

Dalton's Food Pantry

SEEDS OF GRACE



father's day: a new twist on an old day

June 2017

Does the third Sunday in June ring a bell with you? Probably not, although it has been celebrated every year for almost a century as Father's Day.

We seem to have a day for almost everyone and everything to be honored, so why not fathers? Ironically, the idea for Father's Day all started when a lady heard a Mother's Day sermon and decided that she didn't want all that her dad had done for her to go unrecognized. When you think about Father's Day, what comes to your mind? Can you relate to the lady who was concerned about taking her father for granted?

Honoring fathers is important. After all, the Bible commands us to honor them; but, this year, think of Father's Day with a new twist. Take some time to consider all your Heavenly Father has done for you and how you might be taking Him for granted.

The model father: God Almighty is your Heavenly Father, and He is the perfect example of what it means to be a dad. Looking at each of the letters that make up the word "FATHER," consider some of the characteristics that set Him apart and provide a model for our human dads.

- F** Forgiveness is a huge part of your relationship with your Father. He is willing and able to forgive you of any sin you commit if you will only ask Him. It's comforting to know that nothing you do is ever so bad that God won't forgive you (Romans 8:38-39; 1 John 1:9). Now, that's unconditional acceptance.
- A** He is active in your life all the time. God is always at work around you. Ask God to show you what He is doing. You will be amazed at all that is going on. More important, the invitation is open for you to get involved with Him. You never have to wait for your turn to be active with God (John 5:17).
- T** Time for you. While humans get too busy to do this or that, God always has time for you. Whenever you feel lonely, struggle with a problem, want to share a thought, or need to deal with a concern, He is there for you. You can't find a time in your day when He is too busy to talk or listen to you (Jeremiah 33:3).
- H** The heart of the matter is that God knows your heart, and He loves you anyway. Proverbs tells us that the heart is deceitful above all things. Many people don't like to be around you if you aren't in a good mood or if you make mistakes. God wants to hang out with you anytime, and He alone is able to change your heart to be all you were created to be (1 John 4:9-10,19).
- E** Everywhere sums up God's place in your life. If you're a Christian, there is nowhere you can go where He isn't with you. It can be encouraging to realize that when you are in a tough place in your life, He is right there with you. Whether other people are there or not, God is by your side (Romans 8:35-39).
- R** Rest and Read. These are two areas where most people could use a little work. Rest is important to you because it's easy to become so busy that you don't take time with the Lord. He wants you to set aside daily time to rest in Him and to read His Word. The Bible is His letter to His children. The best way to get to know your Father is to spend quality time resting and reading all about Him in the Word (John 14:21; Psalm 46:10).

All these attributes of God's character make Him who He is. If you have been blessed with an earthly dad who has a lot in common with our Heavenly Father, be grateful. If you have missed out on a relationship with an earthly dad, be thankful that God is there for you and wants to meet the needs in your life. Let God know how much He means to you.

you're a good, good father

BY: J.R. DALTON

I've heard a thousand stories of what they think you're like but I've heard the tender whispers of love in the dead of night, And you tell me that you're pleased and that I'm never alone.

You're a good, good father, it's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are. And I'm loved by you. It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am.

Oh, I've seen many searching for answers far and wide, but I know we're all searching for answers only you provide. 'Cause you know just what we need before we say a word.

You are perfect in all of your ways, you are perfect in all of your ways, you are perfect in all of your ways, you are perfect in all of your ways to us.

Oh, it's love so undeniable I can hardly speak. Peace so unexplainable, I can hardly think, as you call me deeper still.

You're a good, good father. You are perfect in all of your ways.

Time, what are you going to do with the time you have left? I feel that if you don't re-position yourself, you could miss the best time of your life. If you don't know what time it is, time will get away from you and you won't know where it went. The worse thing in your life is not money getting away from you or people getting away from you, it is time. I ask myself daily where Daddy did it go? I miss you so. I am now my Daddy's age. As I sit on the front porch at our family home at 1141 N. Goodlet, Indianapolis, IN, I look and think back at all

the "great" memories with my daddy this Father's Day, and my family. I continue to ask myself where are all the old neighbors in the hood? Now I am the old person. The old people are gone and my hair is thin and gray. What are you going to do with the time you have left?

It seems as only yesterday that I was on the inside of this house looking and waiting for my daddy to come home from work after he and momma would stop at the local tavern to have a beer with their friends. It was a daily habit that daddy thoroughly enjoyed. Pee Wees—Roy's and Hoffas Café Saloon were his favorites. Yes Daddy, you were a good, good father. I loved you with "all" my heart. I miss you dearly. I remember the road trips, down US 40 heading to Clay City, IN and you drinking a cold Miller Lite singing Amazing Grace to me. Wow! Life is but a vapor. I know you're in a better place and hope you're proud of me and my family. And just how much we loved our momma too! Yes,

time has slipped away from me too. I try my best to be a good father because I was raised by a "Great" one. Thanks for being my friend and my daddy. Looking forward soon to see you again. Thank you Jesus for my good dad.

I have always said Father's Day in the hood is a tough, tough day. Many of my babies in our ministry have never seen or met their daddy. Please pray for peace, love, joy and happiness for my babies in the hood on this Father's Day.

