applicable to your boy's life is what will yield the greatest result.

Your goal is to ask questions to get to know what he's thinking in these areas, and to learn from him what kind of things he has began facing. If something doesn't seem to resonate with him at this time, just move on. As he grows and as he simply lives life, when these issues eventually come up:

- he will have a base knowledge about them,
- he will know he will need to battle them,
- and he will know he can count on you.

Take this opportunity to establish you are genuinely interested in his upbringing, and make known to him you are available for him.

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DON'T FORGET TO –

- Give him input based on your experiences, and based on what you know about his personality.
- Tell him his victory over sin is important to you, and you want to be next to him locking shields.
- Relate everything to his life, and your life. Remember, **it is about how he's applying these tactics in his life**, not about remembering the book content.
- Always end encouraging him, leading him to repentance if needed, reminding him of Jesus his Savior, the Holy Spirit his Helper, the Father who loves him and is interested in his life.
- Finally, tell him how proud you are of him, and how much you enjoy sharing life together.

If you haven't read the Parent's Guide, for Season 1, I invite you to do that for more tips. And of course, I encourage you to also go through that series to learn the Five Dangers of Young Men according to JC Ryle's profound book, *Thoughts for Young Men*.

In the section below, I share my heart. It's the same "Parting Words" from Season 1.

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PARTING WORDS –

Your son's upbringing is your responsibility.

Don't expect this to happen in the church's youth group or at the Christian school. It's not their role. It would be impossible. They just support what you do. You be the one.

It takes one-on-one to go deep enough. It takes one-on-one to make applicable strategies.

Meaningful time is an essential part of it. I hope and pray that this series and the follow up advice help you fill the time you give your son with meaningful heart-to-heart talks and training.

And of course, don't forget to invest in fun things you can do together. Make sure you intentionally plan different types of things to do to give him a well-rounded experience of life. Don't get stuck in a rut where you always do the same type of thing. If your son is into sports, book a time on your calendar when you take him to a theatre to see a play, or an art museum. If hunting and fishing is what you do a lot with him, plan a night a month when you two are in charge of the cooking and you try some new recipe together. Be the one who takes him to his first concert, even if it's not your kind of music. Go on a mission's trip together. (It doesn't have to be international.) Ask him to show you videos from his favorite YouTuber. Show him yours. Sit and play video games with him. Ask him to teach you to do something he's good at.

Your son's upbringing is your joy. Don't give it away. Don't pass on the chances to live with him in unforgettable routines or eccentric adventures.

Every day that passes, he will get older, and he will never be that age again. Share in the things the age he is going through enjoys. Discover life with him. Train him on the new responsibilities he will take on as he matures one more day. See him blossom.

Enjoy the gift of a son that God has given you.

Rafael Barreiro
Producer of *Dangers of Young Men*

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***Dangers of Young Men* is not the type of series that your son will watch over and over. It looks like entertainment, but it's more of a fun book study. Take advantage of it. Your son deserves it.**