

**UPDATED
for 2017**

CVM
CHRISTIAN VISION FOR MEN



FATHER'S DAY PACK

IN ASSOCIATION WITH:



CONTENTS:

Preparing for the service	Page 3
All-age Service idea 1	Page 5
All-age Service idea 2	Page 8
All-age Service idea 3 <i>(New for 2017)</i>	Page 10
More top tips to supercharge your service!	Page 12
Sunday School Lesson	Page 13
The father effect	Page 15
Service outline	Page 16
Quiz <i>(New for 2017)</i>	Page 17
Colouring sheet	Page 18
Throwing Star instructions <i>(New for 2017)</i>	Page 19

FATHER'S DAY PACK

Preparing for the service

Firstly, congratulations on actually doing a service based around Father's Day! It is such a perfect occasion to celebrate and consider what fatherhood is all about.

There are three main things to consider when putting together your Father's Day service; ambience, content and freebies. Ambience has to do with how you set the church out, content is about what goes on in the service itself, and freebies are simply what you might give fathers as a small token of thanks and celebration for being a dad.

Ambience

Stop for a moment and think about what men like. Sport, cars, gadgets, adventure, challenges and food are just a few things. How about setting the church out so that it celebrates these things?

- * Instead of putting flowers out how about displaying footballs, remote controlled vehicles, power tools, model cars or other man-oriented sculptures/art/displays? If you have them on display make sure it is OK for them to be played with, especially after the service - Father's Day is meant to be fun after all!
A word of advice though; don't let toddlers play with hammer drills ...
- * Put posters up of the same things, either bought cheaply on the internet or from a high street retailer. If needs be just print off pictures that you find online.
- * Have men welcoming at the door dressed as bouncers pretending to check the names of people before letting them in. Choose the biggest blokes you have, but make sure they understand that this is meant to be fun, and that they do actually have to let everyone in.
- * If like many churches you have a video projector setup, have scenes from car racing or extreme sports playing before the service starts. DVDs of these can be bought or go to YOUTUBE online and these can be played with or without sound, depending on what you feel is appropriate. Always check the content yourself before using it publicly.

Content

Men often like to be direct and to the point, so as you think about planning the service consider some of the following:

- * The leader of the service should preferably be a man, and even a dad himself, it just makes sense because then he can share from his own experiences and any dads invited to the service are more likely to feel a connection with him.

- * Keep long anecdotes and 'feeling' language to a minimum.
- * Choose songs that men can easily sing i.e. not too high.
- * Choose songs that don't have overly romanticised themes e.g. singing about 'Jesus as a lover'. Most songs and hymns are absolutely fine but a small percentage aren't great for men, and equally there are some that probably aren't great for women, and some discernment is required to think through what people are actually being asked to sing.
- * Don't teach a new song at a Father's Day service; stick to what everyone can sing confidently.
- * Have intercessory/thanks prayers offered from a mother/wife, a son/daughter, a grandfather and a single man to give a good range.
- * DO NOT, repeat DO NOT force men (if they want to, fine!) to dance to the latest crazy actioned children's song. In fact, this rule applies to every service, not just Father's Day. And no, refusing to dance like an octopus does not indicate stifled spirituality.
- * Splitting the sermon into two or three components may make it easier to digest; see the suggested service plan enclosed.
- * Please remember to be sensitive to those in the congregation who may not know their dad, who have dads living apart from them, deceased dads or just plain awful ones.
- * If the children are leaving part way through the service you may wish to use the enclosed material for Sunday School. If you are holding an all-age family service, refer to the all-age section. Finally, if you are preaching to an adult congregation please refer to the sermon outline.

Freebies

Everyone loves a freebie; it costs so little but can make people feel very appreciated and for some dads this can be a fairly irregular occurrence.

