

“How To Honor Your Father”

Sunday School Lesson from Exodus 20:12



This lesson plan explains what it means when the Bible says, “honor your father.”

It’s designed for children’s church or Sunday school and would be a perfect lesson to use on Father’s Day.

The basic version of this lesson makes it easy to teach with very little preparation or outside materials. We’ve also suggested more activities so you can expand the lesson to best fit your ministry setting.

Bible Reference: Exodus 20:12, The Fifth Commandment

Target Age Group: Age 4 - 12

Learning Context: Sunday School or Kids Church

Target Time Frame: 30 minutes

Memory Verse: “Honor your father and mother.” Exodus 20:12a

Gospel Connection: Like all the commandments, only Jesus lived in perfect obedience. As children learn about God's standard of righteousness, the Holy Spirit will often convince them of their own sin. At those moments the answer is not "obey better" but look to Jesus. We can trust in his righteousness to cover our shortfall. Only his grace can transform our natural rebellious hearts to rightly honor our earthly and heavenly Father.

Learning Aim: After this lesson, children will verbally identify one specific ways they can show honor to their fathers (or primary caregiver.) Look for the *Learning Outcome Test* section in our *Basic Teaching Plan* below.

Target Age: Our super simple lesson plans are broadly graded and easy to adapt for a variety of children's ministry settings. Look for specific adaptations within the *Basic Teaching Plan* below.

Basic Supply List:

- A marker board or piece of paper attached to the wall to display the word "HONOR." This is used in the *Lesson Introduction* below.
- (Optional) Collect a series of hats or props to be used in the *Role Playing Honor* activity below. The children who volunteer to play each role will wear the hat as you explain the meaning of honor related to their character. Suggested props: Soldier's hat, pastor's neck-tie & Bible, school teacher's sweater-vest & chalk, judge's robe & gavel, a ball-cap for a school friend.
- (Optional) Instead of the list above, you could simply write the words for each character (or print a picture from the Internet) on a piece of paper and ask the child to hold it in the *Role Playing Honor* activity below.
- Think ahead a time when you did not honor your father as a child. You will need to briefly share this story during the *Gospel Application* part of the lesson plan.
- The optional activities at the end of this lesson may require additional supplies. Carefully read the directions while preparing your lesson.

Other Notes: In the teaching plan below the words in *italics* are meant to be read aloud. The regular text is simply directions for the teacher.

Be sensitive to children who do not have a father in their home. In such cases you can often substitute grandfather during the activity *Discerning Honor* below. If this is a challenge in your ministry you could simply refer to parents.

Bible Lesson “How To Honor Your Father”

Lesson Introduction: Display the word “HONOR” in your teaching area. Ask for several volunteers to suggest what that word means. Listen to carefully to their ideas and affirm their efforts by saying, *“That’s a good suggestion, who else wants to try...”*

Role Playing Honor: After a few minutes, explain to the kids that you will work together to discover what the word “HONOR” means. Ask for several volunteers to act out the following roles. As each child comes forward read the following text explain the meaning of honor. This is where the optional props are used. (allow for response)

- *Soldier: When an army soldier comes into a room what hand signal do people sometimes make? (allow for response) Let’s all stand and salute this soldier. This salute is a way to show honor and means that we know that soldiers are important people who risk their lives to keep us safe.*
- *Pastor: When a pastor begins to pray what do people normally do with their hands and eyes? (allow for response) Let’s all close our eyes & fold our hands like this pastor is leading us in a prayer. Our folded hands and bowed eyes show respect for the pastor & for God during prayer. This is like saying with our body that our pastor is an important person who helps use to know God better.*
- *Teacher: What are you supposed to do in your classroom to answer a question your teacher asks? (allow for response) Let’s all raise our hands together like we have an answer for this teacher. When children raise their hands this shows honor for the teacher because they have an important job helping you to learn.*
- *Judges: What do people in a courtroom do when a judge walks into the room? (allow for response) Let’s all rise to show the importance of this judge.*

This standing up lets everyone know that judges have important work helping the world to be a more fair place.

