

Honor Your Father

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Be thankful for your Dad.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that Dad's forgiveness is a reflection of God's forgiveness.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 15:11-32, Parable of the Lost Son

MEMORY VERSE:

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." Exodus 20:12 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

God has given us fathers who love us even when we mess up and make the wrong decisions. Dads are not perfect, and they don't hold it against us for being imperfect. We should appreciate and be thankful for our fathers, and remember our Heavenly Father who forgives our sins.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for Dads and all the love they have given us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

Honor Your Father

MEMORY VERSE

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” Exodus 20:12 (NIV)

“Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long time in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” Exodus 20:12 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room in half. Pick one side to start and have that side shout the first word, then the other side shouts the second word, and so on until they finish the verse.

SMALL GROUP:

Put each word of the memory verse on a card. Have the kids rearrange the cards and put the words in order.

Honor Your Father

SKIT

THE TWINS ARE SORRY

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M/1F

CHARACTERS:

Luke and Leia - twins

Luke and Leia enter. They speak directly to the audience in this skit, as if addressing their infamous dad.

LUKE: Hi, Dad, it's me, your son, Luke.

LEIA: And me, Luke's twin sister.

LUKE: Listen, Dad, we've been talking about what happened recently, and we want you to know, we're really sorry.

LEIA: Sorry, Dad!

LUKE: We're sorry we blew up your Death Star.

LEIA: It was a really nice Death Star.

LUKE: It was really nice.

LEIA: And we had no right to blow it up.

LUKE: That was wrong. We know that.

LEIA: I mean you did blow up my home planet with it, but it's your Death Star.

LUKE: And we're not supposed to touch Dad's things.

LEIA: So we're very sorry.

SKIT

LUKE: Sorry about shooting all those troopers too.

LEIA: Yeah, we're sorry about that.

LUKE: They were only doing their job trying to shoot us.

LEIA: Because we were trespassing.

LUKE: And even though they were shooting at us...

LEIA: And even though they never came close to hitting us...

LUKE: We're very sorry.

LEIA: Sorry we shot all your troopers, Dad!

LUKE: Oh, and one other thing: I'm sorry about the droids.

LEIA: What about the droids?

LUKE: Dad was looking for the droids, and I told him they weren't the droids he was looking for.

LEIA: You lied to Dad?

LUKE: Well, it was old Ben who lied, and he lied to the troopers, but they were Dad's troopers and I didn't correct him.

LEIA: Sorry, Dad.

LUKE: Sorry!

LEIA: Sorry we're such rebels.

LUKE: Please forgive us.

LEIA: You have to forgive us!

LUKE: Because that's what Dads do.

LEIA: Remember the prodigal son's father, Dad?

LUKE: He forgave his rebellious son!

SKIT

LEIA: Please forgive your little rebel princess.

LUKE: And your rebel son.

LUKE/LEIA: AWW Thanks Dad!

LEIA: See you at the picnic.

LUKE: Yeah, see you at the picnic!

LEIA: I'm bringing casserole.

LUKE: I'm bringing blue milk.

LEIA: We love you, Dad!

LUKE: Love you!

LUKE/LEIA: Bye!

LEIA: Love you!

Honor Your Father

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Dry erase board
Dry erase markers
An eraser

I want to ask you all a question. What are some things that we do that drive our dads crazy? Can you give me some examples?

Write down the answers you hear. Get some serious ones, like breaking things in the house, and some funny ones, like teasing dad about his favorite sports team.

We all do things that drive Dad crazy, don't we? We break things. We cause damage that costs dad money. We order food in restaurants that we don't eat. We mess up his favorite things in his man cave. And we tease him when his favorite team loses.

But you know what's great about Dads? Dads don't make lists like this. You won't find Dad's list of things that have made him mad lying around the house anywhere. A good dad knows that kids make mistakes because Dad makes them all the time himself. And when we admit our faults...

Erase the board.

Dad forgives and forgets.

Dads are there to guide us and teach us. They are there to help us learn to love God and our neighbors. But Dads have another important function: they remind us how much God loves us and how completely he forgives us. When we ask God's forgiveness, he wipes away our sins and he makes us like new.

If you are celebrating Father's Day with a great father figure, thank him for his forgiveness. But even if you're not, remember that you have a Heavenly Father who loves you unconditionally and will always forgive you – no matter what!

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LARGE GROUP GAME

BALLOON BOBBLER

ITEMS NEEDED:

A lot of balloons, inflated with the same amount of air.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Set up two tables about fifteen feet apart with balloons on both. Have an adult stationed at each table.

Choose two kids for this game. Start each kid at opposite tables with three balloons each. The kids will race from one table to another, and every time they reach a table, the adult leader will add another balloon to their arms. Keep going until one kid is unable to carry his/her balloons.

