**ADVENTURES IN FATHERHOOD**

**Who is the Winner?**
The father of five children had won a toy at a raffle.
He called his kids together to ask which one should have the present.
"Who is the most obedient?" he asked.
"Who never talks back to mother? and
"Who does everything mother says?"
Five small voices replied in unison. "Okay daddy! You get the toy."

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Sonora Dodd of Spokane, Washington, first proposed the idea of a father's day in 1909. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart, a widowed Civil War veteran who was raising six children on a farm by himself. The first [Father's Day](http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Fathers_Day.shtml) celebration occurred on June 19, 1910, because it was the month of Smart's birth.

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**40% of homes in American homes are fatherless. Over 30,000,000 children in America have no idea what a father is. And A GREATER number that don’t know what a good father is!**

***“My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me.”***

***-Jim Valvano (basketball coach and ESPN)***

**"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society."**-- [Billy Graham](http://christianity.about.com/od/glossary/p/billygraham.htm)

**Men love adventure. The most rewarding adventure is fatherhood.**

**God called Abraham to an adventure. It was fatherhood. He was not up to the task, but he was willing.**

**Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the big three in the OT, experienced failure as Fathers, yet God never forsook them…kept his covenant with them, calling them father of nations, and from their loins came the Christ.**

**Good news fathers: You have been specially equipped to do your job.**

**Learn from Him, for he is the perfect Father.**

**Fathers have failed by and large because they are unaware of the Father Nature that God put in them.**

**Other things than fatherhood have attracted their interest and attention. This is their downfall and their dysfunction.**

**Wrong focus**

**Money Sports Success Worldly ambition, Pleasure, Fame**

**Right focus**

**Great husband, Dedicated father, Blessing your Children,**

**Teacher, Instill virtue, Be kind daily, Pray, have faith**

**Paul said, “Don’t let the world squeeze you into it’s mold.”**

**In movies, Television, and culture…men and fathers are bumbling, clueless, predatorial, selfish, violent, and unnecessary.**

**Who you really are….**

**Created in God’s image, Equipped, Blessed, Capable, Anointed Favored, Crowned, Filled, Righteous**

**One night a father overheard his son pray:**

**Dear God, Make me the kind of man my Daddy is.**

**Later that night, the Father prayed, Dear God,**

**Make me the kind of man my son thinks I am.**

**If you turn on the TV and the channel, “Not good enough” pops up, would you watch it? What about, “Lousy Father” “I’m too busy for my family” or “I’m an idiot”**

**Or you flip the channel to, “I give up.”**

**Of course not. That’s what a remote is for. Turn it over to a channel that will help you. Put these on your favorite channels: “I am well able” “I am an excellent father” “ I am a superb husband.” “I make family a priority” “I love my family and my family loves me.”**

**But you don’t know how bad I’ve messed up, how many times I’ve blown it as a father. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all messed up.**

**We’ve all messed up to one degree or another.**

**How can I be forgiven? I’m so far from perfect. Yes, but we have a perfect God has perfect love and perfect forgiveness.**

**In the Bible there are no perfect fathers…most are examples of what not to do. There is one….our heavenly father that Jesus revealed.**

**Jacob was a rebellious child, and his children after him were rebellious. Yet God promised him salvation in spite of his flaws. He didn’t stop loving him, and he didn’t revoke the covenant.**

**But pastor you don’t know, I’ve failed so many times. Listen, you will never exhaust the mercy, patience, and grace of God.**

**Number one on Jesus’ agenda: Show his disciples God’s true nature…a good, loving, promise keeping Father who has a tremendous plan for our families.**

**His relationship with a good, good, father was Jesus’ best evangelistic tool.**

**Your job fathers, is to represent to the family the true nature God—He is your loving heavenly Father.**

**Fathers, don’t make your children earn everything and only experience your criticism.**

**Let this outweigh everything:**

**Your encouragement, your approval, your patience, and your unconditional love.**

**I heard the testimony of a man who said when he was a child his daddy would tuck him in. One time he was still afraid and needed extra comfort. He called to his dad in the next room… “Dad, is your face turned toward me?” He said, “Yes son.”**

**Fathers, families, men, women, children, God’s face is turned toward you. You are safe within his gaze. It isn’t a look of disapproval, but of acceptance and encouragement. He won’t turn away when you blow it and feel like giving up. He calls you up a little higher to something better and something redemptive….to live in his love and his favor, his forgiveness and discipline…..then pass it on to the rest of your family.**

**It is my hope that my son, when I am gone, will remember me not from the battle field but in the home repeating with him our simple daily prayer, 'Our Father who art in Heaven.'**

**--General Douglas Macarthur**