- Friend School: *What do you do with your hand when you see your friend across the park. (allow for response) Let's all wave to our friend together. When we wave our hand it shows that we're happy to see our friend. It means our friend is important because we like to be around them.*

Thank the volunteers for helping act out the characters and allow them to return to their seats.

Defining Honor: Explain to the children in your own words how *honor means acting out that someone else is important*. It starts with an attitude but it's also something that comes out in the way we behave around toward that person.

Reciting the Bible Verse: Read the following Bible verse to the children and ask them to repeat it as a group afterward. *"Honor your father and mother."* Exodus 20:12

- (Optional) We have suggestions for memorizing this verse in the optional activities below.

Discerning Honor: Ask the children to respond to the following statements. If they sound like good ways to show honor they should stand and salute the teacher. If they are not good ways to show honor the children should remain seated. You may want to create a few of your own statements.

- Giving your Father (or mother) a hug when he comes home from work. (YES)
- Asking your Dad to play with you. (YES)
- Getting upset if your Dad says he does not have time right now. (NO)
- Asking your Father to pray with you at bedtime. (YES)
- Pouting when your Father asks you to do your chores. (NO)
- Arguing with your Dad when it's time for you to do homework. (NO)

Say: In each of these, it's important to act in ways that shows your Father is an important person. That's what it means to honor your Father.

Gospel Application: Share a personal story of a time when you did not show honor to your Father. Talk about how that was breaking God's law and you needed Jesus to forgive that sin. Explain that Jesus had a father while he was on Earth too named Joseph. We know that Jesus was the only child to every perfectly obey his father. So Jesus can forgive our sin and help us become better children to our father.

Learning Outcome Test: Ask each child to silently think of one specific way they can show more honor to their father. As time allows, have them share their answer in smaller groups with your adult leaders.

Close this part of the lesson in prayer

We need your help! All the Bible materials on our website are open for improvement. Often our best ideas come from readers just like you. Simply leave a comment below with any corrections to this lesson or more suggestions that will help other readers.

Bonus Learning Activities

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.

Father's Day Poem

*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.

Craft Idea “Framed Handprint”

Materials Needed:

- Colored card stock paper
- Computer & Printer
- washable paint
- paper plate
- baby wipes
- picture frame (8.5 x 11 size)



Craft Directions:

I would suggest using a full sheet (8.5 x 11) of card stock; however, you can cut the paper in half, especially for very young children with small hands.

At the top of your document you will need to type: Happy Father’s Day to the best Daddy (or Dad if you prefer) ...

You will then want to skip several spaces down in order to have enough room to fit a child’s hand print. At the bottom of the page you will need to type: Hands Down! Love, Child’s Name, Date (See Picture).

You will need to print one of these for each child you will have. Another option is to print everything except the child’s name and then have the child write in his or her name at the bottom.

For the hand print: squirt some of the washable paint on a paper plate. You will need several helpers if you have very young children! Holding the child’s hand, place the right hand in the paint and make sure that the entire hand is covered. Immediately after getting paint on the right hand, place the child’s left hand in the paint and make sure it is covered completely.

Now you are ready to put the hand prints on the paper.

NOTE: MAKE SURE THE PAPER IS UPSIDE DOWN WHEN YOU DO THE HANDPRINTS!

Place the child's hand on the upside down paper and press them down, making sure their entire hand prints on are the paper. Set aside to dry.

Once the paint is dry, you can place the page inside a frame and allow the kids to take it home to their dads on Father's Day. If purchasing frames for all the kids in your class is out of your budget, you can always send the page home not in a frame or ask that parents bring in a 8.5 x 11 frame from home.

Fathers will have a great memory from their children that they can sit on their desk or night stand!

Bonus Craft Ideas (Easy Options)

These tokens of love and appreciation don't need to be too complicated. Just somewhat sturdy, in case Dad decides to put the gift in his personal treasure box of kid memorabilia.

Daddy piggy bank: I found an inexpensive source for small, plain piggy banks. I grabbed enough for each of my kids. We painted bow ties on the pigs, painted on his eyes and even other cool features, like an eye patch! Some kids left with painted piggy banks that looked like pirates, others tried their best to paint their banks to look like Dad. It was an easy craft that required some imagination and paint.

