



# KING for a day

## AN INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP RESOURCE for Fathers Day

Fathers Day (the first Sunday in September) is a secular holiday, driven to a large extent by commercial interests.

As Christians we are commanded to honour our parents at all times — including Fathers Day.

This service is a celebration of God's gift of fathers — and grandfathers and other caring men who impact our lives.

The lectionary texts for 4 September 2011 include this key phrase:

**The Lord . . . makes them feel like kings.**

Psalm 149:4 (NIRV)

### ALL AGE WORSHIP

All-age (intergenerational) worship is, first and foremost, worship. Worship is an encounter between God and God's people: a dialogue in which God speaks and people respond, both in the worship service and in their lives.

Intentionally *intergenerational* worship

- allows this dialogue to take place in a variety of ways
- focuses on a simple theme and connects that theme with the lives of the worshipers
- provides worshipers (young and old) with an experience they can remember and talk about in their homes
- encourages interaction and dialogue among people of the various generations
- involves several of the senses
- includes some surprises and fun
- takes seriously the understanding that people of all ages worship together in the body of Christ. People of all ages can also plan worship, invite people to worship, and lead worship
- recognises and values the children present in the worshipping congregation and 'the child within' each adult.

Fathers Day is by definition intergenerational. Worship on Fathers Day can be an opportunity for conversation with God on the topic of parenthood and fathers.

### CAUTION

In planning this service be particularly careful to avoid making incorrect assumptions about the families and fathers who will be worshipping with you. And be sensitive to people who may feel marginalised on Fathers Day, eg

- people whose fathers are not with them at this time
- people who have recently lost fathers through death or another circumstance
- fathers who have lost children through death or other circumstances
- fathers (couples) who would like to have children but have been unable to do so
- people who have been hurt or abused by, or who are experiencing strained relationships with, their fathers
- people who live alone either by choice or by circumstances and will feel excluded by any emphasis on family relationships.

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# PLANNING NOTES

## USING THIS RESOURCE

These notes have been prepared by the Children and Family Ministry team of the Uniting Church SA to help congregations plan a special all-age worship service for Fathers Day.

You may make as many copies of the notes as you need for your worship planners and leaders.

The use of music and other copyright elements is not covered in this permission.

Read through all the material. Discuss it as a planning team. You may use any of the ideas that are appropriate in your situation or you may use the entire sample service.

If you use the resource, we would appreciate your letting us know what you do. Send a brief email to [children@sa.uca.org.au](mailto:children@sa.uca.org.au)

For other intergenerational worship ideas see <http://mrn.sa.uca.org.au/> Click on 'Children's Ministry', then 'All-Age Worship'.

## THEME

The theme for this Fathers Day worship is from Psalm 149:4

The Lord takes delight in his people.  
He saves those who aren't proud.  
He makes them feel like kings.  
(New International Readers Version)

We consider the ways fathers can influence their children's faith as we celebrate God's gift of fathers. As we honour fathers (kings for a day), we honour God who gives us fathers (King of kings forever).

## BIBLE READINGS

The Revised Common Lectionary readings for 4 September 2011 (Proper 18 A) are:

- Exodus 12:1–14 (Observing Passover)
- Psalm 149 (Song of praise)
- Romans 13:8–14 (Love fulfils the law)
- Matthew 18:15–20 (When someone sins against you)

Although, at first glance they do not appear to be 'Fathers Day' texts, parts of these lectionary readings are used in the sample service.

## WORSHIP PLANNING

It's a good idea to plan an all-age worship service with an all-age team. Planning as an intergenerational team can be a valuable experience for all involved.

If men ordinarily take the main role in organising worship, this Fathers Day service may be an excellent time for women and children to take on these roles, giving dads and granddads a break.

The team may also draw on people who have special abilities, eg in the areas of hospitality, music, drama, visual arts and technology.

## SUGGESTED PLANNING STEPS:

- Begin with prayer, and trust God's Spirit to guide your planning.
- Consider how the theme relates to people in your congregation and community.
- Look through these notes to see how they can help in planning your service.
- Use these notes together with your regular worship format to develop a worship outline.
- Flesh out the outline; consider your own people and facilities.
- Work with worship leaders to plan details: who does what, when and how?

## INVITATION AND ADVERTISING

Help members of your congregation catch the vision of an all age worship experience for Fathers Day.

Encourage grandparents and godparents of children (including adult children) who do not worship regularly to see this as a special way to observe Fathers Day.

Encourage children and young families whose fathers do not worship regularly to see this as an opportunity to invite fathers, grandfathers (and other male carers) to share a worship experience with them.

Invite families involved in your church's children's programs: playgroup, Sunday school, kids club, day care, etc. Invite people from organizations that use your church's facilities.

Be sure to include the date, time and location of the service in all of your promotional material.

## WORSHIP SPACE & VISUALS

A clean, tidy worship area underlies any special decoration.

Call on people with technical and artistic skills to create an atmosphere that supports the theme of the service.

You may want to decorate the worship area with crowns and symbols of royalty or with balloons. The sample service uses balloon sculpture crowns.

Consider showing a PowerPoint slide show as people arrive.

- photos of a range of fathers
- photos of kids from your congregation with their dads, grandfathers or other male carers
- kids' drawings of their dads.

## MUSIC

Most of the music in the service will be congregational singing. All worshipers are invited to participate. You may also use some instrumental or sung performance or recorded music in the service.

Remember that some people may not happily join in with congregational singing. Make it clear that it is OK just to sit and listen to the music.

