

Celebrating Godly Dads

A. It is right and good to celebrate godly dads on Father's Day because they're a blessing to their children.

"Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; **The generation of the upright will be blessed...** Surely he will never be shaken; the righteous will be in **everlasting remembrance.**" Psalm 112:1-2 & 6 (NKJV)

"The righteous man walks in his integrity; **his children are blessed after him.**" Proverbs 20:7 (NKJV)

B. Four ways godly dads bless their children:

1. Godly dads teach their children to know the Lord.

"Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And **you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children.** Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NLT)

"We will not hide these truths from our children; **we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.** For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, **so the next generation might know them**—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands." Psalm 78:4-7 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! By teaching their kids about the Lord, Godly dads can change the trajectory of their entire family line. **"Then they will not be like their ancestors**—stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God." Psalm 78:8 (NLT)

Fathering Tip: We must teach our children how to have a personal relationship with God while they are living with us so that they will rely upon Him when they are on their own. **"Train up a child in the way he should go,** and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6 (KJV)

2. Godly dads show their children what following the Lord every day looks like. They lead by example.

"For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you. **So, I urge you to imitate me...** And **you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.**"

1 Corinthians 4:15b-16 & 11:1 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! Values and habits are caught more than taught. "He appointed twelve that they might **be with him** and that he might send them out to preach." Mark 3:14 (NIV)

Fathering Tip: We need to be transparent with our kids about our successes and our failures and explain how God used them to shape and mature us. **"I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless** because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him."

Philippians 3:7-9a (NLT)

3. Godly dads discipline their kids to help them develop godly character.

"Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. **Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.**" Proverbs 13:24 (NLT)

"Discipline your children while there is hope. **Otherwise you will ruin their lives.**" Proverbs 19:18 (NLT)

Fathering Tip: To effectively discipline our children:

- We must communicate our expectations clearly.
- We must discipline through appropriate consequences.
- We must be consistent.

IMPORTANT! “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.**” Ephesians 6:4 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! “No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.” Hebrews 12:11 (NLT)

Fathering Tip: We’re raising our children to become godly men and women, NOT to be “successful” in the eyes of the world. “**Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.** For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.” 1 John 2:15-17 (NLT)

4. Godly dads pray for their kids and with their kids a lot.

“**God knows how often I pray for you.** Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God...”
Romans 1:9a (NLT)

“I have not stopped thanking God for you. **I pray for you constantly...**” Ephesians 1:16 (NLT)

Fathering Tip: Short, simple, prayers based on Scripture offered throughout the day are powerful and effective. “Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow.” Psalm 25:4 (NLT) “In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe.” Psalm 4:8 (NLT) “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!” Isaiah 26:3 (NLT) “...we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” Romans 8:37b (NIV) (see 1 John 5:14-15)

C. Three important reminders for dads:

1. There are no perfect fathers, but we can all become better dads. “I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. **But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.** No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.” Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT)
2. Our Heavenly Father will give us the desire and the power to become better earthly fathers if we surrender our lives to Him. “For God is working in you, **giving you the desire and the power** to do what pleases him.” Philippians 2:13 (NLT)
3. We can help each other become better dads. “As iron sharpens iron, so **one man sharpens another.**”
Proverbs 27:17 (BSB)

IMPORTANT! Being a father isn’t easy. This Father’s Day, we should thank our dads for doing the best they could. “For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, **doing the best they knew how.**”
Hebrews 12:10a (NLT)

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Connect Group discussion questions:

1. What did you appreciate most about your dad while growing up? What did you come to appreciate about him only after moving away/starting a family of your own?
2. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 & Psalm 78:4-8. Share a memory from your childhood when your dad seized a teachable moment to teach you an important lesson. What did you learn?
3. What do the following Bible verses teach us about the importance of parental discipline? (Hebrews 12:11, Proverbs 13:24 & 9:18, Ephesians 6:4) How well did your parents handle discipline? What did you learn from their mistakes?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 4:15-16 & 11:1. Why did Paul want his spiritual children to imitate him? How will your kids turn out if they imitate you?
5. How often did your dad pray for you? How often did he pray with you? How important is prayer anyway? (Matthew 7:7-11, Romans 1:9, Ephesians 1:16)
6. Discuss the following quotations:

"Fathers and mothers, do not forget that children learn more by the eye than they do by the ear... Imitation is a far stronger principle with children than memory. What they see has a much stronger effect on their minds than what they are told." J. C. Ryle

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." Henry Ward Beecher

"A father's responsibility is not to make the child's decisions, but to let the child watch him make his."
Ed Cole

"When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years." Mark Twain