Daddy collages: I brought stacks of kid-friendly magazines to kids church like Parenting magazine. Each child received a small posterboard; this was the base of the collage. I asked kids to flip through the magazines to look for things that you would like to do with your Dad. If a child is an orphan or has a deceased father, it's okay to create a collage that honors Mom instead. Some kids found pictures of families fishing, picnicking, watching movies. Some kids drew their own pictures and couldn't wait to share all these good ideas with Dad. We cut out the pictures we found, arranged them on the board and then glued the pictures in place. Great fun!

Dad rocks: We made dad rocks from clay and rocks. Each child received a large lump of clay. After working it into a flat, round circle, we added stones that spelled D-A-D and pushed them in the clay. After they set for an hour, we sent them home in paper plates so they could dry fully.

Mugging for Dad: Lastly, I bought plain white coffee cups to children's church. I provided kids with paint pens. They decorated the mugs with sweet sayings or pictures of dad. We had to let the paint dry for a few minutes but these were wonderful gifts. I advised parents to handwash the mugs since the paint may wash off.

Bonus Game Ideas (Easy Options)

“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.

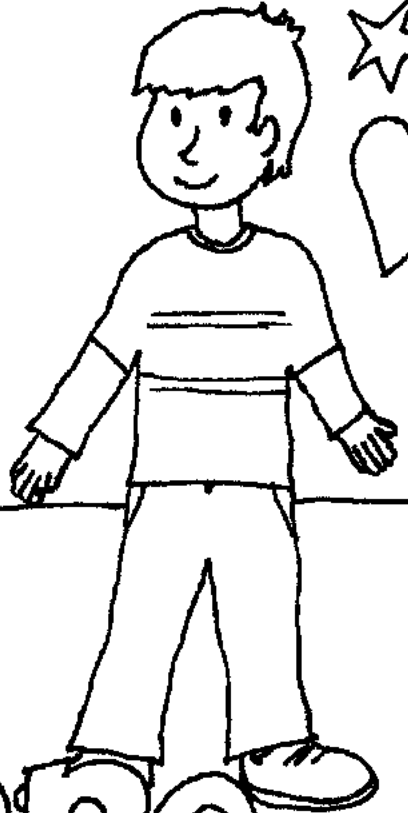
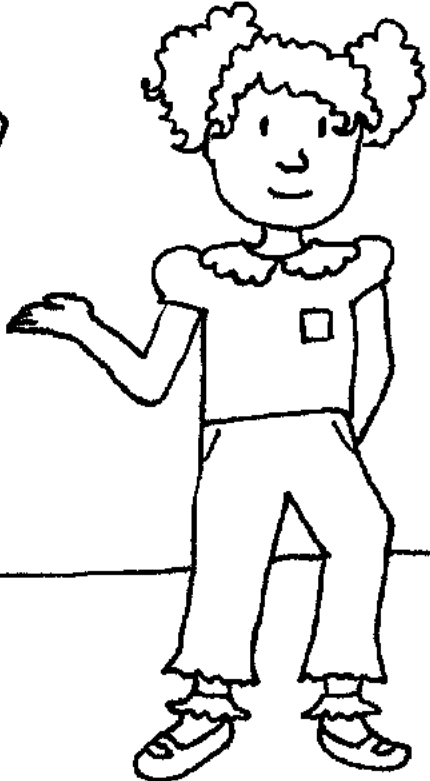
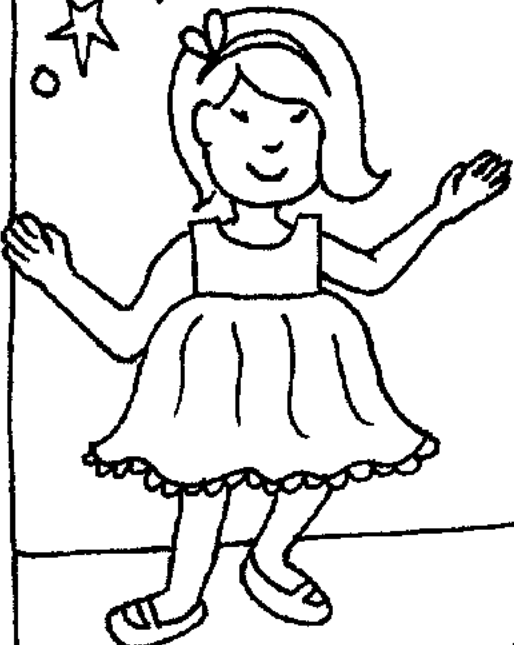
Prepare: Draw a large “Daddy” figure on brown paper and cut him out with scissors. Hang the cut out on the wall at a comfortable position for kids. Cut out construction paper ties. Place the ties and pushpins on a nearby table.