God Bless,
J.R. Dalton

With God, all things are possible. Matthew 19:26





Why do we celebrate Father's Day?

Father's Day is celebrated worldwide to recognize the contribution that fathers and father figures make to the lives of their children. This day celebrates fatherhood and male parenting. Although it is celebrated on a variety of dates worldwide, many countries observe this day on the third Sunday in June.

Where did Father's Day originate?

Though Father's Day wasn't made a national holiday until 1972, the efforts of one woman in Washington sparked a movement to celebrate dads long before then. In 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, was inspired to create a holiday honoring fathers.

William Jackson Smart, her father, was a farmer and Civil War veteran that raised Sonora and her five younger brothers by himself after his wife, Ellen, died giving birth to their youngest child in 1898. While attending a Mother's Day church service in 1909, Sonora, then 27, came up with the idea.

Within a few months, Sonora had convinced the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA to set aside a Sunday in June to celebrate fathers. She proposed June 5, her father's birthday, but the ministers chose the third Sunday in June so that they would have more time after Mother's Day (the second Sunday in May) to prepare their sermons.

So it was that on June 19, 1910, Sonora delivered presents to handicapped fathers, boys from the YMCA decorated their lapels with fresh-cut roses (red for living fathers, white for the deceased), and the city's ministers devoted their homilies to fatherhood.

Father's Day is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year on June 19, 2017.

Celebrating With Your Father

- Let him sleep in. If your dad enjoys sleeping in, but normally doesn't get to because of work and kids, let him do it today.
- Wish him a Happy Father's Day.
- Ask him what he wants to do.
- Make the day joyful.
- Talk with your dad.
- Make it a family event.
- Go on a picnic with your family.
- Go fishing with your dad.
- Take your dad to the golf course.
- Go go-carting with dad.
- Go camping for the weekend.
- He's given you so much, now it's time for you both to give back. Turn spending time with Dad into a meaningful opportunity to help those in your community.



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Dalton's Food Pantry compassionately touches lives in being the hands and feet of Jesus, by providing essential necessities and pursuing souls in planting seeds of love, hope and encouragement for the assured growth which is promised in God through whom all things are possible.

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What have you done for GOD today?

my dad

BY: JAN ELLIS



My dad didn't have an easy life but he had a good life. His parents were divorced when he was 7 years old. His biological father wasn't much of a part of my dad's childhood, not knowing much of the time where his father was. My dad and his mom moved from Washington, IN to the big city of Indianapolis, where she met his step father. He couldn't have asked for a more loving and caring step father, however his mother became an alcoholic. She and her husband had three children together. Since my dad was the oldest, there were great expectations of him. At a very young age, he started working at the neighborhood grocery store. His mother would be waiting at the door on Friday's to collect his pay. She would spend it on herself or buy the three younger children clothes. My dad was not a very good student academically, because of juggling work and school. Everyone knew and loved him because of his joyful and funny personality. He and my mom were high school sweethearts and as soon as they graduated, they were married. If they both were still alive, they would be celebrating their 68th anniversary this year. My dad had developed a strong work ethic at a young age so he chose an early draft for the Korean Conflict. He was overseas for 18 months before returning home and starting his life long career at Allison's as a supervisor of Machine Repair. Up until the time my mom got pregnant, ten years after they were married, my dad continued to help his mom financially raise the three younger children, as well as pay for her rehab. Once I was born, his mother quit drinking and his nomad father started coming around a couple of times a year.

My dad worked hard for his family. He always wanted the best of the best for my mother, brother and I. He would go without so we could have our needs and much of the time our wants met. I was never allowed to wear tennis shoes growing up, because that meant you were poor (if he only knew how much tennis shoes cost now!)

My dad was always very compassionate, loving and caring for others. He *always* put others first. He LOVED to make people laugh. He was always telling jokes, most of them weren't funny, but he would just laugh at himself! His laughter was contagious. I always got the biggest joy seeing him smile and hearing his laugh.

My dad was not only a great dad but a strong leader; he was wise, he was patient. Of course, I didn't realize that until I was older. I remember telling my dad that he was smart! I'm sure he sighed in relief that all of his fathering wasn't in vain! My dad didn't grow up in a home where God was honored or talked about, however God chose my dad as his servant. I asked my dad to come to my baptism and after that he had a lot of questions. After much searching, he accepted Jesus as his Savior, at the age of 40. I'm thankful that I had a part of leading my dad to Jesus! I am double blessed by having a loving father here on earth and a loving Heavenly Father. My dad devoted the rest of his life on this earth to God, being an elder and treasurer at our home church for years.

Shortly after my dad retired in 1988, he started working for J.R.'s Used Tires. He just couldn't sit still and enjoy being retired. He and J.R. became best friends and he helped J.R. in many ways before he took sick at the age of 71 when he started showing signs of Alzheimer's. By 2003 we had to put him in a nursing home where he finished his life on this earth in 2008. I lost my dad twice; once mentally and the second time physically. It was a long, hard, dark time in my life. But I rejoice now that his mind and body are whole again. He's working, yes working on the streets of gold! I have no doubt that he is serving in heaven, showing love and compassion to everyone he meets and telling his corny jokes. I miss you so much dad but wouldn't ever wish you to be back here; you're in the arms of Jesus, a place I never want you to leave!