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Bible Verses

Great Bible Verses Honoring Dads

Regardless of what craft you use to honor fathers, you'll need God's word as part of it. Herein are probably the ten most quoted verses about fathers that students can color on bookmarks, paint on coffee mugs, or put on anything from bird houses to mens' jewelry boxes.

The verses are in the order that they appear in the Bible. Following are four quotes about fathers, three by religious fathers and one by Ann Frank. Any of these should help children see their dads as very important in God's eyes and worthy of respect and praise!

Genesis 18:19

"For I have chosen him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice; in order that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."

Psalms 103:13

Just as a father has compassion on his children,
So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD,
Or loathe His reproof, For whom the LORD loves
He reproveth, Even as a father, the son in whom he delights.

Proverbs 23:22

Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Proverbs 23:24

The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice,
And he who begets a wise son will be glad in him.

Proverbs 29:15

The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

Malachi 4:6

"And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse."

Ephesians 6:4

And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Colossians 3:21

Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart.

Hebrews 12:7

It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

Quotes about Fathers by Famous Christians

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society."

-- Billy Graham, Christian Evangelist

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother."

-- Theodore Hesburgh, Catholic Priest

and President Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame

"How true Daddy's words were when he said: 'All children must look after their own upbringing.' Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands."

-- Anne Frank, German Jew and Holocaust Victim

"It is a wise father that knows his own child." –
William Shakespeare

Object Lesson

Paper Airplane

Message:

Turning a flat piece of paper into a paper airplane will help students understand that the love and guidance given by their Father, Mother, or Grandparents are like the folds needed to turn paper into an airplane that flies.

Related Scriptures:

Ephesians 6:1-4

Objects Needed:

One sheet of paper for each child, pencils, markers, and or crayons

Preparation:

Give out sheets of paper and art supplies

Lesson:

Note: For demonstration purposes we will explain this lesson to be used for Father's Day, but you

can easily modify to be used for Mother's Day or Grandparent's Day as needed.

Babies are a lot like this plain piece of paper. They are a "blank slate", they don't know how to say their name, sit up, roll over, play with toys, they pretty much just sleep for a the first few weeks.

But as we grow up, we slowly start learning how to take care of ourselves, right?

Who teaches us how to walk, talk, and play?

The children will respond with: Mom, Dad, Siblings, Teachers, Grandparents, etc.

As you all know, today is Father's Day, so I'd like you to think of all the important lessons that you have learned from your Father.

Raise your hand if your Dad taught you:

- How to be kind to strangers
- How to add and subtract
- How to ride your bike

- How to clean up your toys
- How to kick a soccer ball

What else has your Dad taught you? take answers.

Dad's certainly teach us a LOT of useful lessons don't they!?

Father's help give us direction in life, they give us the skills we need to go off into the world on our own one day.

Everyone take your piece of paper and fold it in half lengthwise (demonstrate at the head of the class).

Have children write an important lesson they've learned from their Father along the fold. If they are too young to write, have them draw a picture.

Take the two upper corners and fold them in so they meet.

Along these folds, have the children write another lesson they've learned from their Dad.

Continue to demonstrate how to fold a simple dart airplane as the children follow along at their tables. With each fold, have them write or

illustrate another lesson they've learned from their Fathers.

Say to the children: All these folds represent our Father's love and guidance that give us the direction we need to grow into adults. Instead of being like a helpless baby who needs someone to carry them around everywhere, you are turning into a airplane that can fly on it's own!

Line the students in a line and that way they will not be tempted to fly their airplanes at each other and hit each other in the eye.

Let everyone try to fly his airplane. They may keep retrieving and flying again, but not at each other!

Ephesians 6:1-4 says 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Let's thank God today, Father's Day, for our Dads...

Concluding Prayer:

Father, thank you for the Dads we have. Your word says we should be glad for their strength. Help us to remember it, not just on this special day, but all year long. Amen.

Object Lesson

Stapler

Message:

Kids are sort of like pieces of paper. They're still young, which means they are "softer" than adults. Just as papers bend, flop around, and sometimes get carried away on a breeze, children can "bend" to peer pressure, "flop" in front of the TV when chores need to be done, or even get carried away into unchristian behaviors. Fathers have the strength and sharpness to hold a family together, much like a stapler holds pieces of paper in place.

Related Scriptures:

Ephesians 6:1-4

Objects Needed:

Stapler, file folder, three sheets of paper, piece of masking tape, dark marker pen.

Preparation:

Give out sheets of paper and art supplies

On the individual sheets, write large so all can see, one stick figure. Write "Jonny" beneath the stick figure. Write "Samantha" and "Meagan" beneath stick figures you create on the other two

sheets. On the file folder, place a bigger stick figure and write the name "Mom." Place the piece of masking tape on the stapler and write the name "Dad" on it, and a stick figure if you have room.

Put all items on a table in front of you with children surrounding.

Lesson:

Today, we're going to study the Paper family. They're a family pretty much like ours. *Hold up the first sheet of paper that shows "Jonny."*

Jonny is twelve. Lately he's been approached by some bigger and older kids to come to the amusement park and "hang out" on Saturday afternoons. Dad and Mom have warned Jonny that the Saturday afternoon crowd is not for their family. Those kids have no chores; they're not expected to help their families. They hang out behind the rides, make fun of younger kids, and sometimes they even smoke cigarettes. Still, Jonny is tempted. The older kids are very cool, and he hasn't exactly been Mr. Popularity around

school. He's wondering if he should "sneak it" and go down there.

Hold up the second sheet that shows "Samantha."

