



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

We can honor our fathers even though they aren't perfect.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that we all have a perfect heavenly Father.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 37:3-4 (Jacob), Matthew 1:18-25 (Joseph), John 3:16 (God), Bible dads

MEMORY VERSE:

"Honor your father and your mother." Exodus 20:12a (NIV)

SUMMARY:

The Bible has many stories about dads. Some dads were amazing. Some, not so much. But while our earthly parents may not be perfect, we are still called to love them. But no matter what our earthly parents are like, we all have a heavenly Father who is worthy of our praise, because He gave up everything to show His love for us.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for our fathers. Help us to honor our fathers even though they aren't perfect, and to remember we have a perfect heavenly father we can worship!

In Jesus' name,
Amen



MEMORY VERSE

"Honor your father and mother." Exodus 20:12a (NIRV)

"Honor your father and your mother." Exodus 20:12a (NIV)

"Honor your father and mother." Exodus 20:12a (NLT)

"Honour thy father and thy mother" Exodus 20:12a (KJV)

LARGE GROUP MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Ask the kids, "How can we honor our fathers? What things can we do that show them respect and love?" Read the memory verse. Ask, "Why is it sometimes hard to honor our parents? What can we do when it's difficult?"

SMALL GROUP:

Give each kid a Bible and ask them to look up the verse reference. Ask, "What is this instruction a part of?" If they aren't sure, have kids take a look at the text around the verse. Say, "This is one of the 10 commandments from God. It is right with instruction not to steal, kill, or covet what your friend has. This must be very important to God if it is one of the 10 commandments. Now that you know it is one of the 10 commandments, can you see how important this is to God?"



SKIT

Dad, I'll Cut You Some Slack!

ITEMS NEEDED:

Plastic bowls and spoons
Table and chairs

CHARACTERS:

Dad
Andrew

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

Dad – man
Andrew- kid

Andrew is sitting at the table and dad walks over with bowls of “food” and spoons. He sets it down in front of Andrew and himself and has a seat.

ANDREW: Hey, Dad?

DAD: Yes, Andrew?

ANDREW: What's this?

DAD: Dinner.

ANDREW: Yeah, but what is this dinner?

DAD: It's macaroni, carrot, and beet stew.

ANDREW: Is this one of mom's recipes?

DAD: Nope! It's mine. I just made it up.

ANDREW: Interesting. How did you come up with it?

DAD: I took what we had and mixed it all together.

ANDREW: I see.

DAD: Give it a taste.

ANDREW: Why don't you taste it first?

DAD: Alright...

(Dad pretends to take a bite of the food.)

ANDREW: How is it?

DAD: Not horrible. But not good either.

ANDREW: I guess I'll try it.

DAD: Sorry, son, I guess mom is a better cook than I am.



SKIT PAGE 2

(Andrew pretends to take a bite of the food.)

ANDREW: Yeah. I agree. Not horrible. But not good either. Pretty bad actually.

DAD: Oh man...

ANDREW: It's okay Dad.

DAD: Really?

ANDREW: Yeah Dad, I'll cut you some slack. I mean you are an awesome Dad.

You take me on hikes. You taught me how to play basketball. You saved me when I couldn't swim. You are an amazing Dad. It's okay if you're not good at everything...- like cooking.

DAD: Thanks, son.

ANDREW: I love you, Dad.

DAD: I love you too. I'll get us some cereal.

ANDREW: Sounds good!

End Scene



OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Bible

This book tells us all about our heavenly Father. The best way to get to know Him is by reading it. It's the Bible. And when you read about God, our Father, you get to know Him and who He is. You find that He is perfect and good. Our heavenly father created us and loves us. The more you read it, the more you realize that God did everything to help save us from sin and death. He sacrificed his own son Jesus to save us. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and then rose from the dead defeating death.

When we think about our dads, we might have some awesome stories to tell. We might have some amazing things to share about our dad and how much he loves us. Or we might have some stories of how our dad made some mistakes and disappointed us. Whatever the story is about your dad, you have a perfect father who loves you. He is God. You can go to him just like you go to your dad in times of trouble and he will help you. You can trust him, just like you trust your dad when you need advice. And even if your dad hasn't come through for you, our Father in Heaven will! He is trustworthy and good.

If you want to get to know your father in heaven, pick up this book. Learn about Him. Pray and talk to Him. He is there for you and He loves you!



LARGE GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Where did you go Daddy-O?