- * Think about inviting people to come to the service 15 minutes early for a free bacon butty or, if you really want to go for it, a fry-up. Yes, the church will smell of bacon, but there are usually few complaints.
- * Put a small Yorkie bar (bought as a part of a multi-pack) on the seats for everyone as they come in OR give a Yorkie bar to all the men with a small printed verse stuck to them such as:
*'Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith;
 be men of courage; be strong.' 1 Corinthians 16:13*
 Of course, there are plenty of verses to choose from!
- * Buy some cheap but interesting gizzits from an army surplus store or an online retailer. Compasses and emergency kits can be had for as little as £1. They can be great giveaways, or for children to come forward and pick out of a bag as a wrapped gift for their dad.
- * Get some beer mats printed with some inspiring verses (see above) and hand them out at the end for every man to take home.
- * Have fun!

All-age Service idea 1

'Advice Required ...'

Nappy Competition:

You will need - 4 x 'Terry Towelling' nappies with safety pins, 4 dolls that the nappies will fit on, and an older or more mature lady (a grandmother perhaps) to demonstrate and 4 willing men who have perhaps recently become dads. Prizes - perhaps Yorkie Bars or a CVM *Founding Fathers* book.

Part 1:

Show some funny video clips of Dad fails such as 'Best Dad Fails Compilation', there are many of these available on YouTube.

Part 2:

Set up 4 four small tables at the front with a doll, nappy and safety pin on each one. Invite the four men and the lady to the front. Have the lady demonstrate how to put on the nappy. The challenge is then for the men to put on the nappies following the instructions they received, adding a time limit adds to the fun.

At the end each man's attempt is judged by the lady with marks out of 10.

As there is a few various ways to put on these nappies, this could be repeated a couple of times. Encourage the congregation to cheer along etc. make it very light hearted and fun.

Part 3:

Read *Proverbs 19:20* - Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.

Explain that as a church family it is good for for us to offer good advice and help one another, especially as we are thrust into new situations such as parenthood and suddenly have to learn a whole new set of skills. Encourage children to pray reflecting on this theme.

Part 4:

Show some video clips of dads saving kids such as 'Top 10 Dad Saves Compilation 2015', there are many of these available on YouTube.

SERMON SUGGESTION

Sermon Outline – ‘Advice Required ...’

1 Kings 12:1-17

The central theme of this sermon is based around the idea that as a dad we are often thrust suddenly into a whole new world, learning a whole new set of skills often quickly and with no training given. This is where seeking God first and following good advice from older, more experienced dads can be of great benefit. Also more experienced dads can pass on good advice and lessons learned to younger newer dads.

Personal stories and the perspective of the preacher will be well received on Fathers day, share some of your experiences of being a dad, especially when you may have messed up or had to seek the advice of other dads. Keep these fun and light hearted.

Sermon Guide

- * What a different history of the Jews would have been written had Rehoboam not followed the advice of reckless counsellors.
- * The people of Israel were willing to accept Rehoboam as king on one condition, that he lightened the burdens placed on them by Solomon.
- * Initially Rehoboam sought the advice of the old men who had been Solomon’s counsellors and were ripe with experience. They urged the king to be kind and considerate as in doing this the people would have been his servants forever.
- * Instead he sought and followed the advice of his young, rash companions who had always fed his vanity. Instead of lightening the burden they advised him to increase it.
- * The effect was almost instantaneous, the long suffering people refused to be trampled over. Therefore the smouldering beginnings of a revolt turned into a full scale rebellion and Israel’s greatness was destroyed.
- * The same can be said of our parenting and the thousand upon thousands of decisions we will need to make as a dad.

John 5:30, Matthew 6:33 & James 1:5

- * Rehoboam’s first mistake was not seeking God’s will in the situation.
- * We make hundreds if not thousands of decisions a day without a thought to God’s will. Unless it is a time when the wrong decision could be disastrous for the future then we often agonise over God’s mind on the matter.
- * The biblical model of knowing God’s will centres on a relationship.
- * When we consciously acknowledge His presence and depend upon Him in the course of making decisions, the choices that are both ours and His.

- * God's will is not an end in itself but a means of knowing Him better and becoming more like Jesus.

Proverbs 12:15 & Jeremiah 7:24

- * Rehoboam's second mistake was listening and following the advice of the wrong people.
- * It is important to seek out the correct people who will give good advice.
- * People who will be honest and real and not just tell you what you want to hear.
- * *Proverbs 13:20* - Show me your friends and I will show you who you really are.