Samantha is ten. She's a good kid, but she jokes around with her sister Meagan that she is becoming "addicted" to some Saturday morning shows on Nickelodeon. She knows she's supposed to clean her room, help fold the wash, and dust mop the floors on Saturday mornings. Her mom works, and logically, it is not fair that Mom should do all that work. Lately Samantha has been asking Mom why she can't do her stuff in the afternoon and why it's such a bad thing to sit around all Saturday morning, especially when she works so hard in school and gets good grades.

Hold up the third sheet that shows "Meagan."

Meagan is eight. She has a great imagination, but last week, it caused her to get in some trouble. She left the television on when some of her friends came over to play. A really harmless movie was on when she went upstairs with her friends. When she walked them down to the door again, a very different movie was on called "Chuckie." Meagan had always loved her dolls. But Chuckie was about a very evil doll. She knew she should turn the TV off or holler for Mom, but she couldn't help it. She just had to watch for a while. That night when she went to bed, she felt like all her precious dolls were

staring at her evilly. She was afraid to turn onto her side to sleep because Bestie, her favorite bear, was in the rocking chair, and she suddenly wondered if she could trust Bestie not to kill her. She had made a bad choice, and now the special gift from God, her imagination, was making her lose sleep and be afraid of toys she'd always loved.

Pick up the file folder showing Mom.

Moms have a lot of wisdom. Mom Paper had been the one to tell Jonny the dangers of going to the amusement pier—about the kids who hang there, and how they're irresponsible to their families and smoke and find lots of trouble to get in.

Pick up Jonny with the other hand, so you are holding both.

Jonny believed Mom; he knew she was telling him accurately about the park. Mom was great for insight, but Jonny kept looking for the loopholes. He wanted to be looked up to like these boys were. "Mom is so busy," he told himself. "She's all soft and fuzzy. She loves me a lot." *Open the folder and begin to place Jonny inside.* "She'll never know if I just go a few times... enough times so that everybody knows these kids want to hang with me."

Pick up Samantha while holding Mom closed around Jonny.

Mom has told Samantha many times that if she puts work before play, she will be able to enjoy her downtime more, because she won't be chronically thinking about all the chores that have to get done. Samantha believes Mom. It's just really hard to get started, and, like Jonny has said sometimes, "Mom is all warm and fuzzy. She tells the truth, but it's not always easy to get up the energy to do things the way she wants."

Put Samantha in the folder with Jonny. Hold up the folder, this time with Meagan beside.

Mom was really crushed when Meagan finally confessed to watching the scary movie. She and Meagan had always had fun pretending the dolls and stuff animals were real. In their games, stuffed toys were the lost boys of Neverland, and dolls were the orphaned girls of the book they'd read together, *Little Women*. That Meagan was afraid of them now just seemed horrible. Mom always told her, "Your bedroom should seem like one of the safest places in the universe. It's where you say your prayers every night. It's where you speak to Jesus and learn to hear Him speak back, and it's where many children come to believe that angels surround them while they sleep." That all made sense to Meagan, but she just couldn't stop imagining Bestie growing fangs and smiling evilly when she was trying to go to sleep.

Put Meagan in the folder and hold it up.

Generally speaking, a mother's love and wisdom "surrounds" a family and gives it more strength. Generally, moms are with the kids more, and they can hear great wisdom from her. And they also get some protection. *Shake the folder.*

What would happen if I dropped this folder?

Answer from students: The pages might fall out and blow away.

What can I do to prevent Jonny, Samantha and Meagan from "falling" into trouble—either bad friends, laziness, or illogical fears from the wrong sorts of imaginings?

Pick up the stapler.

Here comes Dad. Every family is different, but generally speaking, Fathers have more strength. They might not be available for all the wisdom that moms bring throughout the day, but they add something special. Sometimes it doesn't feel very special...sometimes dads can be a little harder than moms.

Lay the folder on the table, making sure the three pages are lined up inside right next to the crease. Position the stapler to make one staple about an inch out from the crease near the bottom.

“Jonny,” Dad says, “your mother is right in everything she told you. Let me add to it. I do *not* want you at the amusement pier on Saturday afternoons, especially not with that crowd. Your mom and I will help you find something else to do with other people, but if I catch you down there, you are grounded for a month.”

Hit down on the stapler, stapling the folder down near the bottom of the fold.

Ouch! That wasn't exactly what Jonny wanted to hear. He wanted to make up his own mind--even though he had to admit that he was torn about trying to sneak. “Well, so much for sneaking,” he thought and dismissed the idea entirely.

“Samantha,” Dad says, “your mother is right. Work before play, and we'll tape a couple of those shows if you really want to watch them after your chores are finished. But the new rule is ‘no watching of television until after you've completed all your chores.’”

Hit down on the stapler again and staple the folder up near the center of the crease.

Ouch! Samantha still didn't see what difference it made *when* she did her chores. Her dad wasn't being fair, she felt, but she didn't exactly want to get into it with him. And, she had to confess, at least now there wasn't any temptation to

interfere. Her chores got done quickly from then on.

“Meagan,” Dad says, “you are suffering the consequences of your actions. It may take a few weeks before the shock of that show goes away and you trust your toys again. There's nothing I can do to pull that terrible memory out of your head. New rule: You may not watch *any* television unless your mom or I approve of that show first. And also: Next time you leave the TV on when nobody's watching, you can't watch any TV for the rest of the day and night.”

Put a third staple in the folder, up near the top of the fold.

Ouch! Dad was being harsh. Meagan didn't understand about the electric bill or how much her dad paid, but it still seemed unfair. But three weeks later, just like dad said, she realized she'd been sleeping all night again with only a vague memory of that time when she thought her “best friends” were some sort of creepy.