ITEMS NEEDED:

Supplies needed for each scavenger hunt clue such as a musical instrument.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Play a fun scavenger hunt called, Where did you go Daddy-O? Ask for one adult to be the Daddy-O. (One fun idea is to get one of the kids Dads to volunteer.) Have the kids call out that phrase to receive a clue. Each time they follow the clue they can call out the phrase again to receive the next clue. Lead the kids to Daddy-O with 10 clues. An examples of a clue could be:

- 1.) Follow the sound of music. (Using a recording of music or someone playing an instrument. When the kids find the source of the music they can ask again "Where did you go Daddy-O to receive the next clue.")
- 2.) Go to the place where we store all the _____. Etc.

Have the last clue lead the kids to Daddy-O! Once they find him, congratulate them for a job well done.

VARIATIONS:

N/A

WHAT'S THE POINT?

We can seek after our father in heaven just like we did Daddy-O, by praying, reading the Bible, and having a close relationship with Him.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

We can honor our fathers even though they aren't perfect.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that we all have a perfect heavenly Father.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 37:3-4 (Jacob), Matthew 1:18-25 (Joseph), John 3:16 (God), Bible dads

INTRO:

Happy Father's Day! Fathers are important people in our lives. How do you like to spend time with your dad or a father figure in your life like a grandpa or uncle? Great! These all sound like a lot of fun. Before we read a few stories from the Bible, let's do a quick activity.

Everyone think about your dad or father figure. When I say something true about him, stand up. If I say something false, sit down. Are you ready? He likes to watch sports! He likes to eat pizza. He likes to go running. He likes to wash his car. He likes to grill. He likes to watch tv. He likes to golf. He likes to read. He likes to play video games. He's great at art. He's great at public speaking. He's great at dancing. He's perfect.

Everyone can have a seat. If any of you stood for the last one when I said, "he's perfect" that was very generous of you! But dads aren't perfect, they make mistakes too.

Let's read about some Bible Dads and find out about what they were like!

READ GENESIS 37:3-4, MATTHEW 1:18-25, & JOHN 3:16

MAIN POINT:

What did you think about the first story? About the dad who had a favorite son and treated him better than his other sons...did you think he was a good dad? I think that it may have hurt the other kids feelings. Sometimes fathers make mistakes and this dad definitely made one. Fathers might not be able to treat children exactly the same, because they are all different. But parents can at least give each child love and attention. How would it make you feel if your parents gave everything to your sibling and nothing to you? That would make me feel sad.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

What about the second story, about Joseph, Jesus' father? He found out that he was going to be the adopted father, not the real father of Jesus. Jesus was God's son. But Joseph handled the news well and still committed to being a good father to Jesus. Have any of you been adopted? If so, you know that your adopted parents can be loving and care for you just like any other parent! Joseph was an example of a good father who obeyed God and loved his son well.

How about the last example in the Bible. Who was the father there? It's God! God loved us so much that he sent His only son into the world to save us. We are his children and He is our father. He gave us Jesus so that we could have eternal life in heaven with Him! He saved us from our sins and from death. This is the best father that we could ever have. He sacrificed it all because He loves us so much!

As we take a look at different fathers in the Bible we see that humans sometimes make mistakes and sin. We see that fathers can be good! When they obey God and follow Him, it helps them to be good dads. And we see that our heavenly father is perfect and even though our earthly parents aren't perfect, we all have a heavenly father who is worthy of our praise because He gave up everything to show His love for us!

DRIVE IT HOME:

You might have mixed emotions about your dad. We can love our dads and still know they aren't perfect. We can enjoy spending time with our fathers and know that they will sometimes make mistakes or disappoint us. We can honor our fathers even though they aren't perfect. We can cut our fathers some slack when they make mistakes because sometimes, we make mistakes too. The good news is, no matter what your father has done, good or bad, you have a heavenly father who is perfect and He loves you. You can get to know your heavenly father by talking to him and reading His word.

WE HAVE A PERFECT HEAVENLY FATHER! And we have wonderful fathers and father figures who love us very much. Let's celebrate them today. We can thank God for our fathers and for being a Father to us!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for our fathers. Help us to honor our fathers even though they aren't perfect, and to remember we have a perfect heavenly father we can worship!