Hebrews 10:22-25

- * As we journey through what it means to be a dad, seeking the advice and experience of others is a fantastic tool.
- * Encourage and facilitate opportunities for dads to get together.
- * Always be on the lookout for someone more experienced than you in their journey as a dad that you can receive good advice from.
- * Also lookout for someone who isn't as experienced as you in being a dad so you can share experiences and lessons learnt.
- * We will get it wrong, make mistakes and worry constantly about our kids but together we can help, encourage and build each other up to parent to the best of our abilities.

Encourage the men to stand as men who will seek God's will in their role as a dad. Inspire them to seek out the correct advice from others and to be an encourager to those around them. Together they can raise children who love and seek the Lord.

All-age Service idea 2 'Courage'



Thanks to 'Who Let The Dads Out'
Find out more at wholetthedadsout.org.uk

Opening Activity

Begin with a courage test.

Ask some volunteer men to come to the front. Have four or five boxes set out, and cut the fronts off the boxes so the congregation can see what's inside. Make sure your volunteers don't see.

Cut hand sized holes on the top of the boxes for the men to put their arms through. You could blindfold the men too, to make it a bit more fun.

In the boxes have different unpleasant feeling substances, such as damp sponge (brain), peeled grapes (eyeballs), soft flour tortilla smeared with oil (skin), overcooked rice in olive oil (maggots).

You could even cut a hole in the side of one of the boxes and grab their hand (they'd need to be blindfolded for this to work).

Ask them to try to identify what they're feeling. Give a prize to the man who gets the most right.

Put a Yorkie bar in the final box and tell them they can take it out and keep it.

Ask the men to describe how they felt and congratulate them on their courage.

Introduce the theme

Introduce the theme by saying that courage is not just about fighting in battles or abseiling down cliffs or feeling unknown substances in boxes! It can be expressed in all sorts of ways.

Show a video clip from YouTube. The Carlsberg advert that involves bikers in a cinema is a light hearted one. Search for 'that calls for a Carlsberg, bikers.'

A courageous father

Explain that you are going to talk about being a courageous father by looking at Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus - a courageous believer, risk-taker and protector.

Joseph the father figure. Joseph was not Jesus' biological father. He was a father figure. This highlights the importance of father figures and emphasises that all men are father figures to all children. We must accept and respond to the truth that we are the children of many fathers and the fathers to many children. If we embrace this the way Joseph did we will have the best chance of passing our faith on to the next generation.

Joseph, the believer [Matthew 1: 18-25]. When an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him that the baby was from God, that he should marry Mary and give the name Jesus to their son, Joseph believed it to be true and did what the angel had commanded him. That must have required a whole lot of determination to believe. Like Joseph, we have to be determined to believe that God

is there. Our children will only believe in God if they know someone else who does. As their fathers we need the courage to not abandon our journey with God for any price.

Take a break, and go into the congregation to ask people to give examples of what they need courage for, for example some may need courage to get spiders out of the house or to fly somewhere on a plane or to watch their favourite football team in a cup final or to put things on a shelf that they've just put up! Lead the way by sharing your own needs for courage. Encourage some light-hearted examples and some banter between people.

Joseph the risk-taker. Joseph risked his status, reputation and happiness by marrying Mary, but he wasn't playing fast and loose. He did it based on what he thought God was telling him to do. Nevertheless it would have been safer for him to break things off with Mary and find another girl to marry. People must have been whispering, but courageously Joseph chose to ignore the gossip and take a risk. He didn't play it safe. He didn't conform. He was resolute in what he believed and took a risk on the basis of it. He swam against the tide of popular opinion and his son grew up to do the same thing. As fathers and father figures we must have the courage to take risks - but risks to follow what we believe to be the will of God.

Joseph the protector [Matthew 2: 13&14 and 19-23]. Show a YouTube clip of Derek Redmond and his father in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics Men's 400 metres semi final. Derek Redmond's father wants to protect his son and lets nothing stand in the way. Like God, our Father, he walks with his son through his pain. Joseph found the courage to protect his family, but he didn't feel it necessary to exercise physical prowess. Instead he flexed his spiritual muscles. He listened to God and obeyed him. As fathers and father figures we can protect our families by seeking the will of God and finding the courage to follow it.

