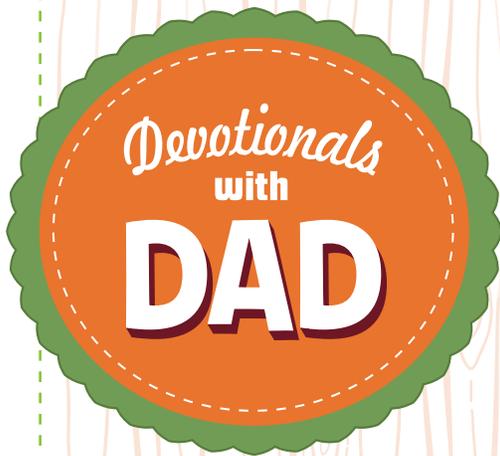


Devotionals
with

DAD





As your family prepares to celebrate Father's Day, here are **7 short reflections** that you can share together about what it means to be a family! These short Bible readings, reflections, questions and prayers are perfect for dads to lead. Learn about how God made us to love and respect our parents, and how God is our Heavenly Father!



DAY 1: TRUSTING OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Genesis 21:1-7



Can you remember the best moment of your life, a time when you were so happy you wanted to laugh and jump and fist pump all at the same time? Well, one of the best times in Abraham's life was the birth of his son, Isaac. Now, people who are one hundred years old don't usually have children. But Abraham knew that even though he was old, he would still have a son, because after all—God had promised! And since God promised, Abraham trusted him. He trusted, even though he had to wait for almost 15 years after God's promise before Isaac was born. But do you know what happened when Isaac was born? Abraham saw his son, and he felt the most incredible joy, the deepest kind of happiness—the kind that only God can give—and he laughed. He laughed as a proud father filled with joy, overwhelmed by the sight of his baby boy. And the joy he felt in that moment meant so much, he decided that he never wanted to forget it, and so he named his son Isaac. Do you know what Isaac means in Abraham's language? Isaac is a name that means "laughter!" From that day forward, Abraham would remember that when his Heavenly Father made a promise, he would always keep it.



1. What are some of the promises God has made us? The Bible says that the Lord kept his promise by giving Abraham and Sarah a son. Do you ever find it hard to trust in the Lord's promises? Why?
2. Do you ever have a hard time keeping your own promises? What makes it so hard sometimes?



Pray: God always keeps his promises, but people make mistakes. Take a moment to pray that God will help you trust in his promises, and that he will help us to keep the promises that we make.

DAY 2: CALLED TO OBEY

Exodus 20:12



“Can you please clean up your room?” “You have to do your homework before you can watch TV.” “Are you ready for bed?” What do you feel when you hear these things? When your dad asks you to do something, do you listen? Sometimes it’s hard to listen and obey, especially if you’d rather be playing soccer, riding a bike, or watching TV. But did you know that obeying your parents is important to God? It’s so important that when he gave his people the Ten Commandments, obeying parents was one of the commandments! God gave Israel the Commandments when they were in the wilderness, after he delivered them out of slavery in Egypt. God knew, that learning to obey their earthly fathers would teach them to obey their Heavenly Father too. So God told them to listen to their parents—but not just any kind of listening, or doing what they ask as if they were robots. No, God wanted them to honor their parents, too, which means that in their hearts, they loved their parents and wanted to obey. And God still wants the same thing from us today! He wants us to love and obey our earthly father as we learn how to love and obey our Heavenly Father—and he gave us the Holy Spirit so we can do just that!



1. Think of a time it was hard for you to obey your mom or dad, like when they asked you to take out the trash or clean your room. Why was it hard?
2. Do you think it’s important to obey your mom and dad? Why?



Pray: Sometimes it’s hard to obey parents. Pray together that God will help your mom and dad as they teach you to follow God’s Word, and pray that God will help you to have a heart that is happy to obey!

DAY 3: A FATHER’S DISCIPLINE

Hebrews 12: 7-10



Have you ever had a time out or been sent to the principal’s office? Getting in trouble is no fun. In fact, sometimes it just plain stinks! The first Christians to read the book of Hebrews sure thought so—they thought that getting in trouble was so awful that sometimes they wanted to quit on their faith altogether! But God saw that they were discouraged, and he had someone write them a letter telling them to keep on! And what did that writer say? He reminded them that even though they were supposed to obey their Heavenly Father, they didn’t always do it. And when that happens, the result is a lot like it is at home. That’s why a dad disciplines his children—to move their hearts into the right place and help them grow in wisdom. In the same way, when someone disobeys their Heavenly Father, he works to move their hearts into the right place. But you know what—that’s good news! It means that even on our worst day, when we’ve done the worst things and we feel so bad about it, we know that God won’t leave us alone to our sin—he’ll put our hearts right, and he’ll never leave or forsake us.



1. What are some of the hard things about consequences, the things that you don’t like?
2. What are some of the good things that consequences can bring—how does discipline change your heart?



Pray: It’s never fun getting in trouble, but when our hearts are in the wrong place sometimes getting in trouble is the only thing that will help. Pray together that God will keep your heart in the right place so that you won’t have to get in trouble in the first place!