Now, this family not only has Mom's love and daily bits of wisdom. It has Dad's power and strength to hold it together. Is anybody going to “blow away” now?

Drop the folder on the floor to demonstrate that the whole family stays together. Pick it up again.

Ephesians 6:1-4 says ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³ “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Sometimes that's not the way we want to do things. But on Father's Day, we can be thankful for dads. In many families, dads can be tougher: They're “sharper,” and their words can go straight through you and make you want to say, “Ouch, not fair.” But Dads are meant to be strong, and the things they do keep us from bending to bad behavior or blowing away from the family entirely.

Let's thank God today, Father's Day, for our Dads...

Concluding Prayer:

Father, thank you for the Dads we have. Your word says we should be glad for their strength. Help us to remember it, not just on this special day, but all year long. Amen.

Object Lesson & Craft

Drinking Straws & Crowning Dad

Lesson & Craft Capsule

Most young children think of their dads as very strong and powerful. They cannot believe they will ever be that strong and wise. The trick of “watching the snake grow” with the paper on a drinking straw lets kids see that it is possible. Following, kids can use drinking straws to make a crown for dad.

Household Object: Tall drinking straws that come inside paper (easily gotten at a convenience store); 1 for each child

Other Materials:

- Small cups of water, 1 for each child
- Silver duct tape
- Scissors
- Stick glue
- Paper towels

The following can be purchased at craft stores:

- Flexible, colorful straws, 15 for each child
- Pipe cleaners, of varying colors (easily purchased at most craft stores)

- 4th of July Garlands featuring stars, enough so that each child can have five 5-inch pieces
- Pom-poms matching colors of straws and pipe cleaners (if possible)

Preparation

Cut the garlands up into 5-inch strips

Lesson

Begin with only the straw in the paper on the table with the glass of water. Hold up the straw.

How much taller are your fathers than you? Lots taller.

Fathers are bigger than kids, not just in height, but in lots of ways.

For one, your fathers have lived a long time in comparison to kids. How many years older is your dad than you? Let them figure and announce.

How much have you learned in your life? How much will you have learned when you have lived four times that long? A lot. *So, how much do dads know?* A lot.

It's hard to think that you will ever be as big or wise as your dads, especially if your dads are Christians. They're

big on the inside and the outside. They're sort of like this straw that stands very tall.

Hold up the straw and, pretending it is a dad, have it walk about the table a bit.

But that wasn't always so. Here's what happens to Christian dads. They start out small—just like you.

Push down on the outer paper surrounding the straw so that it is accordionized and small. Hold up the accordionized paper.

When dads ask Jesus to come into their hearts, God starts making them wiser and wiser. God does this through the Holy Spirit. Sometimes the Holy Spirit is compared to water in the scriptures, so let's pretend this glass of water is like the Holy Spirit.

Take the straw, dip it into the water, place your finger over the top, and pull the straw out. Because your finger is there, the water won't run out yet.

Hold the straw over the accordionized paper, then release your finger from the top. The water will come out, making a piece of the paper elongate.

What happens when we pour water on the straw paper?
It grows a bit.

Put the straw back in the glass and get more water, dropping it onto the straw in places.

God helps dads grow bigger and stronger by letting his wisdom rain down on them via the Holy Spirit. This will happen to you someday. If you ask Jesus, into your heart, the Holy Spirit will start to make you big and strong and wise.

Let's try our trick together.

Pass out the straws in the paper and the little cups of water.

Push down on the paper of your straw, and when it is little and smooshed, put it beside the straw. Give them time to do it and place one beside the other on the table.

This is like you and your dad. He is big and straight and strong. You are little. But let's apply some of the Holy Spirit to ourselves and see what happens.

Show them how to put their finger over the top of the straw to make the water stay in it momentarily, then rush out over the straw paper.

If the straw is like Dad, and the piece of paper is like you, who is helping you apply the Holy Spirit to yourself?

The straw is, or in this case, "Dad" is.

The most important thing a father can do for his child is to raise him up in the way of the Lord. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Dad is one of the most important people in your life as far as making you strong and spiritual. Let's thank our dads

for all they do buy using more straws....and making him a crown so he can be king for a day!

Father's Day Crown Craft Instructions

- 1.** Cut pieces of duct tape for each child approximately 24 inches long.
- 2.** Have children lay the tape sticky side up in front of them, being careful not to get it caught to itself. As these are long pieces, children might have to overlap their tape strips on the table, every other child laying his closer to the center of the table.
- 3.** Mixing up the colors, give out 15 straws to each child.
- 4.** Have children adhere the straws to the tape so that each straw starts close to the bottom of one side and sticks straight up, passing far over the other side. Children should spread out their 15 straws so that they are a little more than an inch apart, leaving about four inches clear on either end.
- 5.** Cut a second piece of blue tape, also 22 inches long, for each child
- 6.** Help students lay the second strip, sticky side down, overtop the first strip and the straws so that it is an inch shorter at either end. Pat it down so that the straw ends are stuck in between them. Most of each straw should stick far up, like a point on a crown.
- 7.** Bring the duct tape around and attach the two sticky ends, one over top the other so that the crown is round.
- 8.** Have students write on the duct tape part of the crown: Proverbs 23:22 LISTEN TO YOUR FATHER WHO GAVE YOU LIFE.
- 9.** Pass out 15 pipe cleaners of different colors to each child.
- 10.** Have them slide pipe cleaners and garland into the straws. The pipe cleaners should stick out the top, and students can bend them or curl them around any way they want.
- 11.** Pass out 6 or 7 pompoms of varying colors to each child.
- 12.** Using stick glue, students should stick pompoms to the pipe cleaner tops.
- 13.** Students can bend the straws as desired.

