

The Third Sunday in June – Father's Day

"For God has commanded, 'honor your father and mother'..." Matthew 15:4

Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, was the catalyst in setting aside a day to honor fathers. The story goes that after hearing a sermon in church regarding Mother's Day, Sonora thought that there needed to be a Father's Day too. She was especially proud of her own father who had raised his six children alone after his wife had died. Sonora promoted the holiday for about a year and in 1910 the city of Spokane celebrated the first Father's Day in the United States. In 1924 the idea was supported by President Calvin Coolidge, but was not made an official national holiday until 1972 when President Nixon signed it into law.

Prayer

Today in our country we honor our fathers. We are thankful for the strength and faith and love we receive from dads everyday. Dear Lord, our heavenly Father, we ask that you bless our dads with good health, happiness and peace all the days of their lives. Thank you for our dads. Amen.

Activities

Dad Discussion

Before going any further with Father's Day activities, ask the children about their dads. Keep in mind that many children do not live with or have a dad. Talk about special friends, grandfathers, uncles, etc. Ask the children why dads and other significant males in their lives are important and special to them. What do we like to do with them? How do they teach us about God?

(Any of the ideas below can be adapted to grandfather, uncle, friend, godfather.)

Father's Day Cards

Enlarge and copy the balloon letters "Dad" (provided on page 161) on a piece of 8 1/2" by 11" paper. In the letters, have the children write words that describe their Dad. Younger children will need help writing. Decorate the rest of the card, roll it (beginning with the short side) and slide it into a paper towel roll. Tie a ribbon around the tube and it is ready to give.

Father's Day Bookmarks

Use 100 or 150 grain sandpaper and cut it into 2 1/2" by 9" pieces. Punch 2 holes at the top of the sandpaper, about 1/2" from the top edge. Lace a piece of rug yarn through the holes. Have the children write "Happy Father's Day" with marker on the piece of sandpaper and sign it from, "One of Your Little Projects" and the child's name.