DAY 4: A FATHER'S DAY GIFT

Proverbs 23: 24-25



On Father's Day, does your family cook your dad breakfast? Do you get him a card or wish him a Happy Father's Day? All of those things are great, but there's also another gift that will last even longer than breakfast or a card! In Israel there was a king named Solomon who knew what the best gift was! He said that for a gift that will last, you should strive to live life with wisdom. Wisdom means learning to live God's way, and when we live God's way, we honor our parents. There are lots of places to find out what it means to be wise. You can find it in the Bible and by watching your dad as he follows God's way. God knows, though, that even if we had all the wisdom in the world we would still make mistakes—just like Solomon, and just like your dad, and his dad, and his dad, and—well, you get the point! Jesus lived God's way perfectly—he never made a single mistake! And the good news is that we all get to be part of that today! When we accept what Jesus did for us—giving his life so we can join God's family—he changes our hearts so we can live God's way, too! It doesn't mean we won't make mistakes, but as we start learning how to live God's way, the Holy Spirit works in us and helps us do it, so that each day, as we become more like Jesus, we also become a Father's Day gift that will last forever as we bless our parents through our lives and wisdom.



1. Is it ever hard to live God's way? Why?
2. Ask your dad about how he learned to live God's way—what has it been like? Has it been easy or hard?



Pray: Learning to live God's way takes a lifetime. Pray together that God will teach you his way, and that he will help you to learn from others, as well.

DAY 5: A FATHER LOVES ALL HIS CHILDREN

Matthew 2: 13-15



When we love something, how do we treat it? If it's a person, we treat them with respect and kindness and go out of our way to let them know how much we care. If it's a book or a toy or a movie, we may play, read or watch it over and over again. If it's a food, we may want to eat it all the time! When Jesus was born into an earthly family, he was loved very much! Joseph knew that his wife, Mary, had a baby that wasn't his - it was a gift from God! You know who that baby was, of course—his name is Jesus, and while he was on earth, Joseph raised Jesus as if he was his own son. Jesus had other brothers, too, but that didn't make him any less special to Joseph. Joseph still watched over him, cared for him, and provided for him while he was young, just like Joseph would've done for any of his other kids. It's important for dads to do the same thing today, watching over each of their kids, loving them all with the same kind of wonderful love, whether they were born first or last, play sports or read books, make lots of mistakes or do most things right. God wants dads everywhere to love their kids just as much as he loves them, loving each one with the most wonderful love they can imagine. In fact, God wants all of us to love our families, our friends, and our neighbors and show them the same love God gives to us!



1. God loves all his children, no matter what! Is it ever hard for you to believe that?
2. What are some ways that you and your family can remind each other how much you love each other no matter what?



Pray: Even though God loves us no matter what, sometimes it's easy to forget that. It can also be easy to forget that families are supposed to love each other no matter what, too! Pray together that God will show you how to remind each other of his love for you and your love for each other every day.

DAY 6: A FATHER'S BLESSING

Genesis 48: 14-16



What's the most important thing that your dad has? Is it his family? Is it his car? Is it his job? Even though those things are great, the most important thing your dad has is even better. And it's something that Jacob in the book of Genesis also knew was important—it's his relationship with God. When Jacob's kids grew up and started having kids of their own, he started gathering them around him so he could bless them. In other words, he wanted to make sure they knew God the way he did, and then he wanted to pray a special prayer over them about how he hoped God would help them throughout their lives. He reminded them that this was same thing his father Isaac had done, and Isaac's father Abraham before that. It was a great—and important!—tradition for God's people, and it's similar to what still happens almost everyday when your dad prays for you! And what did Jacob pray for his family? That God would guide them all their lives, and that even when they got lost, God would always find them and bring them closer to him—and that's exactly the kind of prayer that God loves to answer!



1. Out of all the things a person can have, their relationship with God is the most important thing. Why is having a relationship with God the most important thing anyone can have?
2. Jacob prayed that God would walk with his children and grandchildren. What are some things that you pray for your family?



Pray: Dads, take some time to pray over your kids out loud. In addition to what you usually pray, take some time to bless them with what you hope God will do for them as they grow up.

DAY 7: A FATHER'S PROVISION

Matthew 7:7-11



What did you put on your Christmas list last year? Toys? Games? Movies? When Christmas comes around, we all ask for gifts and give gifts away. And sometimes mom and dad can get their kids what they want. Every dad knows, though, that he can't always give his kids what they want—that wouldn't just be impossible, it could also make their kids spoiled! But what do parents do when their kids ask them for some food for dinner? Or when they ask for markers to use at school? Or when they ask for a Bible they can read before bed? When their kids ask for something that they need, something that is good for them, parents try to go out of their way to make sure that their kids have it! Now, do you know what Jesus said about that? He said that as much as earthly dads want to give their kids what they need, our Heavenly Father wants to give his kids what they need even more! It doesn't mean he will always give his kids what they want. After all, like we noticed earlier, that would just make them spoiled. But it does mean that God gives his kids what they need, especially what everyone needs most—to know God, truly and deeply, through the work of his Son, Jesus Christ.



1. Why don't your parents just give you everything that you want? What do you think it would be like if you got everything you wanted?
2. The biggest need we have is to know God. What are some ways your family helps you grow in your knowledge of God? What are some new things you can do to know God better?



Pray: Knowing God is the most important thing ever, but sometimes we forget to make God a priority. Pray together that no matter how busy life gets, you will always make knowing God the highest priority in your family.