Your regular instrumentalists (organist, band) lead/accompany the singing. Display song words in your usual manner.

For an all-age service include traditional hymns as well as more contemporary songs and songs for children.

For the benefit of children and visitors, explain briefly any obscure images or unfamiliar language in the songs.

Consider ways of involving children who are too young to read the words, eg

- teach Auslan symbols or other actions for some key words in the song and ask everyone to do the actions when they come to the words in the song (See [www.auslan.org.au](http://www.auslan.org.au) for a dictionary of signs)
- teach one or two lines that are repeated in the chorus and give a cue when everyone can join in singing these lines
- give children a percussion instrument to play during some songs.

Small congregations, or congregations that do not have strong musical leadership, may sing with CDs or other electronic music.

### SONG SUGGESTIONS

**Dads' favourite hymns:** Consult with a number of congregation members. Compile a list of dads' favourite hymns. Choose songs for this service from your list. The person who nominated each song may introduce it in the service and explain any special meaning it has for them.

Otherwise use some of these suggested songs or others that are familiar to your congregation and that they can sing comfortably.

#### Traditional hymns

- *Fairest Lord Jesus* (various translations)
- *Faith of our Fathers* (Faber)
- *Peace with the Father* (Quinn)
- *Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer* (Bayly)
- *This is my will, my one command* (Quinn)

#### Contemporary songs:

- *Amazing Love, you are my King* (Foote)
- *Bind us together* (Gillman)
- *How deep the Father's love for us* (Townsend)
- *King of Kings and Lord of lords* (Conty & Bataya)

- *One family* (Strelan)
- *Thank you Father for everything* (Boucher)
- *What does the Lord require of you* (Strathdee)
- *You are Holy* (Michael W Smith)

#### Songs for children:

- *He's got the whole world in his hands* include verses 'fathers and mothers', 'sons and daughters'
- *God gives* (Boucher)
- *God loves you and I love you* (Mann)
- *Love one another* (Mann)
- *This is my Father's world* (Babcock)

#### Songs about fathers

You may show a YouTube video clip of a secular song about fathers before or after the service. Alternatively the music team might perform a song such as the following:

- *Song for Dad* (Keith Urban)
- *Cats in the cradle* (Chapin/Stevens)
- *My Father's eyes* (Amy Grant)
- *Daddy's hands* (Holly Dunn)
- *You're my hero* (Teresa James)

## CHILDREN'S CONTRIBUTION

A children's contribution to this service could take almost any form; eg

- make invitations and give them to dads and other men
- greet worshipers
- pray for dads and grandfathers
- sing a song for/about fathers
- bless fathers
- perform a dance or skit about dads

Ideally the children's contribution will come from the children. Ask them what they might contribute to a special Fathers Day service.

As much as possible, use the children's suggestions and involve the children in planning and carrying out the details.

A performance by children can be a drawing card for parents and grandparents. But it should be more than this. A children's performance will honour fathers and honour God who gives us fathers.

Be sensitive to children who do not have fathers or whose fathers are unlikely to participate in a church event.

## HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is the responsibility of all members of the congregation. People who invite and bring people to the service have the primary responsibility for looking after their special guests.

A designated **HOSPITALITY TEAM** may have responsibilities that include:

- being aware of the safety aspects of the worship space, eg location of alternate exits, fire extinguishers and first aid equipment, identity of people with first aid training
- greeting people as they arrive
- helping people to get settled  
Pay special attention to the very young, the very old and people with handicaps. Seat them where they will be able to see/hear, but not feel conspicuous
- being alert to needs of people during the service, and assisting as required.

You may make Fathers Day a day-off for those fathers who regularly serve as worship hosts and have other duties in worship. Consider challenging single adults to honour fathers by allowing your usual hospitality men to sit with their families for this worship service.

Alternatively, you may arrange to have family groups perform hospitality duties together.

Be sure to give every father attending the service a special welcome.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Your minister/pastor/priest or your regular worship leader may lead intergenerational worship. Alternatively, the worship can be led by another person or several people representing different generations or ethnic backgrounds.

The sample service involves leadership roles for:

- a worship leader
- music team/song leader
- hospitality team
- tech team
- readers
- prayer leaders
- preacher
- youth who lead a pre-service activity.

## SERMON

A sermon in an all-age worship service should be an all-age sermon. This means it's short and simple — generally no more than three points. Stories, illustrations and interactive dialogue can be helpful.

If an adults-only sermon is used, you will need to organize an activity for young children to do during the sermon.

Some people find that sermon notes or sermon observations sheets (with blanks or discussion questions) help people of all ages focus on the message. It can also give them something to take home as a reminder of what they have heard and thought about.

It's good to follow the adage: first tell people what you are going to say, say it, and then tell them what you said. If you do each step in a different, engaging way, people of all ages are likely to remember the message.

## A SERMON SUGGESTION

### Crown him with many crowns

If you are using crowns for the fathers — the kings for a day — you could use this approach to introducing Jesus — the king of kings.

Base the meditation on the hymn 'Crown him with many crowns' (Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring).

**MUSIC TEAM:** can be playing the tune softly behind speaking and actions.

**TECH TEAM:** can project the words of the hymn as they are discussed.

**FIVE 'FATHERS'**, with a child each, take part in a crowning ceremony.

**PREACHER:** *We've been honouring the dads here as kings for a day. But we have a much more important king – a king of kings — Jesus. Let's think about what kind of king Jesus is.*

**ALL:** Sing verse 1: Crown him with many crowns, the King (rather than 'lamb') upon his throne . . . hail him as our chosen king, through all eternity.

