

We All Have a Father

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON

Theme: Father's Day

Scripture: Psalms 68:5

Memory Verse: "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling." Psalms 68:5

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children's Sermon

Do This:

SAY: In the dictionary, there are many meanings to the word "father." Here are a few of them:

1. Father can be a man who has a child. (You might call him "your real dad.")
2. Father can be someone who begins something.
3. Father can be an older man.
4. Father can be one of the leaders of a city.

Sometimes a father could be your real dad. Sometimes a father could be a stepdad.

Sometimes a father could be a man who treats us as though they were our dad.

Sometimes a father could be a preacher, or maybe a teacher who teaches us important things.

Maybe you are a kid that has a wonderful dad. He does special things with you that you like to do. Maybe he takes you camping, or on special trips, plays soccer or football with you, or takes you shopping at the dollar store, or maybe to get an ice

cream cone. Maybe he teaches you how to do things like ride a bike, how to fish, how to play a musical instrument, or how to fix something. Maybe he reads the Bible or Bible stories to you and teaches you about God.

Of all the things he can teach you, that's the most important thing. But you know, sometimes kids don't have a dad that they ever see, or who they don't see very often. But, they might have a stepdad, a grandpa, another relative or a good friend that almost seems like a dad to them.

Like the dictionary said, a father can be an older man. In the Bible there's a story about an older man who became like a father to a young man. The older man's name is Paul, and the young man's name is Timothy. The Bible doesn't tell us anything about Timothy's real dad—it just tells us about his mom Eunice, and his grandmother Lois (II Tim.1:4-6). Those Bible verses tell us that his grandmother was the first one in his family who loved God, and then his mother loved God, and then Timothy loved God. We don't know where Timothy's dad was, but we know that Paul, an older man, wrote letters to Timothy and taught him about God. He was like a father to him. He even told him what to do when he had a stomach ache! He also told him not to pay attention to the people that were saying that he was too young to do anything for God.

There's another story in the Bible about a leader in the city being like a father. In that story, Samuel was a young boy when his mother took him to the temple (like a church) to be taught by the priest/preacher Eli. Eli taught Samuel how to listen to God. Samuel grew from a young boy into a very great man of God because he learned how to listen to God.

We should be very thankful for having a dad that loves us, or for having someone who treats us like they are a dad to us. That's what this day is all about. If you have a Dad that does things with you or not, there is one Father that has promised to always be with you. God is our heavenly Father. He will never mess up, never leave us, and never make a mistake. He even said He would be a Father to those who don't have a father. Isn't that wonderful?

In Psalm 68:5 it says, "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling." There were some words people used in the Bible when they would pray to God. They would say, "Abba, Father." Do you know what those words really mean? They mean "Daddy God." God is our perfect Father. We can trust him completely. He wants you to talk to him like you would with your dad or with a good friend here on earth. We call that praying. Praying is just talking to God like you talk to anyone else. He loves you so much. He wants you to love Him too. Why don't we talk to Him right now?

PRAY: Father, thank you for letting us be here to celebrate Father's Day today. Thank you for putting people in our lives that can be like a father to us. Most of all, thank you for being my heavenly Father. Thank you for loving me. I want to love You too. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling." Psalms 68:5

You'll Need:

- A Bible

Do This:

Lead kids in these steps:

- Read Psalms 68:5.
- Invite kids to pair up.
- Have kids read the verse several times to learn it, then take turns in their pairs reciting the verse back to each other.
- Encourage each pair to come up with hand motions to help them remember today's memory verse.

ASK:

- Tell about one way your dad blesses you.
- How does your dad teach you about Jesus?

SAY: Jesus calls us to listen closely, pay attention, and learn from our father's instruction. Let's learn more about that now.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A Bible

Do This:

Lead kids in these steps:

- Read Psalms 68:5 aloud.
- Invite kids to listen closely for things that sound like instructions.

ASK:

- **What is this passage telling us to do?**
- **Why is it important to listen to our fathers?**

- Read the passage out loud a second time. This time, encourage kids to listen closely for something new they didn't catch the first time.