When Dads appear after class, have students crown them with their crowns of glory!

Object Lesson & Craft

How is Dad like a Jar

Lesson & Craft Capsule

We're using empty jars to show how Christian dads like to be filled up by two things—the Holy Spirit and precious memories of their families.

The household object lesson doubles as a fun craft that Dad will love to open time and time again. It's great for kids old enough to write!

Note: This object lesson doubles as a craft, where kids are making their own memory jars for dad.

Household Object: Empty glass jar with lid
(note: a baby jar is too small!)

Other Materials:

- Clean, empty glass or plastic clear jars with lids, 1 for each student
- Curling Ribbon, multiple colors
- Different colored sheets of printer paper for memories
- Printouts of Father's Day scripture verses (included), 1 sheet for each child
- Wrapping paper, colors that match the curling ribbon
- Stick glue

- Pens
- Scissors
- Markers
- Candy Kisses, a dozen for each child



Preparation

- Because you may be spending a lot of time helping kids think of their favorite memories, you may want to create the side-ribbons for the memory jar in advance. For each, cut 8 pieces of curling ribbon, mixing colors, each between 8 inches and 12 inches long. Tie them altogether with a 9th piece of curling ribbon at their approximate center in length. Curl all 9 pieces so that they cascade.

- Cut all the different colored papers into 2-inch by 2-inch squares
- Take four of the squares and write on each a fun memory you had with your dad when you were a kid.
- Using a pen, trace the tops of all jars on the back side of the wrapping paper and cut out the circle.

Lesson

Hold up a jar with the lid on it. *What are some ways we can describe this jar?* Kids may say tall or clean or clear...the word you are looking for is EMPTY!!

This jar is a little like Dad was at one time. That was long before he had you. But then...you and your siblings were born! All of a sudden, Dad's life changed a lot. Dad got filled with memories!

I have some really fun memories with my dad from when I was a kid. My earliest favorite memory of my dad was the time ...say what your earliest favorite memory was. Hold up the sheet on which you wrote it. Fold it up in half and put it in the jar. What is your first great memory with your dad? Let them answer.

My most favorite memory of all with my dad is ...say what your favorite memory of all is. Hold up the sheet on which you wrote it. Fold it up in half and put it in the jar. What is your favorite memory of all with your dad?

Note: Make it a fun game to get them to go from general to specific. If they say, "Going to the movies," ask "Which movie was your favorite?" If they say going to see a baseball game, ask, "Which baseball game? Which summer? How old were you?"

My dad and I loved to laugh. The time I saw my dad laugh the hardest was....say what your memory is of your dad laughing his hardest. Hold up the sheet on which you wrote it. Fold it up in half and put it in the jar. What is the time you remember seeing your dad laugh the hardest?

My favorite Christmas or birthday present that I gave to my dad was really special to him and me. It was...say what your favorite present was. Hold up the sheet on which you wrote it. Fold it in half and put it in the jar. What was your favorite thing that you ever gave your dad?

Hold up the other things that you wrote about your dad. *These are other things I remember doing with my dad that have left fond memories.* Fold them all up and put them in the jar. *What other fond memories do you have with your dad?*

Let them answer. Again, try to get them to be specific. If they gave dad a shirt, ask "was it blue plaid?" "What color?" "What was the occasion?"

Christian dads often say there is only one thing more important to them than their relationships with their family

members. *What do they say is more important than that?*
Their relationship with God.

Hold the jar up, which is filled with all sorts of memories. *A happy dad is one that is full of memories that his kids enjoyed. Therefore this jar is getting more like a happy dad with every memory we add. But dads also need the Lord to be completely happy. Some of you may have dads who don't know Jesus, and others have dads who do. But it's all the same. Dads are most happy when they have God in their lives. So, we're gonna put some of God in our Dad jars...*

Fold your set of scriptures from the printout sheet. Read a couple, then drop them in the jar one at a time. *God is our heavenly Dad. He knows exactly how Dads feel. He wants us all to have a good relationship with Him and good relationships with each other.*

Proverbs 23:24 says, "The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise son will be glad in him." If Dad is going to have wise children, what does he need to be himself? Wise! And where does wisdom come from? God!

The last thing we're adding to the jar is the love which God gave us for our dads. Add 10 candy kisses.

Screw the lid on the jar and using the stick glue, fix the wrapping paper circle to the top. *Ephesians 1:13 says when we make a decision to love Christ, the Holy Spirit seals us with His love. Now this jar is really like our Christian dads...filled with precious memories, the*

Holy Spirit, the love of his child...Oh! I almost forgot!

Tie a curling ribbon bow around the neck of the jar with the 10th piece of curling ribbon. *Often a man is made better by the love of a good woman. At last! I have a great gift for my dad! Now it's my turn to help you make yours!*

Help the kids with all phases, but especially thinking up the memories. Keep working on their details, as this is what will make dad's smile broaden and his heart swell. When each child is finished, he should have 9 or 10 precious memories (or as many as they can think of!), 10 scriptures about parenting, and 10 candy kisses. Allow each child to eat two themselves...

Cut out the following scriptures to add to your dad's memory jar:

Genesis 18:19

"For I have chosen him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice; in order that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."

Psalms 103:13

Just as a father has compassion on his children,
So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD,
Or loathe His reproof, For whom the LORD loves
He reproves, Even as a father, the son in whom he delights.

Proverbs 23:22

Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Proverbs 23:24

The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice,
And he who begets a wise son will be glad in him.

Proverbs 29:15

The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

Malachi 4:6

"And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse."

Ephesians 6:4

And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Colossians 3:21

Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart.

