

# Honor Your Father

## 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.

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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*