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## *Bonus Learning Activities*

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**Father Says Game:** Instead of *Simon Says*, you could play *Father Says*. You could substitute acting out realistic directions rather than the typical silly commands.

- Father says clean your room (pretend to clean)
- Father says go to bed (lay down and pretend to fall asleep)
- Father says do your homework (pretend to do homework)
- Father says help your mother (act like they are helping mom with something)
- Father says stand up straight (practice good posture)
- Father says eat your pizza (pretend to eat)
- Father says brush your teeth (pretend to brush teeth)

**Dads Deserve Honor:** Revisit the characters used in the *Role Play Honor* game above. For each one ask the children to describe how their father plays a similar role in their family. For example, dad keeps the home safe like a soldier keeps the country safe. Ask the children to act out different situations where the father would be like these characters.

**Father's in the Bible:** Ask the children to look up Bible stories about fathers in the the scriptures. For each of these you could discuss the different ways the children showed honor to their Father. This activity is better suited for older children. Know your students and use your best judgment.

- Luke 15:11-32 “The Parable of the Prodigal Son”
- Genesis 47:1-11 “Joseph provides for his aged Father”
- Genesis 22:1-19 “Abraham almost sacrifices Isaac”

**Poem Recital:** Lead the children to rehearse and briefly perform the following poem for the fathers in your church during the worship service.

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# Father's Day Poem

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*For you on father's day what ever you celebrate  
Fathers have been here in times and seasons  
For you on Father's Day that's really great  
To remember you not just on this day but every day  
It's father Day today for all fathers who have been  
Here and gone Your memories live on  
Fathers enjoy your children, draw them near  
Closer to you inside the heart  
Because they may think of you today  
Pick up the phone, and dial and say!  
Write a letter. You may be surprised with the reply  
A very special love for you  
Joyful Father's Day*

*Just for you  
With all the grace of God's life to us  
Can bring on your special day  
Father's Day is the time for thoughts of quiet reflection  
Memories of the year have gone by  
A Welcome smile  
Father's Day is the perfect time to receive God's grace  
Ahead for the new day  
And may a wonderful beginning and joy God brings aloud  
Thank you God for all fathers  
Remember God our Father in Heaven and Earth  
Happy Father's Day*

*Poem ©By Deirdre Banda, used with permission.*

# Bonus Game Ideas (Easy Options)

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**“Father, May I?”** This game is a retake of an old favorite, “Mother, May I?” Kids line up on one side of the room while the “father” stands on the other. The “father” gives instructions to each individual, leading them across the finish line, slowly. Before the kid can step (crab walk, bunny hop or skip) forward, he must say, “Father, May I?” If he doesn’t he goes all the way back to the finish line. The child that crosses is first is the winner and becomes the new “father.”

**Find Dad’s Tie!** Before kids arrive, hide a tie in the facility. (A construction paper tie works well, too.) Let kids search for the tie. Whoever finds the tie becomes the new “Dad” and gets to hide the tie. You can play this game over and over again.

**Father’s Day Word Scramble:** Print the words “Father’s Day” at the top of a piece of page. Set a timer for 1 minute and tell kids to make as many words as they can with the phrase. Whoever has the most words wins a special prize. If you have a chalkboard, let kids write the words on a board.

## **Get Dressed, Daddy!**

*Supplies:* For this Father’s Day game, you need two suitcases and two of the following items: hat, tie, jacket, shoes, eyeglasses. You may also need masking tape.

*Prepare:* Use the masking tape to create a start and finish line on the floor. The lines should be at least 10 feet apart. Place one suit of clothing and one pair of eyeglasses in the suitcase. Close the case and set it at the start line. Divide the kids into two equal teams. Have them line up behind the start line.

*Play:* When you give the signal, the first child in each line will open the suitcase and get dressed. (The “Daddy” clothing will go on top of their regular clothing.) Then they take the suitcase and run to the finish line. When they get there, they open the suitcase and take off the Daddy clothing. With a full, packed suitcase,

they run back to the start line and the next child does the same thing. The first team to complete the task is the winner!

### **Pin the Tie on Daddy**

*Supplies:* Brown paper, scissors, construction paper, pen, pushpins and a blindfold.

*Prepare:* Draw a large “Daddy” figure on brown paper and cut him out with scissors. Hang the cut out on the wall at a comfortable position for kids. Cut out construction paper ties. Place the ties and pushpins on a nearby table.

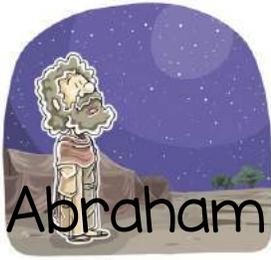
*Play:* One at a time, blindfold each child and hand him a pin and a tie. The goal is to see who gets the construction paper tie in the right place. The kid that places the tie the closest to where it belongs is the winner.

**Father’s Day Trivia:** Divide kids into several groups or select a few kids from the congregation. Give each child a mini dry erase board and dry erase marker. Ask kids or the groups questions about Bible fathers. For example, some could be “Which father had 13 children?” or “Which father built an ark?” Let kids reveal their answers. Kids that get the answers correct can move on to the next round. Keep playing until you have one winner. I use my concordance to quickly find verses about fathers.