Conclusion. Joseph was a courageous believer, risk-taker and protector. The James Bond of fatherhood or, more importantly, a father after God's own heart. Do you have the courage to be the same kind of father?

Note: For further information about Joseph as a father, refer to Chapter 10: 'An awesome kind of dad' in the book *Founding Fathers*.

Closing activity

Invite all of the men to gather at the front of church with all the children and take a photograph of them. Put it in a frame on the wall with the title 'We Are Fathers To All Children! While they are stood there, invite some of the women in the congregation to thank God in prayer for the fathers and father figures of the church.

Finish by singing a rousing hymn about courage/fatherhood, such as 'Be thou my vision'!

All-age Service idea 3

'Dad: Priest, Prophet, and Protector'



Thanks to Dave Hearn of *The Global Adventure*
Find out more at global-adventure.org

All Age Service Outline

If the weather cooperates on Father's Day, why not try an outdoor service? An outdoor service can create a great family atmosphere and doesn't require too much extra work. You could set up folding chairs or even have families bring blankets to sit on. (*If you want to take the theme all the way, why not make your Father's Day service a lead-in to an all-church picnic?*)

Even if you don't have the facilities or weather to create an outdoor service, you can put on an enjoyable service for Father's Day.

Part 1: A bit of origami...

Prep: Before the service, cut coloured or white paper into squares

Hand out two square sheets of coloured or white paper to each family (or each man) as they come into the service. At the start of the service, let each man know they are going to do a little origami today - but not a flower or a crane with flappy wings ... they are going to make a throwing star. If possible, show the instructions on an overhead projector or hand out sheets of paper with the instructions. (*see page 19*)

Part 2: Sermon Idea:

Dad: Priest, Prophet, and Protector

Scripture Reference: 1 Kings 2:3-7

1 Kings chapters 1 and 2 tell us the story of King David passing on his throne to his son Solomon. And we can take from it some real pearls of wisdom. As King David lies old and frail in his bed, his son Adonijah is trying to steal the throne. David finds himself surrounded by his "band of brothers" – his most loyal advisors – as he passes the mantle of kingship to his son.

- * *Zadok, the priest:* His name means "righteous," and he was the one entrusted with carrying the ark of the covenant – the presence of God on earth. And he would be the one that would anoint the boy Solomon as King. The priest was the embodiment of God's presence and anointing.
- * *Nathan, the prophet:* He was the one that had confronted King David years before on his sin with Bathsheba ... and brought David the promise of God's covenant: that a son of David would one day come and reign forever as the Messiah. So Nathan wasn't afraid to get in David's face with news - bad or good.

- * *Benaiah, the protector*: He is one of David's Mighty Men and the captain of his personal bodyguard. To call this guy a protector would be an understatement - and he had King David's back through thick and thin. Benaiah wasn't about to let this threat to David's kingdom go without a fight.

Each of these men represent a vital piece of fatherhood. As fathers, we are empowered and destined to be the priest, prophet, and protector of our families. Like Zadok, we must carry the "ark" of God's presence and set the standard of how we should live. Like Nathan, we must be in continual prayer for our family to direct them to follow God's vision for their lives, and lovingly discipline them if necessary. And, like Benaiah, we must protect them, spiritually and physically, keeping their hearts and bodies safe from harm. It's a high calling - probably the highest calling - to be a Dad.

Fathers, and sons, what then is our challenge?

And then, with his final command, David proceeds to challenge his son:

"Be strong; show yourself a man. ...Walk in his ways, keep his commandments (v. 3, the priest), so that the promise to me be fulfilled (v. 4, the prophet), and use firm justice and mercy in equal measure (v. 5 & 7, the protector)" - 1 Kings 2

Further discussion points:

- * As fathers (physical, spiritual or otherwise...), what can we learn from this passage?
- * Do we have a band of brothers by our side: that can share their wisdom with us, keep us accountable, and cover us with protection?
- * What are we passing on to our sons? Do we make it a point to "pass" on the wisdom we've gained and the lessons we've learned?
- * What messages are we telling our sons by our actions?
 - Is it "Be strong" or "Be a victim"? Is it "Be responsible" or "Let someone else take care of it"? Is it "Do unto others" or "Get back at them when you've been wronged"?
- * What lessons are we giving our sons? Are we instilling into them how to be a priest, a prophet, and a protector?

