

Father's Day



While Father's Day is a secular (or what we like to call a "Hallmark") holiday, many churches like marking the day by honouring fathers, uncles, grandpas, and male mentors within our congregations and faith communities. It is also following a biblical command to "Honour your father (and mother)". Obviously, we are called to do this EVERY day, but why not remind ourselves by marking the occasion in a special way?

Before choosing how to mark the occasion, consider the pastoral needs of those in your particular faith community. Father's Day can be a bit prickly as we aim to be sensitive to those who have experienced poor examples, absent fathering, or those who desire to be fathers. When we remember that we are honouring God with our worship service and that He promises to perfectly be our Father in all the ways a human might fall short, then we may be able to find some common ground.

Make the Day Inclusive

It is important to be conscious that Father's Day is painful for some people. Some cannot bear to come to church on Mother's and Father's day because their struggles and hurts make them feel invisible. Infertility, loss, broken families, abandonment and abuse are some of the issues that people in your church and community may be facing that can make Father's Day a difficult time. Don't shy away from this, but try to include some space where you can give recognition to the mixed feelings that can be present in people on this day. Prayer, honest reflection and contemplative space at an appropriate time in the service can help to include and value those who are struggling.

We've been busy collecting some Father's Day ideas for you. All you need to do is click on the links displayed!

Be sure to take a peek at our [Pinterest page](#) for more ideas!

Ideas for All-Age Services and More...

Check out these wonderful resources from our Aussie cousins (thanks Chris Barnett, the Uniting Church of South Australia and BRF). These may not perfectly fit your worship style, but they are full of great ideas so feel free to "pick and mix".



1. An Intergenerational Worship Resource for Father's Day, King for a Day, and Dads and Heroes can be found:
<http://sa.uca.org.au/intergen/church-resources/all-age-worship/all-age-church-season-worship/families> (Multi-age service, UCASA)
2. [Father's Day celebration](#) (Multi-age Service, BRF)
3. [Father Abraham](#) (Multi-age Service, BRF)



Crafty Ideas...

We like this "arrow activity" from the "Father's Day" intergenerational service from UCASA for your children's programme or Messy Church.

1. Read the background on arrows from page 10 of [Father's Day](#).
2. Present this information in a way that is accessible for your group/time allotment.
3. Create a quiver (pg. 11) of arrows using straws or pens. If you use plastic pocket protectors, then they can be personalised for each dad/special person.

Children who are born to a young man are like arrows in the hand of a warrior. Happy is the man who has his bag full of arrows. Psalm 127:3-5 (NCV)



Father's Day Crafts and Activities...

Quick ideas to organise:

<http://childrensministry.org.au/2011/08/last-minute-ideas-for-fathers-day/>

Poems, stories, sayings, recipes, crafts and more:

<http://www.loveyoufather.com/>

Lots of craft ideas here: <http://pinterest.com/redambition/father-s-day-ideas/>

And here: <http://ministry-to-children.com/category/fathers-day-ideas>



Father's Day Videos...

Some good short "Kiwi" home grown productions and other recommendations from our churches:

Tips for Dad:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZvcSAqSODM&feature=related>



Dad I'm Watching You: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htgPh3DalmM>

Watching You: A "blokey" video about a son imitating his dad by country singer Rodney Atkins, 4 mins:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSx98jbt37Y&feature=player_detailpage

A Father's Love – the World's Strongest Dad: A father takes disabled adult son in marathons and Iron man competitions because his son asked him to. You could just show the first 5mins as the second 5mins is video of their competitions set to a Christian song. Once you go to this clip there are many other variations of the same story: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ax4VIVs-qsE&feature=fvwrel>



Some prayers for Fathers...

Prayer 1

God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless those fathers who have taken upon themselves the responsibility of parenting. Bless those who have lost a spouse to death or divorce, who are parenting their children alone. Strengthen them by your love that they may become the loving, caring persons they are meant to be. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Prayer 2

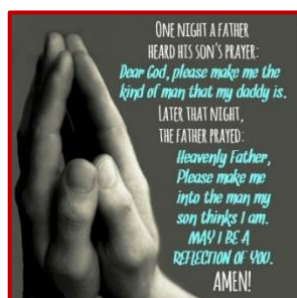
God, bless all the fathers in the world. Guide them to be good role models and loving to all their children. Help them to be a father made in your image. Give them grace and patience to handle situations in a loving way. Amen!

Prayer 3

Fathers everywhere, we honour you and wish to say: may God's blessings be with you, may God's blessings be with you in a special way today!

Prayer 4

God our Father, bless these men that they may find strength as fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honour them always with a spirit of profound respect. Amen!



Bible verses about parents, children, mothers and fathers

This [collection of Bible verses](#) has been compiled by Tony Kummer of ministry-to-children.com. The [King for a Day](#) resource from the South Australia Uniting Church also has a good list of scriptures on "Fathers in the Bible" on page 6.