

# What's A Dad to Do?

By Lee Yates



When someone hears the words *father* or *dad*, different images arise. There are some common images shaped by television and the surrounding culture, but each person has his or her own idea of what a dad is. There are places in the Bible that refer to God as Father. Explore the expectations you place on the words *dad* and *father*.

**For**  
Teen Family

**Season**  
Summer

## Needed

Bible, bookmark or slip of paper, What's A Dad to Do worksheet (see last page), pens or pencils

## Prepare in Advance

Place a bookmark in your Bible at John 14:1-7. Make a copy of the What's A Dad to Do worksheet (see last page) for each family member.

## Activity Plan

1. Gather the family and begin with a short prayer. Here are some words if you need them:

*God, you are often called Father in our Scriptures. Open our minds and hearts as we explore what it means to be a dad or father. Amen.*

2. Give each family member a copy of the What's A Dad to Do worksheet (see last page) and a pen or pencil. Allow time for each person to complete it.
3. Ask each person to tell about what he or she wrote on the worksheet. Discuss your answers to these questions:
  - What things written on the worksheets surprised you? Why?
  - What are the commonalities in our answers? Why might this be so?
  - What are the differences in our answers? Why might this be so?
  - In what ways might the expectations placed on fathers or dads in our culture be unhealthy or unhelpful?
4. Ask someone to read aloud John 14:1-7 from your Bible or from the text at the end of the activity. Discuss:
  - How do your experiences, good or bad, with your father have an impact on your relationship with God?
  - How might your relationship with your own father shape your relationship with Father God.
  - How might our thoughts about God as Father shape our expectations of earthly fathers?
  - How comfortable are you using the name Father when praying to God?
  - Why do you think Father is such a commonly used name and image for God?

5. Close your time by praying together the Lord's Prayer. Use the words your family or your church usually uses or the words below:

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

**John 14:1-7**

**I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life**

<sup>1</sup> "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."



## What's A Dad to Do?

What are the most common characteristics or qualities of a good dad or father?

What chores or tasks do you think are mainly the responsibility of a dad or father?

Who is the person you think of when you hear the words *dad* or *father*?

What are the most important things you have learned from this person?

To what extent do you think cultural understandings and expectations of a dad or father have changed over the years? How so?

**ADULTS ONLY:** As a parent, what have you done differently from the father figures in your own life? Why?

**YOUTH ONLY:** When you have children of your own, what might you do differently from the father figures in your own life? Why?

