



Assembly



Fathers' Day

Aim:

To encourage pupils to consider the meaning and opportunity of Fathers' Day (June 19th)

Introduction

The dad the other kids want

There's a new advert that's appeared on hoardings up and down the country, encouraging men to be the dad that all other the other kids wish they had. How do men achieve this target? Answer: by owning a particular high spec car. The intention is to portray this particular model as not only family friendly in terms of size and robustness, but also to imply that it has the right qualities of power and style to impress young boys in particular.



Looking Deeper

The dad of your dreams

What are the qualities that impress you in a dad? Does he need to be rich, handsome, physically fit, a high achiever, a success? That's the image that's so often portrayed as the stereotypical desirable father in an advertising campaign, and is the image

that's driving the car advert mentioned. Like most stereotypes, it's actually some way from the actual experience most of us have of our dad, and to tell you the truth, it also misses out many of the qualities that really are important. It's probably actually more important to most of us that our dad is understanding, patient, caring, playful and, quite simply, there for us. Dads don't need to be style icons. What most impresses us is that they protect us when we're afraid, they listen to us when we're confused, they help us when we're too short, weak or impatient and they comfort us when we're in pain.

Jesus gave his followers the picture of God as being like a good father. He uses the word 'Abba' to describe him. This word isn't only the name of a Swedish pop group, it's also the word in the Aramaic language that Jesus spoke that means 'dad'. Jesus told his followers to: think of the very best dad in the world and that's what God is like.

How does your dad live up to the image of the dad of your dreams? Sadly for some of you he doesn't. For family reasons you know little of the kind of person your dad is as he isn't around, and that's tough for you. Hopefully there are others who try to fill that role in your life. For others, your experience is that your dad lets you down much of the time, and that's tough too. For most of us, our experience is that our dad is pretty much like most adults: good for us much of the time but prone to his moments of moodiness and can be a bit of an embarrassment.

Next Sunday is Fathers' Day. How are we going to treat our dads? May I suggest we start by accepting them as they are, forgiving their failures and forgetting our arguments. Second, I suggest we help them to accept us more easily by thoughtfully taking their



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preferences into consideration. And finally, chocolate, a home-cooked meal and some quality time together to round things off will be appreciated!

Reflection

Think of three qualities you admire in your dad (or the men who act like a dad to you).

Prayer

Father God
Thank you for our dads and those who act like a dad to us.
May we be active and imaginative in the way we show our appreciation to them on Father's Day.
Amen

Thought for the day

We are each a gift that was given to our dad

Keywords

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appreciation

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