



The World's Greatest Father

Every year, without a doubt, at least one camper gets homesick! Most kids that get that way have a happy home life with good parents that love them. One of Bob's friends, Sarah, told him she was homesick because she had the greatest dad in the whole world and she really missed him!

How would you describe the perfect father? _____

_____ Would he make lots of money? Would he spend time with you every day? Would he always say "I love you?" Would he let you do whatever you want?



Search It!

It's easy to wish people were different! Did you know that when you become a Christian, God becomes your Heavenly Father? We learned in the lesson about being saved forever that God holds the believer in His hand and nothing can take him out.



In previous lessons, you have learned that God created you, loves you, and knows you. There are so many more

characteristics of God to discover. **God is not like an earthly**

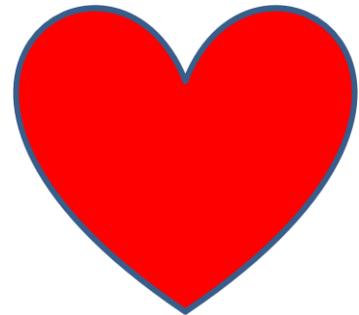
father. Earthly fathers can sin, hurt you, or even give up on you. God is greater than even the most loving, seemingly perfect father on earth. God never gives up on you. God never will mistreat you. God always keeps His promises and He cannot fail.

Is God your Father? Have you accepted His salvation and become part of His family? If you have, you need to realize that you are the son or daughter of the King. He is your heavenly Father and you should want to do right to please Him

What should you want to do because God is your heavenly Father? _____



In Luke 15:11, Jesus began a parable. A parable is a story that helps you understand Bible truth, and teaches an important lesson. The story is about a man with two sons. The father had an inheritance, which is an amount of money set aside to give his family when he dies. The sons probably thought often about what they would do with the money their father had for them, yet they continued to work in the fields for their father. The younger son decided he was not going to wait until his father died to take his money. He wanted his money NOW! This boy was very selfish and greedy. He wanted to go out, buy whatever he wanted, and not have to live at home anymore. As a result, the father gave him his inheritance. Soon after leaving home, the younger son had wasted all of his money! Now he had nothing. Even worse, the Bible says that famine occurred. A famine is when there is little or no food available. This son was now hungry and tired. The son realized he had to eat something! He decided he would once again work in the fields, this time it wasn't with his father, but now he was living among the muddy grounds, filled with pigs. He got a job feeding the pigs...not only did he give them food, but he also ate the same food he fed them!



After a little while of living in such bad conditions, he began thinking about how even his father's workers had plenty to eat and were cared for, but now he had nothing. The inheritance only lasted for a little while, but now his hands were empty! He felt sorry that he had been greedy and left before his father wanted him to leave. Verses 20-21 tell us the end of the parable. "And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." Even though the son had done wrong and deserved nothing, instead of getting angry at his son, the father showed his love and forgave him.

The father in this story pictures God's love for you and me. We live doing many sins and doing things our way so often. However, God, as our Father in Heaven still loves us and wants us to come back to Him.

What is a parable? A. Able person B. Story C. Song

How many sons did the father in the parable have? 4 2 0 3

What did the father do when his son returned home? _____

How is God like the father in this story? _____

When you trust Jesus as your personal Savior, believing in Him alone to take away your sins and give you eternal life, you become adopted into the family of God. In 1 John 3:1, the Bible states "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

According to Matthew 6:8, what does your heavenly Father know? _____

True or false? Your Heavenly Father forgives you if you forgive others (Mark 11:25-26). _____

True or False? The Heavenly Father gives better gifts than an earthly father could (Luke 11:11-13). _____

What is something that you have learned about who God is that can help you view Him as your Heavenly Father? In other words, what characteristics of God help you to see Him is greater than anyone else in your life? _____



TRY THIS!

Remember, no matter what your earthly father is like, God loves you far more!

Perhaps you have a great dad! If that's true, why not make him a special card or note to tell him how much you are thankful for him?

Some parents live separated or divorced. Maybe you do not even get to see your dad or get along with him very well. God put you in your family for a purpose even if you do not understand why. Try to pray for God to help your dad.

**Draw a different pattern in each of the letters.
(Example: in "F" you could draw stripes)**

Father