Part 3:

Ask each man to write **Priest – Prophet – Protector – Dad** on each point of their star. (and maybe their name on the back) Have three men in your congregation lead three prayers over the fathers and families in the church, one each in the theme of priest, prophet and protector.

Part 4:

Draw a circle on the grass or create a target on the floor to see who can throw their stars the best. The man with the closest star to the target wins a prize! Once the winner is announced, close the service and let the men collect their stars to stick on their refrigerators ... or to practice at home.

More top tips to supercharge your service!

Maybe get the men up to the front to do press-ups (at the same time) and see who can do the most (this works best with the leader who can do them too!) Also it can be good to ask for, say, 10 men to join so there is space for men to say no. Some men really won't want to do it and that's fine too.

Pre-record some funny stories and videos of people in the church talking about being fathers or children. Even mobile phone video cameras are good enough now for this type of activity.

You could get a piece of wood with screws in it and give two men a timed race to drill all the screws in the fastest.

Do a 'Yorkie challenge' and invite 3 dads to come to the front and eat a bar as fast as they can, or even the 'cracker challenge', no water & eat as many crackers as possible.

Ask the congregation who they think are some of the best and worst dads in the Bible.

Put a 'guess the dads' sheet on each chair. These sheets will have pictures of 10 famous/celebrity dads on them but partly covered up so that it makes it harder to see who it is. Answers at the end of the service.

If you're talking about 'Founding Fathers' perhaps get dads to share their own experience of how their fathers helped them to be a good dad and grow in their own faith.

Sunday School Lesson

Objectives

- * To look at what makes a good father
- * Explore the idea of God as a 'perfect parent'

Preparation and Materials

Warning! Approach this subject with sensitivity. Not everyone's experience of 'Dad' will be a positive one. Be guided by context, responses and the extent to which you know the children.

You will need:

- * some pictures of famous dads and their children
- * A flip chart or similar

Introduction

Remind the children that today is Father's Day. The first Father's Day was held on 19th June 1910 Washington State, USA when a young woman suggested that there should be a special day, like Mother's Day, when we can say thank you to dads.

Play a game where the children have to match famous children to famous dads. You could do this either using pictures, or as a quiz with clues. You could use the following families:

- * *Children:* Bart, Lisa, & Maggie - *Father:* Homer Simpson
- * *Children:* Brooklyn & Romeo - *Father:* David Beckham

Use other examples appropriate to your local context to illustrate that you don't have to be famous to be a 'great dad'!

Development

Ask the children what they love best about their dads. Make a list on the flip-chart of the qualities that go to make a 'great dad'. Cover ideas such as love, trust, availability, as well as practical things like playing football, cooking the tea, etc.

Ask the children: Who was Jesus' dad? This is a trick question, so make sure you get both the answers: Joseph and God. Joseph was Jesus's adopted dad and looked after him, and cared for him while he was on earth - Joseph was a 'great dad'. But Jesus had another 'great dad' too, because Christians believe he was God's son.

Like Jesus, Christians believe that God is like a parent to us. Sometimes our fathers get things wrong, but God is the perfect parent. He is a really good father and mother to all of us. God will always love us, whatever we do. God never lets us down, and is always there for us. We can trust that God will always care for us, whatever happens.

Explain that when Jesus taught his friends to call God 'Father', he used the word 'Abba', which means 'Daddy'. Suggest that on Father's Day the children say thank you to both their earthly father and their heavenly father, both of whom are 'great dads'.

Practical

Use the colouring page attached (see page 15)

Prayer

If possible arrange for the dads to pick up their children. When they arrive bring them all in and put them into the middle. Once all together pray for them all.

If your children are not used to praying out loud then you could have lots of short written out prayers to read at this point.