**FATHER & CHILD 1** come to the front, take off dad's crown, place it at a cross and say: *We crown Jesus, the Son of God.*

**PREACHER OR FATHER 1** may speak briefly about the significance of Jesus as Son of God.

**FATHER & CHILD 2** come to the front, take off dad's crown, place it at the cross and say: *We crown Jesus, the King of Love.*

**PREACHER OR FATHER 2** may speak briefly about Jesus as the King of Love.

**FATHER & CHILD 3** come to the front, take off dad's crown, place it at the cross and say: *We crown Jesus, the King of Life.*

**PREACHER OR FATHER 3** may speak briefly about Jesus as the Lord of Life.

**FATHER & CHILD 4** come to the front, take off dad's crown, place it at the cross and say: *We crown Jesus, the King of Peace.*

**PREACHER OR FATHER 4** may speak briefly about Jesus as the Lord of Peace.

**FATHER & CHILD 5** come to the front, take off dad's crown, place it at the cross and say: *We crown Jesus, the Lord of Years.*

**PREACHER OR FATHER 5** may speak briefly about Jesus as the Lord of eternity.

**PREACHER** speaks briefly about 'crowning Jesus as king' means honouring him in what we say and do:

- honour our king of peace, by being peacemakers,
- honour our king of life by living life to its fullness and protecting the life of others,
- honour the Lord of love by loving others.

**ALL:** Sing verse 1 again, or sing all verses.

## UPSIZING & DOWNSIZING

These Fathers Day worship ideas can be used in large or small congregations. They can also be used in a home setting.

Each planning group will need to adapt the ideas to suit their own particular situation: people, traditions and facilities.

## REHEARSAL

Because this service will be different from your usual service, it requires careful planning. It also requires rehearsal. A complete walk-through will pinpoint any logistical problems, allow the worship leader/s to fine-tune instructions for the worshipers and ensure that the service itself runs smoothly.

It is often convenient to combine the service rehearsal with the **MUSIC TEAM's** practice. If you are using PowerPoint or other technology, the **TECH TEAM** should also be part of the rehearsal.

Use rehearsal time as an opportunity to pray together.

- Praise God for his love and care.
- Thank God that you, as a team, have the privilege of leading people in worship.
- Ask God to bring people to worship who need to hear the good news — especially fathers.
- Ask God to work through the worship to heal hurting relationships in families.
- Ask God to be with all who worship with you – especially the fathers and grandfathers.
- Ask God to accept your planning and worship leading as acts of love and service to him.
- Ask God to bless your efforts and to work through what you do and say — to his glory and the benefit of all worshipers.

# FATHERS IN THE BIBLE

The term 'Father' is used over a thousand times in the Bible (Old Testament — 746; New Testament — 349). Many of these references are to God as Father.

Human fathers in the Bible represent the whole range of status, personality and character. There are few if any traits, flaws, weaknesses, virtues or strengths of fathers today that won't find a parallel in the Bible.

## INDIVIDUAL FATHERS

The book of Genesis introduces us to the Patriarchs:

- Adam — the father of the human race — father of Cain, Abel and Seth, who in turn became fathers . . .
- Abram/Abraham — the father of the Hebrew people — father of Isaac, who was the father of Jacob . . .

Jewish people to this day say: 'My father was a wandering Aramean.'

Genealogy was important and frequently cited in the Bible, including Matthew 1:1-17, which traces Jesus' lineage back through King David and to Abraham.

Fathers were seen as the head of their natural family and also slaves, workers, relatives and visitors who formed their household either permanently or for short periods.

Inheritance (including blessing) was almost always handed down from father to son.

The Bible also cites examples of fatherhood by adoption, eg Mordecai and Esther, Paul and Timothy, and 'fathers in the faith'.

*Timothy, I am sending you this letter. You are my true son in the faith. (1 Timothy 1:2)*

## ADVICE & LAWS FOR FATHERS

*Remember today that it was not your children who have not known or seen the discipline of the Lord your God, but it is you who must acknowledge his greatness, his mighty and his outstretched arm. (Deuteronomy 11:2)*

*If you train your children, they will give you peace. They will bring delight to you. (Proverbs 29:17)*

*Fathers, don't make your children bitter. If you do, they will lose hope. (Colossians 3:21)*

## GOD AS JESUS' FATHER

*"My Father has given all things to me. The Father is the only one who knows who the Son is. And the only ones who know the Father are the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to make the Father known." (Luke 10:22)*

*"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

*"I came from the Father and entered the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father." (John 16:28)*

## GOD AS OUR FATHER

*Remember, he's your Father. He's your Creator. He made you. He formed you. (Deuteronomy 32:6b)*

*"Your father knows what you need before you ask. You should pray like this: 'Our Father in heaven, help us to honour your name.'" (Matthew 6:8,9)*

### A Father's Responsibility

Listen, Israel!

The Lord our God is the only true God!

So love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength.

Memorize his laws

and tell them to your children over and over again.