VARIATION:

An alternate game would be to have one kid carry an armful of balloons through an obstacle course without dropping them.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Dads know we are not perfect, and their forgiveness reminds us of God's forgiveness.

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LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Be thankful for your Dad.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that Dad's forgiveness is a reflection of God's forgiveness.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 15:11-32, Parable of the Lost Son

INTRO:

How many of you have a Dad who gets into trouble? Who here has a dad who, from time to time, does something that get him the same look from your Mom that you get? Does anyone have a Dad who likes to get a little crazy?

Dads are a little different from Moms. Dads can be more serious, but they can also be more playful. Most Dads still have a little bit of kid in them. They know how to get crazy, and sometimes they take it a little too far.

It's funny when Dad gets in trouble, isn't it? Makes you feel a little better about the times you get in trouble, knowing that it's not always just a kid thing.

Today is a day to celebrate Dads and all the things that make them great. Dads are providers, who work hard to care for their families. Dads are hard workers who help keep the house in order as well. Dads are teachers, who teach their kids to care for themselves and others. And they are spiritual leaders who help us learn to love God and love others.

But Dads are not all business. There's a fun side to Dad, and that fun side isn't just there for our entertainment. Dads are imperfect, just like we are, and being imperfect, Dads understand that sometimes kids mess up.

That's a really comforting thing to know about a Dad, because a Dad who knows his kids aren't perfect knows that those kids sometimes need forgiveness. And when Dad forgives, Dad reminds us of another father who forgives us for something even greater.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Today's scripture is about a Dad with a very imperfect son. It's a beautiful tale not only of a Father and a Son, but our God and us.

READ LUKE 15:11-32

MAIN POINT:

Jesus was the greatest teacher and storyteller who ever lived, and his stories are packed with teachable moments. There are so many wonderful moments in this story, but there's one moment I want you to focus on.

Where was the dad when the son returned home? He was right out front, looking down the road for his son. The father was waiting for his child to come home, and when he saw the son, he ran to him and kissed him.

That's the love God wants Dads to have for their kids, because that's the love God has for all of us.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Dads are there to teach us and guide us. They are there to work with Mom to raise people who love the Lord and treat their neighbors the way they want to be treated. But Dads are also a reflection of our Heavenly Father. Dad's hugs, Dad's encouragement, all the good and loving things Dad does are reminders that God loves us as well.

Dads know the importance of forgiveness because they know how much they need to be forgiven. Dads who know that God has forgiven them can show us an example of God's forgiveness. Dads may not take away the consequences of our actions. If we break a window, a lamp, or a toy, we're probably going to have to replace it. But Dads will be with us every step of the way. They will forgive us, and they will help us make things right.

I know not everyone has a Mom and Dad at home, and sometimes it's hard to deal with a Dad who isn't there. For those of you here this morning who are maybe in that position, I want you to know that you DO have a Father who loves and adores you. God is the Heavenly Father of every boy and girl, every man and woman. God sent his son, Jesus, to die for us, and there's nothing God can't forgive. God is the father of the lost son, the father who runs to embrace his children. God can heal the wounds left by runaway Dads, and yes, God can even forgive those runaway Dads.

Father's Day is a day to honor our Dads, the men who make us laugh and make us feel loved. It's a day to thank them for their kindness and forgiveness.

And it's a day to remember our Heavenly Father whose unconditional love Dads share with us.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

God loves you very much, and he gave us Dads to show us that love. Let's thank all of our Dads, here and in Heaven, for their never-ending forgiveness.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for Dads and all the love they have given us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

Honor Your Father

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What is something funny your Dad did this week?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” Exodus 20:12 (NIV)

Put each word of the memory verse on a card. Have the kids rearrange the cards and put the words in order.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Pass a ball around a circle. When the ball comes to you, say something funny you have heard your Dad say.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 15:11-32

What did the younger son ask his father to do?

What did the younger son do with his money?

When did the son decide to go home?

What did the son's father do when he saw him coming home?

How does a Dad's forgiveness remind us of God's forgiveness?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to honor our Fathers and thank them for their forgiving hearts.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

Honor Your Father

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What is something funny your Dad did this week?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” Exodus 20:12 (NIV)

Put each word of the memory verse on a card. Have the kids rearrange the cards and put the words in order.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Pass a ball around a circle. When the ball comes to you, say something funny you have heard your Dad say.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 15:11-32

What did the younger son do with his money?

Why did the son decide to go home?

Why did the father welcome his son home?

How does your dad handle things when you mess up at home?