Perhaps get the dads to pray for the children and then swap it around.

You need to use your judgement on this, as children may only come to church with a carer or friend. If that is the case then you can always thank God for watching over us and thank Him for being the best dad in the whole world.

The father effect

Some interesting research and statistics

Much higher risk of ending up in jail/institute (Fathers keep kids on the straight and narrow)

76% of young men in prison/institutes come from homes with absent fathers

(Prison Reform Trust)

Educational attainment is stunted (Fathers help kid's do better at school/college)

There is consistent evidence that father absence lowers children's educational attainment and decreases the likelihood that they will graduate from high school. Workers with less qualifications experience very high levels of unemployment and make less money than more educated workers, so failing to finish high school places young people at a major disadvantage in life.*

Negative effect on mental health (Fathers are good for their kid's mental health)

There is a negative effect of parental divorce on adult mental health.

Studies on delinquency and negative "externalising" behaviours "found a significant positive effect of divorce or father absence on problem behaviour for at least one comparison group."*

Increased risk of drug/substance abuse (Fathers lower risk of their kids 'doing drugs')

Father absence affects their children's likelihood of smoking cigarettes and using drugs and alcohol. Social-emotional skills play an important role in adult outcomes (educational attainment, family formation, and successful employment) so the effect of father absence on mental health and social skills has implications even beyond children's personal happiness.*

Greater risk of unemployment and lower income (Fathers help their kid's employment chances)

Higher levels of unemployment is more common among those who experienced divorce in early childhood.

Growing up with stepparents and with a single divorced mother had negative effects on occupational status.*

*The Causal Effects of Father Absence

Annual Review of Sociology

Vol. 39: 399-427 (Volume publication date July 2013)

McLanahan, Tach and SchneiderService Outline

Suggested Service Outline

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

SONG/S

INTRODUCE FATHER'S DAY

GIVE OUT FREEBIES

BIBLE READINGS

ALL-AGE SECTIONS

PRAYERS

SERMON

SONG/S

CLOSE

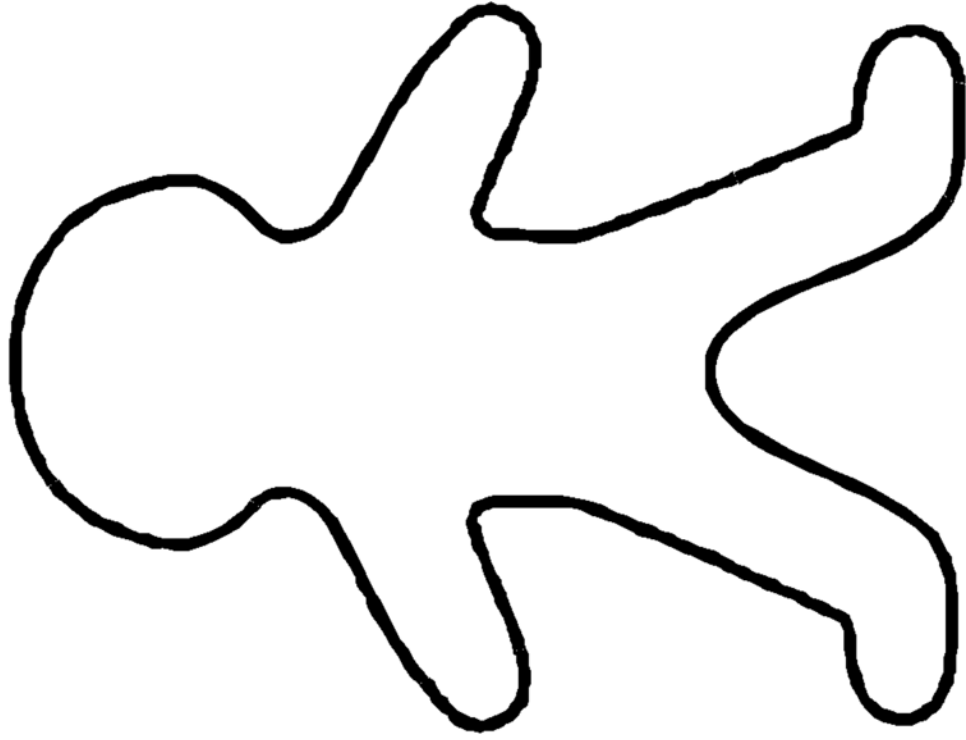
We hope this pack was useful, for more resources from CVM for fathers,
see: <http://cvm.org.uk/fathers>