Talk about them all the time, whether you're at home or walking along the road or going to bed at night or getting up in the morning.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (NIRV)

*My dear children, I'm writing this to you so that you will not sin. But suppose someone does sin. Then we have one who speaks to the Father for us. He stands up for us. He is Jesus Christ, the Blameless One. (1 John 2:1)*

## COMPARING EARTHLY FATHERS AND OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

*A father is tender and kind to his children. In the same way, the Lord is tender and kind to those who have respect for him. (Psalm 103:13)*

*My father and mother may desert me, but the Lord will accept me. (Psalm 27:10)*

*The Lord trains those he loves. He is like a father who trains the son he is pleased with. (Proverbs 3:12)*

*So have mercy, just as your Father has mercy. (Luke 6:36)*

*We have all had human parents who trained us. We respected them for it. How much more should we be trained by the Father of our spirits and live! (Hebrews 12:9)*

In one of his best loved parables Jesus gives us insight into the nature of God through a story of a father and his sons (Luke 15:11-32)

# GOD'S COMMAND ABOUT HIS GIFT OF FATHERS

**Honour your father and your mother so that you will live a long time  
in the land that the Lord your God is going to give you. (Exodus 20:12)**

The Ten Commandments are listed in Exodus 20 as part of the account of the tribes of Israel becoming a unified people through forty years wandering in the wilderness. To this day, God's people see the Ten Commandments as a summary of God's law — the way he directs and expects us to live in relationship with him and with one another.

The Ten Commandments are the basis of secular law in this and many other countries.

One of these commandments is particularly significant to us on Fathers Day: Honour your father and your mother.

## **Why should we honour parents?**

(1) God tells us to honour them. So honouring them is obeying and honouring God.

*Children, obey your parents as the Lord wants, because this is the right thing to do.*  
(Ephesians 6:1)

(2) God promises good things to those who honour their parents.

*This is the first command that has a promise with it — then everything will be well with you, and you will have a long life on the earth.*  
(Ephesians 6:2,3)

Obeying God by honouring parents brings not so much living to a ripe old age, but enjoying the blessings of happiness, health, family, peace, good government, etc. for several generations. Particularly as children become God-honouring parents.

(3) Parents represent God in our lives.

It is our duty to show the world that we are grateful for all the good things we have received from our parents. They are the ones through whom God has given us so much — physically, materially and spiritually.

## **How should we honour our parents?**

We should show by our attitude that we look on our parents as having the highest status after God — no matter what their failings may be.

Honouring parents involves such things as:

- loving them
- being of service to them
- speaking kindly to them and about them
- doing cheerfully what they ask us to do
- looking after them when they are old, sick, frail or poor.

We do this respectfully and enjoy doing it.

However, while still honouring our parents, we are to refuse to obey them if they tell us to do what is sinful.

*We must obey God, not human authority!*  
(Acts 5:29)

## **What does God require of parents?**

God requires that parents be worthy of love and respect.

Every parent is to bring up his children above all to respect and know God.

*Such parents do not make their children angry, but raise them with the training and teaching of the Lord.* (Ephesians 6:4)

## **Who are the parents we honour?**

We honour four kinds of parents:

- parents by blood relationship or adoption,
- parents in charge of a household,
- parents of their people, eg teachers, employers, government leaders,
- spiritual parents who encourage and guide us by God's word. Paul wrote: *'Through the Good News I became your father in Christ Jesus.'* (1 Corinthians 4:15)

## **... and the good news**

No human parent can, by himself or herself, completely fulfil their God-given role.

No child can, by himself or herself, completely fulfil their duty as a child.

Jesus was the perfect Son of the perfect Father. Yet he chose to pay the penalty for our shortcomings and our wilful disobedience.

Because of this, we are restored to the roles God intended for us in our relationship with God and with one another.

# FATHERS DAY

Australians observe Fathers Day on the first Sunday of September. It is a day for people to show their appreciation for fathers and father figures. Father figures may include stepfathers, fathers-in-law, guardians (eg. foster parents), and family friends.

Fathers Day family traditions may involve:

- handmade or purchased cards given or sent to fathers
- visits, letters, phone calls, text messages, emails to fathers not living in the family home
- gifts such as, chocolates, clothing, equipment for hobbies, or gift vouchers, sometimes purchased from organisations raising money for special charity causes
- breakfasts, brunches, lunches, or dinners either at home, at a restaurant, or at a café
- a day out at a sporting event, in the park, at the movies, at a zoo, or another place of interest
- Fathers Day charity activities, such as fun runs.

## ORIGINS

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in America there was a move to establish a special day to honour and celebrate fathers similar to Mothers Day. The first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane, Washington on June 19, 1910.

Fathers Day has become increasingly popular throughout the world over the years.

Fathers Day in Australia (Fiji, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea) is observed on the first Sunday of September, the beginning of Spring. There are some suggestions that Fathers Day may have links with pagan worship of the sun as the father of the universe.

## FATHERS DAY AND THE CHURCH

There are some valid arguments against celebrating Fathers Day in church. These cluster around two ideas:

- we worship God, not fathers
- the celebration exacerbates the problems of people who are conflicted in their family relations.

On the other side of the coin, secular Fathers Day is a reality in our culture. It can be a point where churches meet people where they live.

A church's observation of Fathers Day can emphasise healing and reconciliation in real families, rather than glorify the 'Hallmark-cards' image of fatherhood.

Recognising the vital importance of fathers in the physical, intellectual, social and faith development of children, Churches can also use Fathers Day as a time for launching mission or ministry initiatives aimed specifically at men, eg:

- Christian fathering/manhood seminars for blokes
- father-son 'bonding' events, eg camping weekend
- big brother/little brother events to include boys who do not have a nourishing father figure in their lives on a regular basis.



# QUOTES ABOUT FATHERS

A man knows he is growing old because he begins to look like his father.