ASK:

- **How can you honor God by listening and obeying your father on earth?**
- **How are our earthly fathers like our Father in heaven?**

SAY: Today we're learning about what it means to listen to our fathers, and more importantly, God our father in heaven.

Father's Wisdom

You'll Need:

- **["Father's Wisdom"](#) video lesson**
- **Something to play the video**

Do This:

Show them the video.

ASK:

- **What is something you've learned from your dad?**
- **What is one way you're like your dad?**
- **How does your dad show you the love of Jesus?**

SAY: Many of us follow our dads just like Jesus followed His dad.

Father's Necktie

You'll Need:

- **Tortillas - 1 per child**
- **Sliced cheese - 1 per child**
- **Paper plates - 1 per child**
- **Plastic knives**
- **Napkins**

Get Ready: Before the snack, have kids wash their hands.

Do This:

Follow these steps to make the "Father's Necktie" Snacks:

- Give each child a paper plate, a tortilla, a slice of cheese, and a plastic knife.
- Invite kids to use their knife to cut the tortilla into a square.
- Have kids cut the slice of cheese into the shape of a necktie.
- Use the remaining cheese and tortilla edges to decorate a "shirt" and "tie."
- Enjoy.

ASK:

- **What does the Bible tell us about fathers?**
- **How does God show us a father's love?**
- **What are some ways you can show your dad that you love him?**

Father Says

Do This:

Follow these steps to play the "Father Says" game:

- Invite kids to spread out around the room.
- Explain that you're going to play a game of "Father Says," which is played like "Simon Says."
- Whenever you say, "Father Says" before doing an action, kids should repeat it. If a child repeats an action when you don't say, "Father Says," they are out, and get to sit at your feet.
- Play several rounds as time allows.

SAY: You did a great job listening and watching during this game! Part of loving our fathers well is listening and obeying what they say. The Bible tells us to "honor your father and mother," and we do that today and everyday by listening, obeying, and loving our fathers the way Jesus instructed us to.

Virtual Lesson Tip

You can do this activity with the entire family.

Father's Day Roll-Up

You'll Need:

- [Father's Day How-to video](#)
- **Jumbo craft sticks - 8 per child**
- **Paper**
- **Markers**
- **Scissors**
- **Glue stick**
- **Ribbon**

Get Ready: Before class, cut the paper into quarters.

Do This:

To make the "Father's Day Roll Up" crafts, have kids follow these steps:

- Give each child eight craft sticks and invite them to decorate them using markers.
- Give each child a quarter sheet of paper.
- Have kids glue the craft sticks horizontally along the quarter sheet of paper.
- Using a marker, invite kids to list 5 things they love about their dad (using the craft sticks as boundaries).
- When they're finished, have kids roll the craft sticks up and tie it with a piece of ribbon.

SAY: Great job making this Father's Day Roll-Up. Take these home as a reminder of God, our ultimate Father, and all the ways your dad loves you just like God does.

Thank You Father Prayers

You'll Need:

- Father's Day Roll-Up craft

Do This:

- Have kids spread out around the room.
- Invite kids to hold their "Father's Day Roll-Up" crafts in their hands.
- Have kids bow their heads and silently thank God the Father for their earthly fathers.
- Close in prayer.

PRAY: Jesus, thank You for our wonderful Fathers. Help us to listen and obey their teaching and Yours everyday. In Jesus' name, amen.

Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

- Song: "Jesus Is the Living Water"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)
[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track
- Song: "To Be Like Jesus"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)
[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track

SAY: We give thanks for our fathers. Let's show God our love now through worship.

Lead children in singing "Jesus Loves the Little Children" and "To Be Like Jesus."

If You Have Extra Time...

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

- [Coloring Page](#)
- [Crossword](#)
- [Decoder](#)
- [Word Search](#)

Complete Supply List

- A Bible
- "Father's Wisdom" video lesson
- Something to play the video
- Tortillas - 1 per child
- Sliced cheese - 1 per child
- Paper plates - 1 per child
- Plastic knives
- Napkins
- Jumbo craft sticks - 8 per child
- Paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Ribbon
- Father's Day Roll-Up craft

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