Hebrews 12:7

It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

Craft

Love & Scripture Sunflower

These sunflowers with scriptures and words of love written on them will help Dad feel blessed and deeply loved on Father's Day.

Material

- 9" paper plates, 1 for each child
- yellow construction paper
- Brown paint
- Black marker
- Scissors
- Stick glue

Preparation

- Paint the center circle of the plate with brown paint.
- Fold yellow construction paper into three equal parts.
- With paper still folded, draw a petal onto the paper (see image).
- Cut out the petal through all three layers so you have three petals. Repeat this until you have ten petals.
- Have kids write on the first petal: Things I love about Dad
- On each of 7 petals have them write something they like about Dad.
- On the 9th petal have them write the scripture Proverbs 23:24: "the father of the righteous will



greatly rejoice, and he who begets wise son will be glad in him.”

- On the 10th Petal write Exodus 20:12: ““Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you..”
- Lay the first petal on the top of the plate (at the high noon position), lining up the base of the petal with the brown center circle on the plate. Lay the two scripture petals at the nine o'clock and three o'clock positions. Fill in around with the other seven petals, moving them a bit so that all ten fit evenly around the flower.
- Glue the petals down.



Discussion

Why are we doing a flower for dad? Aren't flowers mainly for moms?? These days, anything goes, and many dads love flowers. Dad's are a little bit like flowers. Their lives bloom bigger and brighter with each way we can think of that we love them. Let's be especially loving toward dad on Father's Day. It is a great way to remind him of how much God loves him...and it will help his heart bloom with love for God and his family!

Craft

A “Best Dad” Gold Trophy

This gold trophy for dads, made out of a paper coffee cup, will make all dads feel special on Father's Day. For a nice practical touch, it can be filled with thoughtful chore pledges or yummy candy!

Material

- Two large paper coffee cups (not foam or plastic).
- Poster board
- Gold craft paint
- Paintbrush
- Glue
- Black construction paper
- White or gold craft pen
- Stapler
- Candy kisses (optional)

Teacher Preparation:

Make a template in the shape of trophy handles. These will be curved handles that will extend

from the top of the coffee cup (trophy) to the base of the cup.

Introduction

What I'm holding here is a special trophy. It's special because it is for the World's Best Father. We know that we honor our Father, our Lord and God with our prayers and our good deeds. But we also honor our earthly fathers on their special day. Let's make a gold trophy to honor and show our love for our fathers.

Instructions

1. Use template to draw the handles of the trophy on poster board, and then cut them out.
2. Cut about one and one half inches off the top of one of the coffee cups.
3. Place this piece on the table with the wide side down. Staple the two ends of the piece together.
4. Cut a piece of poster board (or any kind of light cardboard) to fit the top of the cut-off piece and glue it to the piece. This will be the base of the trophy.

5. Glue the second coffee cup to the base.
6. Attach two handles to the two sides of the coffee cup. (Either staple them on or glue them on according to which works best.)
7. Paint the entire trophy with gold craft paint (or spray if preferred.)
8. Cut a strip of black construction paper about 2 inches high and 3 inches long.
9. Use white craft pen to write: "World's Best Dad" on the black strip of black paper.
10. Glue the strip to the front side of the base.
11. Fill the top of the trophy either with candy kisses or "chore pledges" for dad! For example: "I will take out the garbage." "I will clean your car." "I will walk the dog."

Craft

I Love You "This Much"

Directions:

1. Cut out a strip of paper about 18 inches long and two inches wide. It may be necessary to glue or staple several pieces to make it long enough.
2. Fold the strip into tight accordion pleats. Wrap with string to keep the accordion tight.
3. Make handprints on any color construction paper. Right hand and left hand.
4. Staple one end of the accordion paper to the one hand, and the other end to the second hand.
5. Write on the first hand, "How much do I love you, Daddy?"
6. Write on the second hand, "THIS MUCH."



Conclusion

Most every kid really loves Dad. God gave us dads so that we have ways to know what God is like. Genesis 1:27 says, "God created mankind in His image." We can know a little about what God is like by watching dads when they are at their best. Then multiply that by nine thousand zillion million...and that's how much God loves all of us!

When Dad shows us his love, remember to think about God's love. It's like that, only bigger! Know that Jesus always has open arms to receive your prayers and love.

Game

Dad Says...

This take-off on “Mother May I” for dads will not only teach students self-control, but respect for their elders as well. Students will test their listening and willpower skills as their leader asks them to do some tricky tasks.

Introduction

Celebrating Father’s Day means letting our dads, and uncles, and grandfathers know how much we appreciate them in our lives. It means taking the spotlight off of ourselves and giving it to someone else. This could mean going out and giving them some peace and quiet or spending time with them and doing something they love to do. We use Father’s Day and Mother’s Day as days of respect towards our elders. But is respecting our elders a one-day-a-year thing?

Instructions

1. Choose one student to be “Dad”.
2. Have the “Dad” stand in front of the class.
3. The rest of the class will stand up and face the “Dad”.
4. “Dad” will start giving directions.
5. Commands that they want the class to follow will have to start with the phrase “Dad says...”
6. Commands that they do NOT want the class to follow will not start with any phrase.
7. Commands should match the age group of the class.
8. Examples of commands are: retie your shoes, do five push-ups, high five your neighbor, etc.
9. If a student follows a command that does not start with “Dad says...” then they are out of the game.
10. The game continues until one student is left.

Closing

Proverbs 1:8 says, “Listen, my son, to your father’s instructions and do not forsake your mother’s teachings.” Let’s remember on Father’s Day that the way to win the game of life is to listen to all the wise words of our dads!