~ Gabriel Garcia Marquez

A man's children and his garden both reflect the amount of weeding done during the growing season. ~ Unknown

A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty. ~ Unknown

An angry father is most cruel towards himself. ~ Publilius Syrus

Any man can be a Father but it takes someone special to be a dad. ~ Anne Geddes

As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live. ~ Pope John Paul II

Blessed indeed is the man who hears many gentle voices call him father! ~ Lydia M. Child

By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong. ~ Charles Wadsworth

Dad, your guiding hand on my shoulder will remain with me forever. ~ Author Unknown

Good parents give their children roots and wings. Roots to know where home is, wings to fly away and exercise what's been taught them. ~ Jonas Salk

He didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it. ~ Clarence Budington Kelland

I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection. ~ Sigmund Freud

I don't know who my grandfather was; I am much more concerned to know what his grandson will be. ~ Abraham Lincoln

I love my father as the stars — he's a bright shining example and a happy twinkling in my heart. ~ Terri Guillemets

I talk and talk and talk, and I haven't taught people in 50 years what my father taught by example in one week. ~ Mario Cuomo

It is a wise father that knows his own child. ~ William Shakespeare

If the past cannot teach the present and the father cannot teach the son, then history need not have bothered to go on, and the world has wasted a great deal of time. ~ Russell Hoban

Life was a lot simpler when what we honoured was father and mother rather than all major credit cards. ~ Robert Orben

Parents can tell but never teach, unless they practice what they preach. ~ Arnold Glasow

Role modeling is the most basic responsibility of parents. Parents are handing life's scripts to their children, scripts that in all likelihood will be acted out for the rest of the children's lives.

~ Stephen R. Covey

Small boys become big men through the influence of big men who care about small boys. ~ Anonymous

Sometimes the poorest man leaves his children the richest inheritance. ~ Ruth E Renkel

The father who does not teach his son his duties is equally guilty with the son who neglects them. ~ Confucius

The greatest gift I ever had came from God, and I call him Dad! ~ Anonymous

The love of a father is one of nature's greatest masterpieces. ~ Anonymous

To her the name of father was another name for love. ~ Fanny Fern

4 years: My Daddy can do anything!

7 years: My Dad knows a lot — a whole lot.

8 years: My father does not know quite everything.

12 years: Oh well, naturally Father does not know that either.

14 years: Oh, Father? He is hopelessly old-fashioned.

21 years: Oh, that man — he is out of date!

25 years: He knows a little bit about it, but not much.

30 years: I must find out what Dad thinks about it.

35 years: Before we decide, we will get Dad's idea first.

50 years: What would Dad have thought about that?

60 years: My Dad knew literally everything!

65 years: I wish I could talk it over with Dad once more.

We never know the love of our parents for us till we have become parents. ~ Henry Ward Beecher

When a father gives to his son, both laugh; when a son gives to his father, both cry. ~ Jewish Proverb

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 he had learned in seven years. ~ attributed to Mark Twain

You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather was. ~ Irish Proverb

# FAITH AT HOME

Someone has said that the front door of a Christian family home is the true front door to the church. In other words: 'Home is church, too'.

The home of Christian friends may be the only place where some people see and hear about God at work.

Home is the 'church' where people learn, develop, and live out faith and values in real, practical ways. It's the place where people care for one another; where they can express (and question) their faith honestly.

Parents — often fathers — are leaders in the church that is their home.

Most faith that is passed on to children in homes is caught rather than taught. It is caught from parents who are sincere in their faith; whose faith shapes their actions and their conversation.

There are also some practical ways parents can guide the faith development of their children.

*The Child in Our Hands* model (Child and Family Institute) suggests four key faith-nurturing activities for homes/families:

1. Caring conversation
2. Family traditions (faith practices, eg celebrating Fathers Day by attending church together)
3. Family service (to one another and as families to other people)
4. Family devotions (worship)

*Faith Five* (developed by Faith Inkubators) provides a simple, effective and enjoyable way of doing family devotions (4). *Faith Five* is also a way of serving one another (3); it incorporates caring conversation (1) and it may become a family tradition (2).

## FAITH FIVE

Here's what Rich Melheim (Director of Faith Inkubators) says about Faith Five:

*Care to have some fun, keep your family communicating every night, and grow in your understanding of yourself and God?*

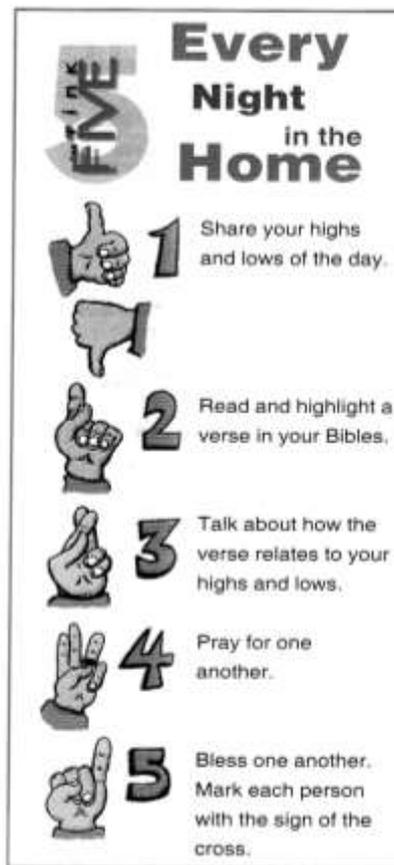
Here's how you can do it:

Whoever is going to bed first in your home calls 'FAITH 5' or 'Huddle!' (or whatever signal you choose to use). Everyone must drop what they're doing, turn off the television, put down the newspaper or their homework, set the cell phone on silent and gather in a room of the convener's choice. Then take turns going through these five simple steps:

1. **SHARE HIGHS & LOWS** of the day (the best and worst thing that happened)
2. **READ** and highlight a verse of Scripture in your Bible (or read a Bible story, or use a Bible-based song.)  
*Faith Five can be done using any Bible-reading plan.)*
3. **TALK** about how the Bible reading relates to your highs and lows
4. **PRAY** about your highs and lows, for your family, and for the world
5. **BLESS** one another

... The investment is the most expensive currency you own — your **TIME** — aimed at that most precious young person in your life.

