

Father's Day

Father's Day meant spending time with my dad, showing him extra love and appreciation. Now it's a day to remember him with gratitude and look forward to when I'll see him again in heaven. In the meantime, I'm reminded of him every day – by the things around our home that he made, by what he taught me, and possibly even a little when I look in the mirror. Some part of him lives on in me, and I hope I represent him well.

No human father is perfect, of course, and some fail miserably. But regardless what kind of earthly father you had, your *heavenly* Father is totally worthy of devotion and praise. God created and faithfully sustains us. He is never absent, lazy, irresponsible, vulgar, or asleep. He disciplines us in love, and his unconditional love never fails. He is always ready to hear our prayers, to forgive, and to bless. Jesus said:

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you... Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"
(Matthew 7:7-11)

Do you desire a closer relationship with your Father in heaven? Do you want to know him and his ways better, to feel his powerful love and guidance, to enjoy his good gifts, and to reflect his perfect character in the way you live? Then spend time with him. Speak to him in prayer, remembering to listen and obey as well. Hang out with people who know him. Search where God has chosen to reveal himself: in his creation, in his Word, and through his Son – *the exact representation of his being* (Hebrews 1:3). As Jesus said, *"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."* (John 14:9)

Even more than with my dad or yours, there are reminders of our heavenly Father everywhere – in the things he has made and by what he has taught in his Word and through his Son Jesus. Hopefully when you examine yourself, you find a reflection of him there also, growing more and more like him (2 Cor. 3:18) and representing him well to the world around you. Make every day Father's Day by spending time with your heavenly Dad out of love and gratitude, and looking forward to the day when you can live with him in glory.

S. Johnson