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.

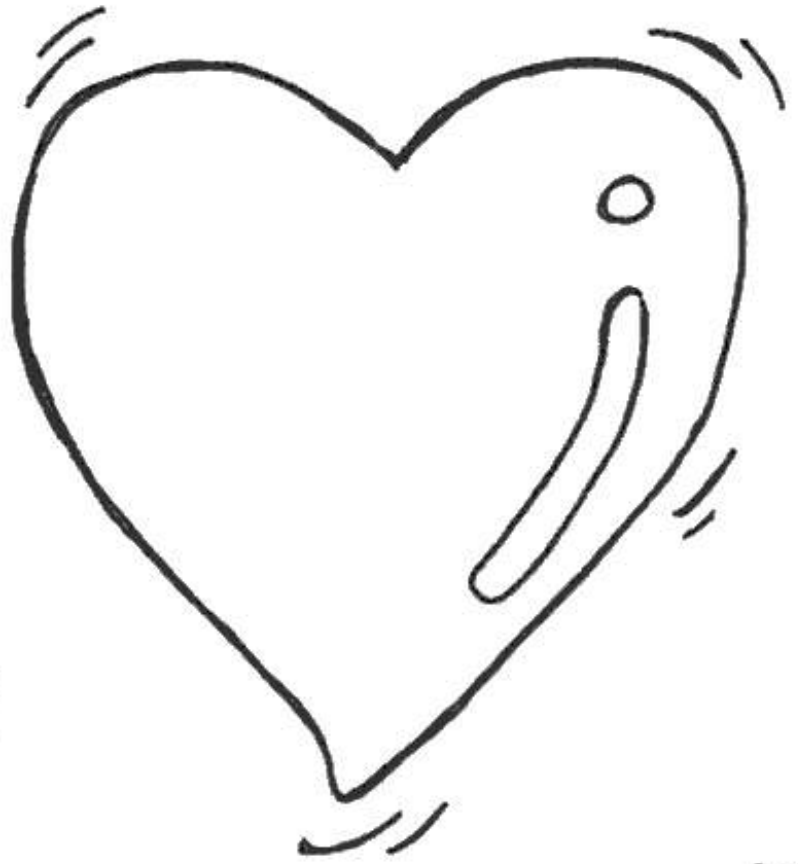
1. Which father almost sacrificed his son in obedience to God? (Abraham)
2. Who was Solomon’s father? (David)
3. Who had twin boys? (Isaac)
4. Who was the first father on earth? (Adam)
5. Whose sons became the twelve tribes of Israel? (Jacob)
6. What was the name of John the Baptist’s father, who was 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)

Good is the best



Father any one
you can have!

I



D

dad

i ♥ Daddy
because...