In Jesus' name, Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What is one way you can show your father you love them today?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Exodus 20:12a

Give each kid a Bible and ask them to look up the verse reference. Ask, "What is this instruction a part of?" If they aren't sure, have kids take a look at the text around the verse." Say, "This is one of the 10 commandments from God. It is right with instruction not to steal, kill, or covet what your friend has. This must be very important to God if it is one of the 10 commandments. Now that you know it is one of the 10 commandments, can you see how important this is to God?"

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Give each kid markers and construction paper to make their dad (father figure) a card.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 37:3-4 (Jacob), Matthew 1:18-25 (Joseph), John 3:16 (God)

How does it make you feel when your dad does something great and spends time with you?

How does it make you feel when your dad makes a mistake or disappoints you?

Who can we go to and depend on no matter what? Who is our perfect father?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for being our perfect father. Help us to show our dads love today and honor them!

In Jesus' name,
Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3RD-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What is one way you can show your father you love them today?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Exodus 20:12a

Give each kid a Bible and ask them to look up the verse reference. Ask, "What is this instruction a part of?" If they aren't sure, have kids take a look at the text around the verse." Say, "This is one of the 10 commandments from God. It is right with instruction not to steal, kill, or covet what your friend has. This must be very important to God if it is one of the 10 commandments. Now that you know it is one of the 10 commandments, can you see how important this is to God?"

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Give each kid markers and construction paper to make their dad (father figure) a card.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 37:3-4 (Jacob), Matthew 1:18-25 (Joseph), John 3:16 (God)

How does it make you feel when your dad does something great and spends time with you?

How does it make you feel when your dad makes a mistake or disappoints you?

What are some ways you can show your dad grace and forgive him?

Who can we go to and depend on no matter what? Who is our perfect father?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for being our perfect father. Help us to show our dads love today and honor them!

In Jesus' name,
Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

All the fathers in the Bible were perfect.

FALSE

God is our perfect Father.

TRUE

We can go to God and depend on Him just like we go to our dads.

TRUE

We can forgive and love our fathers because of what our heavenly father has done for us by sending his son to save and forgive us from our sins.

TRUE

One great way to celebrate Father's Day is to do something fun that 'I' want to do to celebrate.

FALSE (Answer: 'Dad' wants to do)

MAKE IT STICK

BIBLE DADS: FATHER'S DAY LESSON

4 SIMPLE WAYS
YOU CAN MAKE
THIS LESSON STICK
WITH YOUR KIDS

THIS WEEK'S LESSON:

Use these four common times in a preschooler's day to reinforce this week's lesson:



IN THE CAR:

Who is a perfect father? God! We can love and honor our dads even though they make mistakes because God loves them and he loves us too. We can learn about dads, good and bad, in the Bible. Genesis 37:3-4 (Jacob), Matthew 1:18-25 (Joseph), John 3:16 (God), Bible dads



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kid what is one way they can honor their dad (or father figure) today.
Ask your kid why their heavenly father is worthy of praise.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

What did God do to show his love for us and give us forgiveness for our sins?

How can we thank Him for that today?

What is one way you think your dad would like to spend Father's Day?



AT BEDTIME:

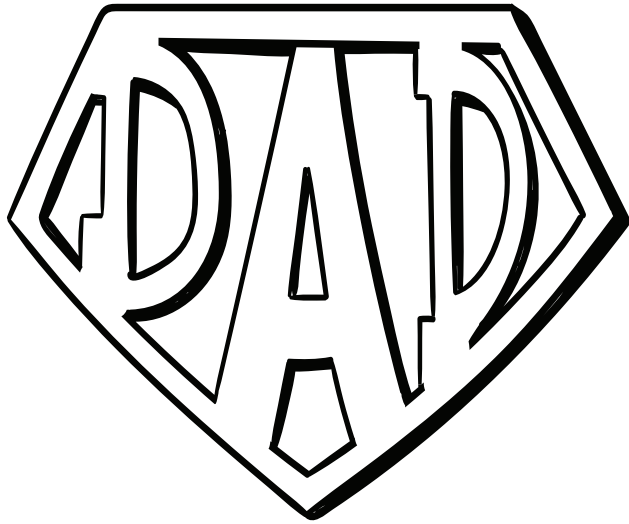
Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Honor your father and your mother." Exodus 20:12a (NIV)