1. Which father almost sacrificed his son in obedience to God? (Abraham)
2. Who was Solomon’s father? (David)
3. Who had twin boys? (Isaac)
4. Who was the first father on earth? (Adam)
5. Whose sons became the twelve tribes of Israel? (Jacob)
6. What was the name of John the Baptist’s father, who was silence by God until John’s birth? (Zechariah)
7. Who was Jesus’ earthly father? (Joseph)
8. Which father lost all his children on the same day but later received more children as a blessing from God? (Job)



Adam



Abraham



Abraham & Isaac



Boaz



David



Eli & Samuel



God



Isaac



Isaac & Jacob



Haman



Jacob



Jephthah



Job



Joseph



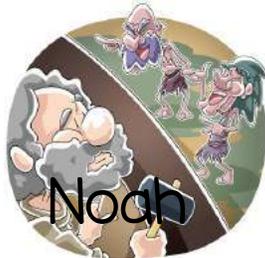
Joseph & Jesus



Judah



Lot



Noah



Noah's Family



Saul

B I N G O


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# Lesson Introduction

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Estimated Time: 15 minutes

OPENING PRAYER: “Lord, thank you for the fathers who point us to you. Help us learn from their examples as we strive to obey your word. Amen.”

ICEBREAKER TRIVIA GAME: “Fathers in the Bible”

Pass out paper and writing utensils to the children and ask them to number from one to eight. Then write the answers to each question on the board (in random order) so the children may choose from a word bank. Ask the class to write one of the names on the board to answer each question. Next, read each prompt out loud:

1. Which father almost sacrificed his son in obedience to God? (Abraham)
2. Who was Solomon’s father? (David)
3. Who had twin boys? (Isaac)
4. Who was the first father on earth? (Adam)
5. Whose sons became the twelve tribes of Israel? (Jacob)
6. What was the name of John the Baptist’s father, who was silence by God until John’s birth? (Zechariah)
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Review the answers and discuss the Godly qualities each of the fathers represented. Say, “Today’s lesson will focus on three specific fathers from the bible and how their obedience to God played a part in God’s plan to save mankind through his son, Jesus.”

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# Games and Lesson Introduction

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**Lesson Opening:** Here are a few potential activities to try in conjunction with a Father's Day lesson. Choose one or two to open your session, or sprinkle them in with the lesson itself, or after it. (note: most of these elements could be used at home or in a larger group setting).

Here are some activities to get kids thinking...(select the best ones for your audience and age group):

- Whose dad is that? Display pictures of several celebrities and their fathers. See if kids can guess which dad belongs with which well-known individual. Additionally, match pictures of students with their fathers (obviously, this is a bit easy if the lesson is taking place at home...)
- Patriarch parade...list several famous fathers in the Bible, and test student knowledge to see if they recall which went with individual sons. Make this a matching test, or for extra challenge provide only the father or son names. Consider fathers like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Zechariah (John the Baptist's dad), and Joseph (Foster father to Jesus).
- Have kids describe their fathers. Start with physical attributes, such as appearance or body type; but then focus on inner characteristics and qualities that make dads special. Encourage kids to name any male role model in their lives, in case biological fathers are not as involved.
- Mom versus dad...besides the obvious (male and female), how are dads and moms different? Invite students to brainstorm things that each parent does uniquely.
- Reflecting the Father...a lot of times, people comment on how our appearances or behaviors might be similar to our parents. Look at pictures or talk about traits that illustrate this. Discuss how our lives as Christians should reflect Godly characteristics, as He is our Heavenly Father.
- Enjoy some "Dad's" brand root beer, and have students take one for their fathers!

Discuss with students how God loves us as a Father. He invites us to call Him Father, and wants us to have a special relationship with Him as such. We are in His family, and that makes us brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Ask:** In what ways does God show Himself as father? How is he like our earthly fathers? How is he different?



# Introduction Game Time

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For early arriving students, we suggest a simple Bible Sword Drill game could be played using to look up the verses you will use later in the lesson.

- Proverbs 4:1,
- Proverbs 6:20,
- Proverbs 13:1,
- Proverbs 15:20,
- Proverbs 23:22,
- Colossians 3:20,
- Ephesians 6:1,
- Exodus 20:12

**Activity Option:** Father Abraham song and motions

Once the class is assembled you can introduce the topic by leading them in this silly song. The idea is to repeat several times with increasing speed. As body parts are called out they will need to be moved throughout the rest of the repeats!

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*FATHER ABRAHAM, HAD MANY SONS;  
MANY SONS HAD FATHER ABRAHAM,  
AND I AM ONE OF THEM,  
AND SO ARE YOU,  
SO LET'S JUST PRAISE THE LORD, RIGHT ARM  
[REPEAT ALL BUT THEN ADD THE FOLLOWING ONE AFTER EACH TIME]  
.... LEFT ARM  
.... RIGHT LEG  
.... LEFT LEG  
.... HEAD  
.... TURN AROUND AND SIT DOWN*

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