



Father's Day - Celebrating Fathers Compiled by Karen Sue Nyquist

Many of us gather together with families on Father's Day to wish fathers, "Happy Father's Day!" Fathers are God's idea and He knows how important they are. In fact, God loves us so much that He wants to relate to us as our heavenly father. God says, "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you" (Jeremiah 31:3). "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:18). "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1John 3:1). Jesus taught that when we pray to God, we can address Him as "Our Father in heaven" (Matthew 6:9). We can even call Him Abba/Daddy (Galatians 4:6).

God says a lot about fathers in the Bible. Since He is an excellent example of what fathers should be like, let's first see what it says about God being a good father to us.

A. "7 Ways God Is Truly Our Good Father"

(<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/ways-god-is-truly-our-good-father>)

- 1. God Is Uniquely Good** - Jesus said, "No one is good but One, that is, God" (Luke 18:10).
- 2. God Creates Only Good** - The Bible records that everyday when God created something, He always "saw that it was good." But when He created man and woman, He "saw it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). That means with God, we rate!
- 3. God Only Gives Good Things** - "... how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him" (Matthew 7:11)! "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17).
- 4. God Only Does Good** - "You are good, and what You do is good; teach me Your decrees" (Psalm 119:68). God also does good through His Son, Jesus. Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19).
- 5. God Wants You to Have Good Things** - "The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right" (Psalm 84:11).
- 6. God's Will for You Is Only Good** - "I say this because I know what I am planning for you," says the Lord. "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future" (Jeremiah 29:11).
- 7. God Loves Causing Good for You** - Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

B. More Qualities of Our Good Heavenly Father

- 1. God Knows What You Need** - Jesus knew His Father well and said about Him, "For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:8).
- 2. God's Timing is Good** - The Bible often refers to "the appointed time." After we have prayed, asking God for what we need or want, we need to wait for His answer. "I waited patiently for the Lord, He turned to me and heard my cry" (Psalm 40:1). With confidence, we can tell our heavenly Father, "My times are in Your hand" (Psalm 31:15).
- 3. God is Merciful, Loving, Compassionate, and Forgiving** - "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us ..." (Ephesians 2:4). "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him" (Psalm 103:13 NIV). "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

C. God's Advice to Fathers

Now let's look at what God says to fathers. Being a father is not easy. It has many challenges and knowing what to do can often be difficult and confusing. God knows that no one is a perfect father, that all make mistakes. The good news is that God is willing to help. We all are a work in progress. "We are the clay, and You (God) our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand" (Isaiah 64:8). "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5). So, what advice does God give to fathers?

- 1. Love God and Others** (6) - "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).
- 2. Love Your Family** (6) - God describes what real love is. "Love is patient, love is kind.



It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1

Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV). “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (3 John 1:4). “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” (Ephesians 5:25). “Let all *that* you *do* be done with love” (1 Corinthians 16:14).

3. Be Kind and Forgive Your Children and Others (6) - “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:31-32).

4. Lead Your Family by Example (5) (6) (7) - “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15). “My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways” (Proverbs 23:26). “The righteous who walks in his integrity— blessed are his children after him!” (Proverbs 20:7). **Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father, led his family. He lived, obeying God’s instructions.** In 4 dreams, God sent an angel to Joseph giving him directions to: **a.** marry Mary because she had conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20-21), **b.** flee to Egypt because King Herod wanted to kill baby Jesus (Matthew 2:13), **c.** return to Israel (Matthew 2:19-20), and **d.** go to Nazareth in Galilee, it was safe there (Matthew 2:22). Joseph’s prompt obedience protected baby Jesus’ life. Then Joseph willingly raised Jesus as his own son. He’s an example of an amazing father.

5. Study and Obey the Bible (7) - “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word” (Psalm 119:9). Read the Bible with your children.

6. Provide for Your Family (6) - “But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:8). Provide for their physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs.

7. Pray for Yourself and Your Family (7) - “Then He (*Jesus*) spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart...” (Luke 18:1). Teach your children to pray.

8. Discipline Your Children (5) (6) - “For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son *in whom* he delights” (Proverbs 3:12). “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it” (Hebrews 12:11). Likewise, “Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul” (Proverbs 29:17).

9. Train Your Children - (5) “Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). “My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother” (Proverbs 1:8). Train them to go to church.

10. Teach Your Children God’s Word (6) (7) - “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). “All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children” (Isaiah 54:13). Explain the Bible and sermons to your children. Ask them if they have any questions.

11. Teach Your Children to Love Jesus (7) - “But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven’” (Matthew 19:14).

(5) “5 Characteristics of a Godly Father,” <https://www.watermark.org › blog › 5-characteristics-godly-father>

(6) “6 Characteristics of Godly Fathers,” <https://ncbaptist.org › article › 6-characteristics-of-godly-fathers>

(7) “7 Characteristics of a Godly Dad - The Journey of Fatherhood,” <https://livingproof.co › characteristics-of-a-godly-dad>

D. Since God is such a good father, do you want Him to be your Heavenly Father? - If so, you need to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. “But as many as received Him (*Jesus*), to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12). Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). **Suggested prayer:** “Jesus, I repent of my sins, please help me to turn away from them, and forgive me. I confess You as my Lord and Savior and want to follow You, for You are the way to heaven and to eternal life. Please, give me Your Holy Spirit, who will help me do what is right. I want to know God as my Heavenly Father. Also, I’ve made mistakes in my fathering, please help me become a better father. Thank You for saving me. In Jesus’ name, Amen!” Name _____ Date _____

Now God will start revealing Himself more to you. To steadily improve your relationship, spend time with Him. Pray to Him. Read His book, the Bible. Go to a good church where you feel God’s presence and they preach the Bible. There you can get baptized in water, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and can fellowship with other believers. We learn much about God from each other. Come visit us! **Enjoy your new life with your Heavenly Father!**

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