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Thank you LORD
for my Dad.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



Mandy Groce '11

ministry-to-children.com

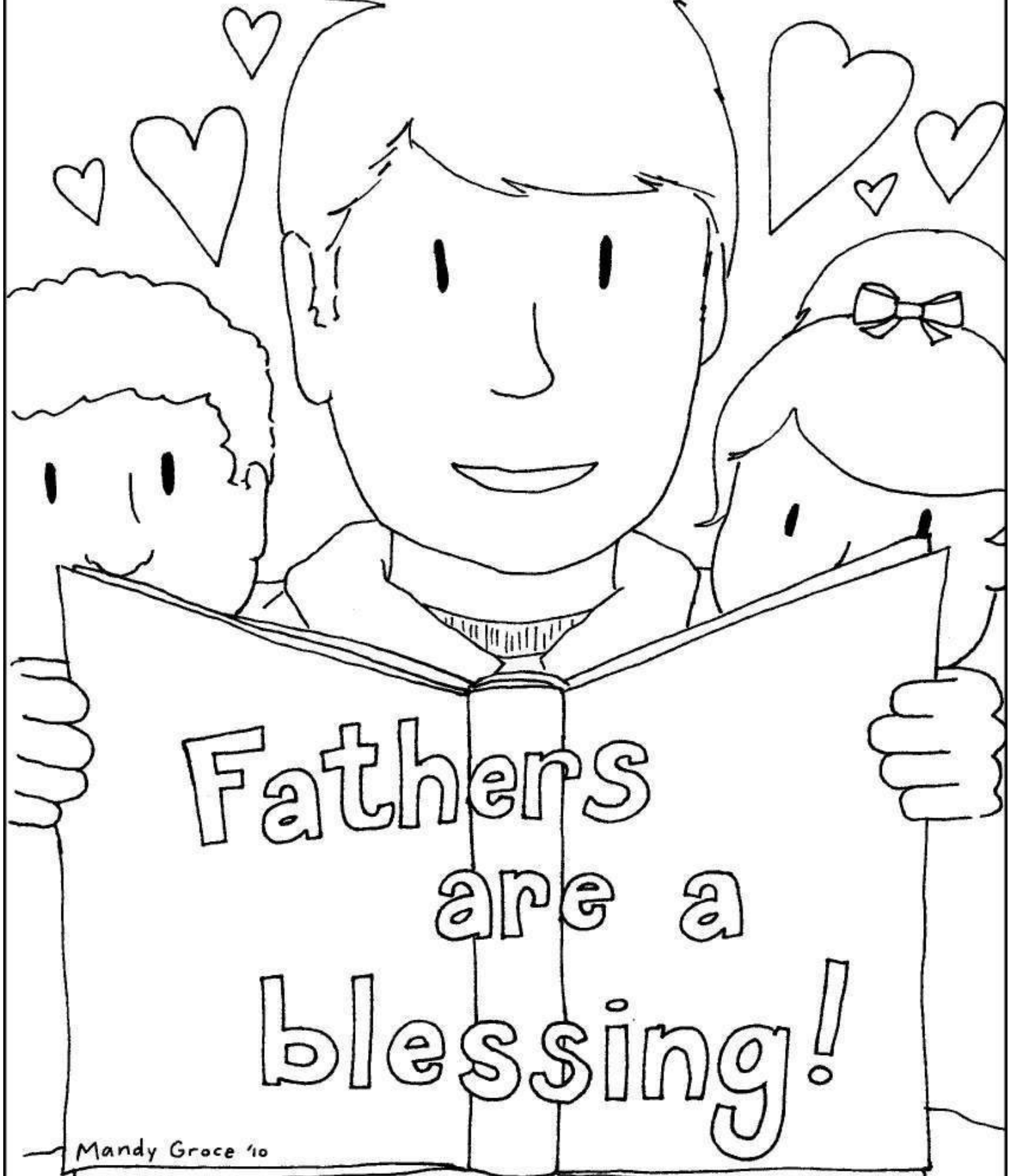
i ♥ Daddy
because...



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Thank you LORD
for my Dad.

Thank You Lord...



Fathers
are a
blessing!

Dear
God,



Thank
You

for my
Daddy!

“Great Dads Make Us Glad”

Craft Ideas for Father’s Day

Happy Father’s Day! While cards may not be as flowery or fancy as those we create for Mother’s Day, there are a lot of fun items that lend themselves to dear old dad. There are definitely abundant options when it comes to more “masculine” elements: tools, camping, golf, cars...here are a few possible suggestions to consider when coming up with fun and simple crafts for fathers. Add personal and creative flair as suits you, and have fun creating trinkets and presents for dads!