*Be intentional. Be consistent. Be caring. Be the parent. Every night. No one else can do that for you.*  
(from: [www.faithink.com](http://www.faithink.com))



Our sample all age worship service for Fathers Day is organised around the *Faith Five*.

Bookmarks showing the *Faith Five* steps are available from.

Lutheran Tract Mission 175 Archer Street, North Adelaide SA, 5006

Email: [tracts@lll.org.au](mailto:tracts@lll.org.au) Tel (08) 8360 7200 Fax (08) 8267 1722

Have a preview look at <http://tracts.lll.org.au/pdfs/50471.pdf>

# BALLOON CROWN FOR A FATHERS DAY KING

**You will need** one sculpture balloon for each crown.

**You may also use:**

- a balloon pump
- permanent textas for writing messages on the balloon.

You may write a message for Dad on the balloon before it is inflated and watch it grow. Or write it after the crown is formed.

## PRACTICE

Well before Fathers Day

- practice the technique of making balloon crowns
- practice with the texta to make sure
  - (a) it will not rub off
  - (b) it will not weaken the rubber of the balloon.



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Blow a balloon up almost all of the way to the end, minus 5 cm.
2. Grab the balloon at one end and twist off a 5 cm bubble.
3. Take the balloon and measure it around the head of the person you're making it for.
4. Twist the end of the balloon that you've made into ball to the area where you've measured the person's head. Make sure you twist them together well so the crown will stay together.
5. Hold onto the area you've twisted together. Take the other end of the balloon and bend it over the other side and twist them together.
6. Place the hat on the head of the person you've made it for and you're done.

For more ideas and more complex styles of balloon crowns, see:

- <https://sites.google.com/site/fewdoit/balloon-twisting-instructions-1>
- [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_2210389\\_make-balloon-hat.html#ixzz1PDLd3m3J](http://www.ehow.com/how_2210389_make-balloon-hat.html#ixzz1PDLd3m3J)

## SOME CHILDREN'S BOOKS ABOUT FATHERS & FATHERS DAY

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Papa, Do you Love Me?</i> Barbara M Jossee</li><li>• <i>I Love My Daddy</i>, Sebastien Braun</li><li>• <i>A Perfect Father's Day</i>, Eve Bunting</li><li>• <i>Because Your Daddy Loves You</i>, Andrew Clements</li><li>• <i>Daddy All Day Long</i>, Francesca Rusackas</li><li>• <i>Daddy Kisses</i>, Anne Gutman</li><li>• <i>Father's Day</i>, Anne Rockwell</li><li>• <i>If I Were Your Father</i>, Margaret Park Bridges</li><li>• <i>In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall</i>, Javaka Steptoe</li><li>• Maurice Sendak's <i>Little Bear: Father Bear's Special Day</i>, Else Holmelund Minarik</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>My Dad</i>, Anthony Browne</li><li>• <i>The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish</i>, Neil Gaiman</li><li>• <i>The Father Who Had Ten Children</i>, Benedicte Guettier</li><li>• <i>The Secret Father's Day Present</i>, Andrew Clements</li><li>• <i>The Very Best Daddy of All</i>, Marion Dane Bauer</li><li>• <i>What Dads Can't Do</i>, Douglas Wood</li><li>• <i>When Daddy Comes Home</i>, Lorie Ann Grover</li></ul> |
|---|--|



# KING *for a day*

## A SAMPLE WORSHIP PLAN

This worship plan models the *Faith Five* approach to daily faith talk and worship in homes (see page 10). Suggested wording for worship leaders is in *italic print*.

### 1. ARRIVAL ACTIVITY

As people arrive they go to the hall. **YOUTH** of the congregation help family groups make balloon sculpture crowns (or another kind of crown) for the fathers, grandfathers or other father-figures in the group.

People can write a message for Dad on the balloon with texta before it is inflated. (See page 11)

Encourage all the men to wear their crowns during the service. It's less embarrassing if everyone wears one than if just one or two people do.

### 2. ENTRY

After worshipers have done the arrival activity, they move into the worship space — dads wearing their crowns.

- **HOSPITALITY TEAM** welcomes people to the service and helps them settle into seats.
- **TECH TEAM** shows a video clip of *Song for Dad* by Keith Urban.