Game

Dad's Closet- Dress & Impress

This game will help students realize how incredibly busy dads can be...and it will encourage both respect and laughter!

Materials

- Three ties
- Three baseball caps
- Three men's jackets
- Three men's shirts
- Three pairs of men's shoes

Object

Students will have to race to “dress and impress” as they mimic their dads.

Introduction

God gave us dads to help us, protect us, and guide to become spiritual beings as we grow. But, guess what? Dads have an awfully lot to do! They're not just responsible for us; they're responsible for businesses and church groups and making sure lots of the bills get paid and helping out Mom. Here's a game that can help us appreciate how busy dad's are. Let's “walk in their shoes” and “dress to impress!”

Preparation

- Place a pile of dad-like-items on the floor two feet apart from each other

Instructions

1. If possible, split the class into three equal teams.
2. Have students form three lines five feet in front of the piles of dad-like items and two feet apart from each other.
3. When you say “Go!” the first student in each line will run to the pile of clothes and put every item on them as fast as they can.
4. They will then run back to their line and undress.
5. Once the three students have placed the dad-like items on the ground in front of their line, they must run to the back of their line and sit down.
6. Then the next student will dress themselves and run to where the pile was before undress and run to the back of their line.
7. The pattern repeats until every student has dressed liked Dad and undressed.

8. The first team to have all of their members finish wins.

Closing

It's also said that fathers "have to wear many hats," meaning they are in charge of families, businesses and communities. One way we can thank God for our dad's leadership is to remember each and every day to do what the Bible says. Proverbs 23:22 says, "Listen to your father, who gave you life!"

Snack

Fruit Kabobs & Dip

If dads are invited into Sunday school on Father's Day, here's a snack you and the kids can serve, that has a special meaning—about a fruitful family life!

Ingredients

- Strawberries
- Pineapple chunks
- Black berries
- Seedless grapes
- Lollipop sticks or wood kabob sticks, 3 for each child, 4 for each dad
- Strawberry low fat yogurt or yogurt fruit dip
- Bowl
- Tray



Preparation

- Cut the tops off strawberries and wash all fruit.
- String 3 or 4 strawberries, pineapple chunks, blackberries, and grapes on each lollipop stick in a variety of orders.
- Place fruit kabobs on a serving tray.
- In a bowl, place the yogurt or yogurt dip. Put it in the middle of the tray or just beside for dipping.

Discussion

Hold up a Kabob. If we think about it, this kabob looks a little like a loving family, doesn't it? Which fruit looks most like a dad? Strawberry because it's biggest. Which looks most like a baby? Grape because it is smallest. The pineapple and the blackberries look like older brothers and sisters, don't they? What is

holding this fruit altogether? The stick. Families have something that holds them together too. Can anyone think of what that is? Has anyone ever heard the old song, "Love will keep us together?"

These sticks are like love. We're all unique, different from our parents and siblings. But love holds a family together. For the most loving and successful family, one other thing is needed besides each other and love. Can you guess what that is?

Hold up the dip. Dip your kabob into the dip. We need to be touched by something special, something sweet, and something that will cover us and make us strong. We need to be touched by God!



Let's serve our dads and make a special commitment today to keep the Fifth Commandment all year. Which is the Fifth Commandment? Honor your father and your mother! If we show honor to dad, and surround ourselves in God's love, (dip the fruit again into the dip), we will have a very fruitful existence!

Snack

My Dad is a Homerun Cupcakes

These baseball cupcakes provide a fun chance to honor dad by using baseball terms to describe him...in his relationship with his kids and with God.

Ingredients

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 ½ containers whipped vanilla frosting
- 2 cups red M&M'S® or other red candies or sprinkles
- 2 12-cup muffin tins
- Paper cupcake liners (try to find red and white)

Preparation

Make vanilla cupcakes and ice. You can add the red baseball lines yourself or have your kids join in the fun.

Discussion

Most dads love baseball. What they don't realize is that life is a lot like a baseball game. *Hold up a cupcake.* We are like baseballs. We want to be hit out of the park—meaning we want a successful life! But how do we do that? Balls don't have any strength of their own. What needs to happen to them for them to end up outside the ball park? They need to be hit by a bat!

Just like balls need to be hit by a bat, we need to be struck by the Holy Spirit in our lives. Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth and the light; no one comes to the Father but through me." None of



us are strong enough within ourselves to get into heaven. We need Jesus to come into our lives and bat us into the outfield.

Christian dads have been struck by God. They are on their way out of the ballpark. Other dads can be struck anytime. How do we get Jesus into our hearts? We only have to... *ask!* In Matthew 7:7 Jesus says, "Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door will be opened."

Let's all pray for our dads on Father's Day, that God will hit a home run with them, and that we'll come following after.

Snack

Oreo Dads

On Father's Day, Oreo cookies can help to explain that we have two fathers; our earthly father who loves us, and God our heavenly Father who loves us too.

Materials

- Oreo cookies
- Tube of white icing
- Tube of chocolate icing with a narrow point

Preparation

Give each child 1 Oreo cookie. Have extras in case some are broken.

Instructions

1. Have the children separate their Oreo cookie so they have two halves.
2. If the separated cookies have bald spots, let the children patch them with white icing.
3. With the chocolate icing have the children write Dad on one cookie and God on the other.

Discussion

Father's Day is a day when we learn that we have two of almost everything. We have two eyes, two ears, two lips, two arms, two legs and we have two fathers. There's our Dad, who lives on earth with us, and God, our heavenly father. What do our earthly fathers do for us?

(Take answers)

They love us, take care of us and teach us right from wrong. Our father goes to work, doesn't he? And he can't always be with us and watch over us, and that's where God our heavenly father takes over.