How does a Dad's forgiveness remind us of God's forgiveness?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to honor our Fathers and thank them for their forgiving hearts today.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

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POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANK.

The younger son of a wealthy man asked his _____ for his inheritance.
FATHER

The son went off to the _____ where he squandered all his money on wild living.
CITY

The son was feeding _____ when he realized he wanted to go home and ask for forgiveness.
PIGS

When the father saw his son coming home, he _____ to him.
RAN

When Dad's forgive us for the times when we mess up, it reminds us how _____ forgives us.
GOD

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: HONOR YOUR FATHER



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home: Today we read the story of the Lost Son. God has given us fathers to love us even when we mess up and make the wrong decisions. We should appreciate and be thankful for our fathers, and let them remind us of God's forgiveness.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real: Share a memory of a time when your father forgave you for a mistake. How did he handle your mistake? How did being forgiven make you feel?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did the young son decide to go home?
- What did the father do when he saw his son coming home?
- How do our Dads remind us of God when they forgive our mistakes?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

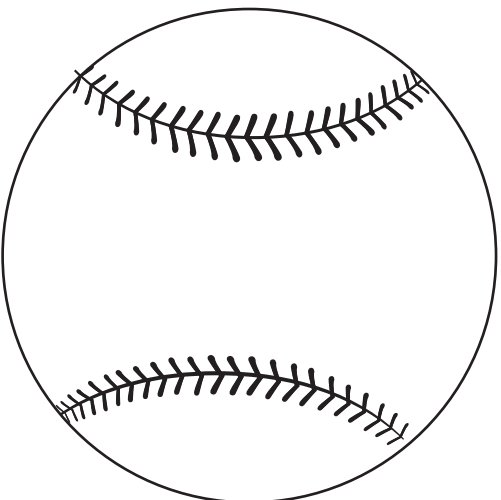
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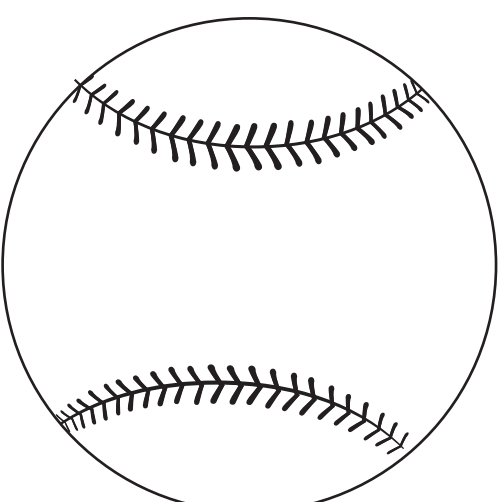
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

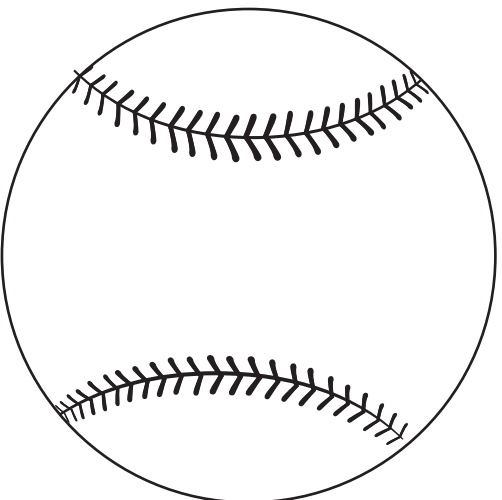
How do you handle mistakes at home? When the kids mess up, are you quick to forgive? Forgiving doesn't mean they don't suffer consequences, but it means lovingly correcting them and helping them to set things right. Ask God to give you a forgiving heart so you can model Christ to your kids.



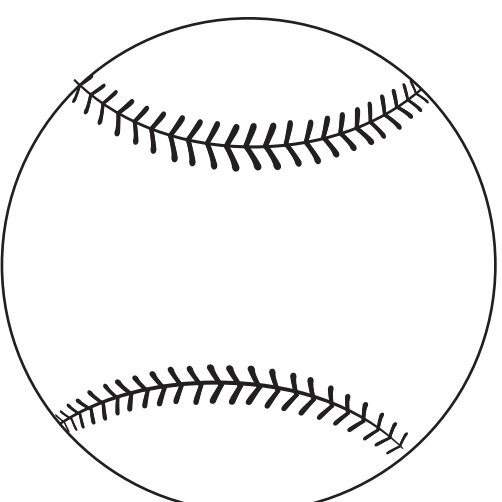
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"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." - Exodus 20:12 (NIV)

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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids make a Father's Day card for their dad, using paper, magazine clippings, stickers, and any other art materials you have. Get creative and make dad something special to show you love him.