### 3. WELCOME / INVOCATION

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *Welcome to (name of church) — a very special welcome to each father and grandfather here to celebrate Fathers Day with us.*

*It's great to be surrounded by all these dads who are king for a day today.*

*It's even better to know we are surrounded by God's love.*

*We are here on this special day to worship God, our all-powerful, perfect, loving, forgiving heavenly Father. He has also made himself known to us as Jesus Christ — our Brother, Lord and Saviour and as the Spirit who brings us together in faith.*

*We'll begin our worship with a song. Please stand and join the music team.*

### 4. OPENING SONG

**MUSIC TEAM** leads people in singing: *Part of the family (Manley) or another welcoming song.*

**TECH TEAM** displays the words of the song.

### 5. FATHERS DAY STORY

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *I wonder if Fathers Day in your household is anything like this:*

**SPEAKER:** An older man may tell how his family makes him feel like king for a day on Fathers day.

OR

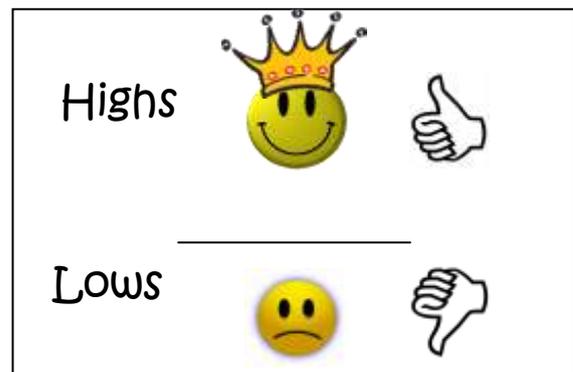
**READER** reads a children's book about Fathers Day. See a list of suggestions on page 11.

## FAITH FIVE – STEP 1 SHARE HIGHS AND LOWS

### 6. GROUP HUDDLES: HIGHS AND LOWS

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *For most of us Fathers Day has some highs and lows; some good times and good memories and some bad times and bad memories. Some times when our crowns are firmly in place and some times when they slip off completely.*

**TECH TEAM** may show a Highs/Lows slide:



**WORSHIP LEADER:** Please huddle together in your family group or with someone sitting near you. Take a few minutes for each person to share one high and one low about Fathers Day.

Allow time for people to chat. Cut off the time when some people become restless.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** Thank you. It can be good to share our stories. Sharing can make good things better and bad things feel less bad.

## FAITH FIVE – STEP 2 READ/ HEAR SCRIPTURE

### 7. GOOD NEWS

**WORSHIP LEADER:** It can also be good to bring God into our conversation about fathers and Fathers Day.

[Name the readers] are going to read to us from Romans 13:8–10 (NIRV). Listen for the most important word God has for families.

**READERS:** Three generations of a family read Romans 13:8-10 as the **TECH TEAM** displays one line at a time.

**Child:** Pay back everything you owe.

**Grandparent:** But you can never pay back all the love you owe each other.

**Parent:** Those who love others have done everything the law requires.

**C:** Here are some commandments to think about.

**G:** Do not commit adultery.

**P:** Do not commit murder.

**C:** Do not steal.

**G:** Do not want what belongs to others.

**P:** These and other commandments are all included in one rule.

**C:** Here's what it is. 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.'

**G:** Love does not harm its neighbour.

**P:** Let's add something that's not actually in this part of the Bible:

**C:** Love does not harm its child or grandchild

**G:** or its parent of grandparent.

**P:** So love does everything the law requires.

**YOUTH:** Did you hear the really important word in all that? I can make a symbol for it.

**YOUTH** blows up a balloon (or uses an existing crown) and forms a heart shape. Shows the shape and says:

God tells families to love each other. 'Love' is the most important word God has for families.

For heart-making instructions see:

<http://www.balloon-animals.com/instructions/2006/09/one-balloon-heart.html>

**WORSHIP LEADER:** Thanks, all of you. Well done. You can go back to your seats.

## FAITH FIVE – STEP 3 LINK SCRIPTURE WITH HIGHS AND LOWS

### 7. GROUP HUDDLES: REFLECT

**TECH TEAM:** displays the entire Bible passage — Romans 13:8-10.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** Please get into your huddle again.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** Take a few minutes to talk about the scripture passage and how it relates to the highs and lows you talked about before.

For some of you this may be harder or easier than for others. But please give it a go.

There are no right or wrong responses. What you are doing is bringing God into your conversation and reflecting on what he is saying to you. He won't say the same thing to everyone.

Allow time for people to chat. Cut off the time when some people become restless.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** Thanks, everyone. That may have taken you out of your comfort zone. You can relax a bit now and sing along with the band.

### 9. SONG

**MUSIC TEAM** leads people in singing: *One Family* (Geoff Strelan) or another song about Christian family.

**TECH TEAM** displays the words of the song.

## FAITH FIVE – STEP 4 PRAYER

### 10. GROUP HUDDLES: PRAYER

**WORSHIP LEADER:** Please huddle together again.

You've talked about the highs and lows of Fathers Day. You've listened to God's message about love. Now it's time to go one step further in this conversation with God. I invite you to talk to God directly in prayer.

In the next few minutes each person in your group may say a one-sentence prayer for someone else in the group. Think of their highs and lows. Just talk to God about them. You don't need any special words. You may begin your sentence prayer with 'Thank you', or 'Please', or 'I'm sorry', or 'Wow' or any words you want to use.

Allow time for people to pray. Cut off the time when some people become restless.

## FAITH FIVE – STEP 5 BLESSING

### 11. GROUP HUDDLE: BLESSING

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *while you're still in your huddle, there's one thing more to do: Bless one another.*

*Put your hand on the shoulder of the person you prayed for. Say, 'May our heavenly Father bless you in a special way this Fathers Day'.*

**TECH TEAM:** displays the words of the blessing:

May our heavenly Father bless you in a special way this Fathers Day.

Allow time for the blessing.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** Thanks, everyone. I hope that was a great experience.

## END FAITH FIVE

### 12. MESSAGE (PART 1)

#### THE JOY OF GENERATIONS

Grandchildren are like a crown to older people.  
And children are proud of their parents.  
(Proverbs 17:6)

**WORSHIP LEADER/PREACHER:** Briefly discuss the text. Refer to the crowns that the fathers and grandparents are wearing.