*Note: Encourage students to make items for another male role model, if biological fathers are not as much a figure in their lives.

Bible Verses or Craft Captions to Consider...

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. -Exodus 20:12

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” -Romans 8:15

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! -Matthew 7:11

Dad’s toolbox is full of wonderful things! Some of them include...

I am “tied up” with love...Happy Father’s Day!

Dad ROCKS! Thanks for who you are!

More Teaching [Ideas for Father’s Day](#) at Church

- Print our [Father’s Day Sunday School Lesson](#)
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- Download our [Father’s Day Coloring Pages](#)
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Craft one: “Dad’s Toolbox”

You will need:

- Construction paper or card stock
- Markers, stickers, or other decorating materials
- Scissors
- Envelopes or boxes
- Foam or felt pieces (optional)



Procedure:

1. Trace “tool” shapes onto pieces of paper or felt, drawing outlines of things like hammers, saws, screwdrivers, or other tools.
2. Cut out the various “tools” and add extra decorations, if desired.
3. Write on the “tools” positive attributes of dad, or turn them into coupons for special chores or time with dad.
4. Decorate the envelope or box/container to reflect the “toolbox” theme.
5. Place the paper or fabric tools inside the box/envelope. Deliver to dad for Father’s Day!



Craft Two: “Dad Rocks!”

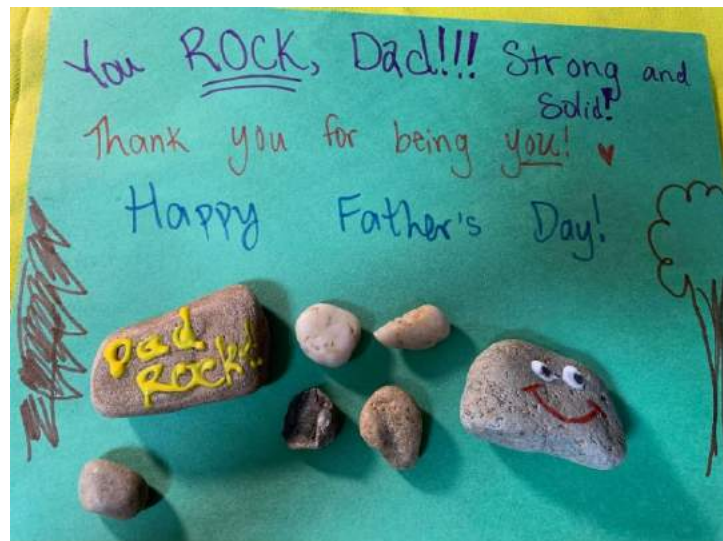
You will need:

- Craft rocks, or real stones (various sizes)
- Construction paper or fabric (background)
- Glue
- Puffy paint or acrylic paint
- Extra decorations (googly eyes, etc.)
- Permanent markers
- Markers or crayons (optional)



Procedure:

1. Choose a few rocks, in assorted shapes and sizes.
2. Decorate rocks with paint, fabric paint, or permanent markers.
3. Add extra decorations as desired, such as pom-poms, googly eyes, glitter, or stickers.
4. Decorate paper (or small bags or boxes) with captions and notes, and a “backdrop” if desired.
5. Place rocks within the “framework” of the decoration and present to remind fathers that “dad rocks!”



Craft Three: “Tied up Card”

You will need:

- Construction paper or fabric
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Extra decorations (stickers, glitter, etc.)
- String, pipe cleaner, or ribbon



Procedure:

1. Cut paper or fabric/cloth into the shape of a tie.
2. Decorate tie-shape as a card, adding captions, words, and messages.
3. Add stickers or other extra decorations as desired.
4. Attach to a small jar of candy or bottle of soda, or simply attach a string or pipe cleaner to hang as decoration.





These craft ideas were prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#), who serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO.

She has shared her teaching gifts through *Ministry-To-Children* since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.

Kristin has a professional background in elementary and pre-school education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May


2020. Kristin grew up in southern California and lived the past 10 years in Georgia. She is a long-distance runner and voracious reader.

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