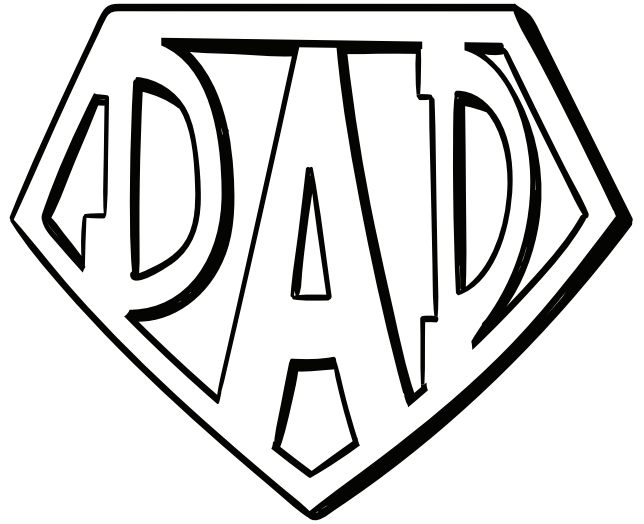


PARENT TIME:

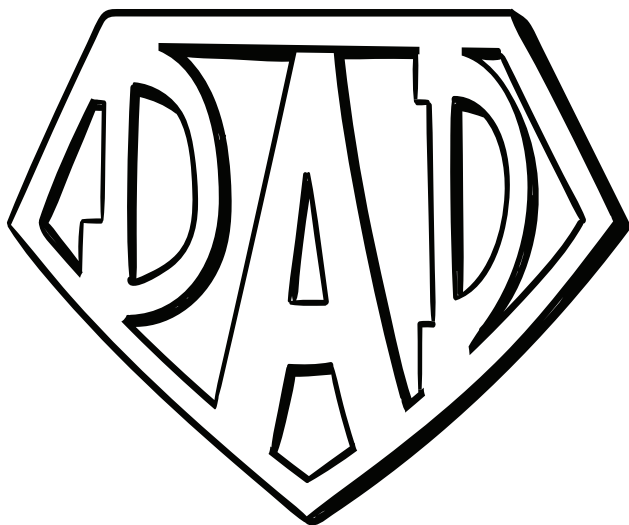
In the Bible, it instructs kids to honor their fathers. It also instructs, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord." Both commands can be a challenge. Neither fathers nor children are perfect and we all make mistakes. As you continue your journey as a father or father figure to your children, encourage them whenever you can so that they see that you love and respect them. God's grace is sufficient for all of us when we come up short!



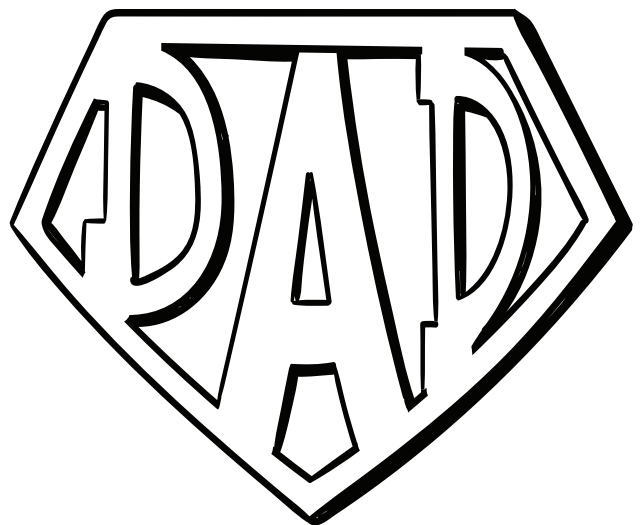
"Honor your father
and mother."
Exodus 20:12a (NIRV)



"Honor your father
and mother."
Exodus 20:12a (NIRV)



"Honor your father
and mother."
Exodus 20:12a (NIRV)



"Honor your father
and mother."
Exodus 20:12a (NIRV)



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Items you will need: white paper, pens, and markers

Give each kid a piece of paper and instruct them to fold it in half. On the front have the kids write FATHER'S DAY MENU. On the inside have them write three different items they know how to make. Examples could be an Ice Cream Sundae, Lemonade, Root Beer Float, PBJ Sandwich, BLT Sandwich, etc.

Then give the kids time to draw a picture of each food item by the menu items they listed as well as a picture on the front of the menu.

Say, "Take this menu home and give it to your dad as a gift. Have fun "playing" restaurant and allow him to pick one or two menu items for you to make for him. Make the food just like you would at a restaurant and serve it to him. This is a wonderful way to show your dad love through an act of service!" (You can also make a second one for you so you can sit down and enjoy it with him.)