Acknowledge that this joy — while it is God's intention — has not been part of the experience of everyone in the congregation.

Sometimes families are the very places where we are hurt the most and where we most need to forgive and to be forgiven.

### 13. SONG

**MUSIC TEAM** leads people in singing a song that expresses God's forgiving forgiveness through what Jesus did for us, eg

- *How deep the Father's love for us* (Townsend)
- *Light of the world* (Hughes)

**TECH TEAM** displays the words of the song.

Alternatively, see if you can find a recording of Johnny Cash's *My children walk in truth*. The song is based on 3 John 1:4

### 14. MESSAGE (PART 2)

#### INTRODUCING FAITH FIVE

I have no greater joy  
than to hear that my children  
are living by the truth.  
(3 John 1:4)

**WORSHIP LEADER/PREACHER:** introduces the Faith Five approach to home devotions (see page 10).

*One of the things that gives grandparents and parents the greatest joy in their lives is when their children know and live in the truth of God's love.*

*This doesn't happen automatically. Parents and grandparents set the example that children can choose to follow. It also helps if they make a point of talking with the children about the truth of God's love.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *What we've done this morning is a model of something you can do at home whether you're a father or not.*

**HOSPITALITY TEAM** Distributes *Faith Five* bookmarks — one for each household.

Alternately, the **TECH TEAM** displays a slide with the Faith Five steps.

Review the *Faith Five* steps, while people follow on the bookmarks or screen. Remind them of how you did each step during the service.

### 15. PRAYER

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *There's a prayer in the Bible that is sometimes called the Christian family prayer or The Lord's Prayer. We'll use that prayer now.*

*It gives us a good outline of all the things we can talk to God about.*

**PRAYER LEADERS:** three generations of one family reflect on the prayer as the **TECH TEAM** displays one line of the Lord's Prayer at a time.

Use your own words, following a pattern like this:

**CHILD:** 'Our Father in heaven.'

**GRANDPARENT:** I can't get over how amazing it is that God loves to have us talk to him just like I love to hear my grandkids talk to me.

**PARENT:** Maybe even more. I know sometimes I'm too busy to really listen to my kids. But God really listens to everyone, any time.

**C:** 'Hallowed be your name.'

**G:** The God who lets me talk to him is perfect. Even his name is holy,

**P:** As God's child, I want to respect his name and the love he has for me. And I want to live in a way that doesn't disrespect him.

**C:** 'Your kingdom come.'

**G:** I may be wearing a crown today, but God is really the king.

**P:** I want to live my life — and I want my children to live — with God as our king. Every day.

**C:** 'Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

**G:** If God is our king, then we should be doing what he wants us to do.

**P:** I need God to help me do that, because on my own, I tend to do my own thing — my will, not God's will.

**C:** 'Give us today our daily bread.'

**G:** For all my life God has provided everything I ever really needed. Even this prayer, which is the reminder I need that it's all God's gift.

**P:** I need God to help me trust him today instead of worrying and working and planning for what may or may not happen in the future.

**C:** 'Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.'

**G:** [moves to or points to a cross]. The cross reminds us of how much God loves us that he let his Son die for us, so that he does forgive our sins.

**P:** I need to keep remembering what Jesus did for me so that I can forgive other people, too.

**C:** 'Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil.'

**G:** I've found that I do need God to lead me, and that I can trust him to bring me through.

**P:** I love it that God has told me I can ask him one of the biggest things in my heart: that my children are kept safe from evil.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *Let's pray the prayer together.*

*Fathers, you may be kings for the day, but when you come to God, the King of kings, please remove your crown in honour of God.*

**TECH TEAM** displays the entire prayer.

**CONGREGATION** prays the Lord's Prayer, reading from the screen. Include the doxology: 'For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours. Now and forever. Amen.'

## 16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WORSHIP LEADER** or **CONGREGATIONAL REP** makes any necessary brief announcements.

1. Explain and invite people to any fellowship activities planned for after the service.
2. Explain that prayer will be available after the service. Invite anyone for whom the day's worship has raised issues they need to talk about or pray about to take advantage of the opportunity to talk with someone. People can come individually or with other members of their family.

3. Encourage people to take home their Faith Five bookmarks and try using the plan at home.

4. Explain how the offering money will be used. And how it will be collected. Also assure guests that they are not required to give an offering.

## 17. OFFERING

Collect the offering in your usual way.

As the offering is collected:

**MUSIC TEAM** may play instrumental music

**TECH TEAM** shows PowerPoint slides of dads and grandfathers from the congregation and community interacting with their children in various ways.

You may have the text: Thank you, God, for fathers' running through the pictures.

## 18. FINAL BLESSING

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *Dear friends, as you go out on this Fathers Day, remember that every one of you is a child of our heavenly father.*

*May he bless you and keep you.*

*May he look at you with a father's beaming smile.*

*May he give his peace to you and your family today and always.*

*Amen.*

## 19. FINAL SONG.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** Let's finish with a song.

**MUSIC TEAM** leads people in singing *He's got the whole world in his hands*. Have fun with this song. Use actions; point to people mentioned. Create your own verses, eg

*He's got the whole world in his hands*

*... fathers and the mothers. . .*

*... sons and daughters. . .*

*... grandmas and grandpas. . .*

*... everybody here. . .*

*... the whole world. . .*

**TECH TEAM** displays the word of the song.

## 20. LEAVING AND HOSPITALITY

**YOUTH and/or CHILDREN** serve a special brunch or morning tea, showing particular care for all the men present.