What part does God, our heavenly Father, play in our lives?

(Take answers)

God our heavenly father is always with us. Sometimes we can hear him warning us not to do something, because it's dangerous, or urging us to help someone in need, and to be kind to one another, and like our earthly father He always loves us. But He wants us to grow up according to the things he has taught us in the Bible, and to love our fellow men. And most of all, he wants us to live with him in heaven after we die.

And that's why we made these cookies for Father's Day. An Oreo is really two cookies, isn't it? Half represents our earthly father who loves us, and the other half represents our heavenly father who also loves us.

Take from them both to grow big and strong! And now, let's eat both!

Song

Hurray for Dad (Good for Younger Kids)

Tune: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Fath-er's day comes **ev-ery June**
To **cel-e-brate** the **per-son whom**
Is my **friend**, my **guid-ing light**,
Who **helps** me **grow** and **do** what's **right**.
You're so **spe-cial I** must **say**:
Hurr-**ay** for **Dad** on **Fath-er's Day**

Song

I Have Two Fathers

Tune: Turley in the Straw

Oh I **have** two **fath**-ers and I **know** they **both** love **me**
One is **here** **before** me, and there's **one** I **can**-not **see**.
One is **up** in **hea**-ven and the **oth**-er **is** on **earth**;
One is **God** the **fath**-er, **and** one **is** my **Dad** by **birth**.

My **Dad** is my **bud**-dy, **and** we **laugh** and **talk** and **play**,
God is **my** cre-**a**-tor **who** will **hear** me **when** I **pray**
A **play**-mate **and** a **guard**-ian **and** I **think** you **know** the **rest**
I **have** two **fath**-ers **and** for **that** I **have** been **blessed**.

Song

Hurray for Father's Day (Good for Older Kids)

Tune: Hail! Hail! The Gang's All Here

- Hail! Hail to Fath-er's Day**
To **me** my **Dad** is **first** rate
And **one** who **I** ap-**pre**-c-iate.
Hail! Hail to fath-er's day.
Sa-**lute** (*All salute*) your **Dad** and **shout**
Hur-**ray!**
- Cheer! Cheer for Fath-er's Day**
How I **love** to **praise** him,
And **smile** when **I** a-**maze** him.
Cheer! Cheer for Fa-ther's Day
Sa-**lute** (*all salute_*) your **Dad** a

Parent Handout

7 Mini-Challenges to Help Your Kids Create a Great Father's Day Gift at Home

Fathers are notoriously difficult to shop for, which makes Father's Day a bit more challenging than Mother's Day. If you want your kids to have a great Father's Day present, maybe it should be one of those things that money can't buy. We have presented just that below, and the news gets even better. If you break this easy Father's Day project up over seven days, it will only require 10 minutes a day to create. It will help father love grow a little more each day.

Dads are more diverse today than ever before. There is no "mold" like the *Father Knows Best* icons of the 1950s. Today many dads bake bread, fold wash, and sit on the floor for hours molding Play Dough with their kids. Others hold more to performing traditional tasks but more dads than ever before hold positions on the local P.T.A. and coach kids' sports.

No one come up with a lot of common speak about today's dads except for a truth we hold to be self-evident: Six things every dad wants from their kids include love, admiration, respect, gratitude, good behavior, togetherness and great memories.

A homespun gift from the kids would be more appreciated than ever before, especially if it focuses on these six things that are important to every dad.

Our Mini-Challenges are 10-Minute Art Projects for One Week

During the week before Father's Day, ask your kids to take 10 minutes after school or before bed each day to create a page or two for *Dad's Father's Day Book*. Its contents can be as simple as pages drawn with colorful marker pens and crayons. If you are a crafty family, it can be as ornate as a scrapbook. Stay within the family budget and, most importantly, have fun for 10 minutes a day!

What each mini-project entails

With each of these seven 10-minute art projects, your job will be to provide the question, and then, *help kids think in details*. It's one thing to say you love Daddy. It's another to say you love Daddy because he mashes the potatoes without lumps or because his bathroom smells good like

cologne after he leaves for work. *It's the details that will keep dad smiling.*

The priceless of this easy and inexpensive project will be in these details. We will help you think of them each day, as you simply ask your kids to draw and write the answer to that day's question.

Start the Sunday before Father's Day. By Saturday, the day before Father's Day, your gift will be complete!

Mini-Challenge #1: Ask kids what they love about Daddy. Do not settle for "because he's the best dad ever." The key is the details. Ask, "What do you *love* that Daddy does best? It can be anything from rough housing on the bed to singing in the car. Think of some things before hand to help prompt if needed.

As with all these challenges, your kids can draw one picture or several, if there are several things they love about Daddy. For only children, you can fatten your book up by asking your child to draw two or three. If they like creating cartoons or graphic novel characters, let them have at it in their own way.

Have them write put at the top of the page: "One Thing I LOVE About Daddy," and at the bottom, write out that answer. The drawing should be in the middle.

Mini-Challenge #2: Ask your children what they admire about Daddy. Admiration differs from love in that it involves something daddy does that kids *would like to do themselves* someday. It's something Dad does that makes kids think, "Wish I could do that," or "Someday, I'm doing that!"

One funeral director's daughter drew a picture of a dead body in a pretty casket and wrote, "I admire Daddy for being able to stand beside a dead body for hours and not scream." Another little girl wrote, "I admire Daddy for how he twirls the basketball without dropping it while talking on his cell to his boss." A little boy wrote, "I admire Daddy for having shoe laces in his sneakers and pulling them really hard before tying them."

If you think beforehand, you can help kids out with these details. What has dad helped them with? When have you seen your child watching Daddy with admiration? If you don't get answers that are detailed, prompt them with clues as to those things, and see how the words come out of their mouths.

Then let them draw away and be sure to include headings and footers: I ADMIRE Daddy for... [answer at bottom].

Mini-Challenge #3: Ask your children how they can show respect for Dad. Respect and

admiration are sometimes synonymous, but not in this case. Here, respect means understanding some of the things Daddy wants and likes and seeing how kids might facilitate that.

Some examples of things dad likes may include the following:

- Taking a power nap at the same time every day (respect would be not waking him up)
- Watching his favorite TV show or sport uninterrupted (respect would be not interrupting to referee an argument and tiptoeing around the room when the show airs).
- Keeping his things in a certain place in a certain way. (Dads are notorious for keeping their wallet, keys, coins and business cards in a special drawer or spot on the dresser. Respect would be not going in that place without asking or putting something there if they see it out of place.)
- Having a favorite meal (respect would be not complaining if it isn't a favorite of the kids, understanding that Dad has a right to his favorite foods, too).

Many men are quite habitual. Think of your husband's habits and how your kids can show respect for those things. If you're not getting any

great details, prompt them with clues as to those items.

Let them draw away, and don't forget about headings and footers.

Mini-Challenge #4: Ask kids why they are *thankful for Daddy*. Thankfulness differs from love and admiration in that it specifically points to something that Daddy does that makes their lives easier. Is Daddy easy to talk to? Can he make kids laugh in times of frustration or sorrow? Does he pay all the bills?

Sometimes gratitude is easier for kids to think of because in many cases, Daddy brings home a lot of the bread or pays many bills. If Daddy pays for private school that is huge. One little girl thought of, "I am thankful for Daddy because he sends me to the dentist twice a year even tho I hate it." She *had* hated it until she heard that two friends down the street almost never went to the dentist because funds were too tight.

What does your husband do that makes life easier on everyone in the family? Think in those terms and then look for the details.

Mini-Challenge #5: Ask kids what their *favorite memory of Dad is*. This is the "togetherness" element of something that made them laugh. Often it has to do with a family vacation. Don't allow your kids to simply say, "When we went to Disney." Get them to think of

the details: “When I pushed Daddy in the pool on the Disney cruise.” “When Daddy screamed so loud on the roller coaster.”

It doesn't have to be anything monumental. In fact, if it's not it's probably better. Of all the things that happened on their family cruise, one little girl remembered, “when my dad woke me up one morning laughing his side of because the head dancer's name in the brochure was Steven Buget. (pronounced Boogie).”

Another little girl said her favorite memory with Daddy was watching Saturday morning cartoons. Her mom got her to think of *the exact names* of the favorite cartoons. A little boy said he enjoyed their weekly trips to McDonalds. After some prodding, the mother discovered the son most enjoyed *Dad sharing his French fries with me after mine are all gone.*

Kids can draw in just a few minutes. Take time before hand to go over the details and get them zeroed in.

Mini-Challenge #6: Ask your kids what good behavior they would like to work on to make Daddy happier. Of course the previous question on respect draws good behavior as well, but this is different. This is something that would not just make Dad content, but would make Dad proud. It can be improving a grade or learning a piece on a musical instrument by a

certain date. If you are Christian, it can be to follow a certain command of Christ better this year. It can be anything that would make dad's eyes shine with pride if kids set out to do it.

In this case, don't allow your kids to over promise and therefore end up with something on paper that is over their heads. Kids should not say, “Honor Daddy every day, like the Bible says,” which is not only improbable but vague. A better one might be, “Listening to Dad when he is giving advice, like Proverbs 1:8 says.” Strong writers might include the scripture, or Mom can print it:

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction

and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

They are a garland to grace your head

and a chain to adorn your neck.

If it is non-scriptural, don't just let your kids write “get along better with Meagan.” Get it down to “not yell at Meagan when she borrows my stuff, especially when *CSI Miami* is on.”

What is Dad fixated on concerning the kids? Is it grades? Their spiritual walk? Sports performances? Musical instrument exercises? Getting along well with other kids? Have your kids pick one thing they think Dad is interested in and make a promise to attempt improvement in

that area—something they can handle and that would make Dad's eyes sparkle!

Mini-Challenge #7: Put your book together, decorate it and wrap it. There are many ways to create your book, the simplest being using a three-hole punch and putting in a kids' report jacket. That should take about ten minutes; however you can go all out for this last part and take a whole day!

If you are crafty, you can mount the pages in a scrap book and add downloaded objects to the drawings with scissors and stick glue. Print some of the photos on your hard drive and use them either on the drawings or on separate pages. Add funny "saying bubbles," and don't forget to include a few words and a photo from the family pet!

Finally, on Father's Day Itself...

Make plans with your kids to create a *great memory* with Dad—a special place where you can give him his book. If Dad has a favorite restaurant, plan on taking him there if it won't train wreck the family budget. There are plenty of inexpensive places to take Dad. Father's Day can be perfect for a picnic in the park. A well-set table with the fine china and silver instead of the usual dishes works wonders for a special stay-at-home meal. The first "outdoor dinner of the summer" can be Father's Day if you can clean off the

picnic table. An arrangement of garden flowers or a helium balloon are nice added touches to a table that won't break the bank.

Plan on giving him his *Father's Day Book for Dad* at that meal. Take pictures that you can add later.

The primary goal of your gift is to make dad feel loved and appreciated—and create a great memory with him. You and your kids will have special memories all week making your Father's Day book, and dad will have a gift he will find himself looking at often—perhaps more often than he will admit!