Father's Day Quiz

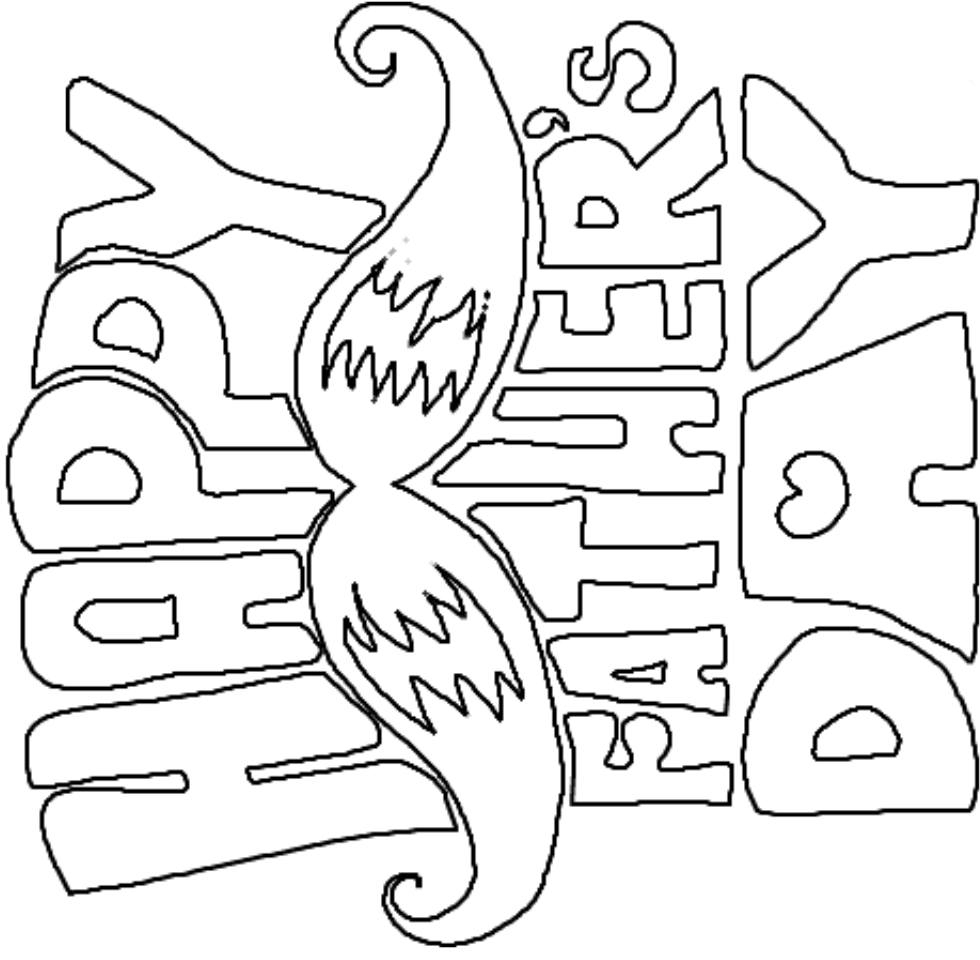
1. How many children are there in the UK under the age of 18?
Answer – 11 million (ONS 2016)
2. Who was Luke Skywalker's father?
Answer – Darth Vader
3. David and Victoria Beckham have three sons and a daughter. The three sons are Brooklyn, Romeo and Cruz. What is the name of the daughter?
Answer – Harper Seven
4. Who sang 'Dance with my Father'?
Answer – Luther Vandross
5. In which country and in which year was 'Father's Day' first formally celebrated?
Answer – United States of America, in 1910
6. Who was the father of Ariel in 'Little Mermaid'?
Answer – King Triton
7. How many children live in fatherless homes in the UK?
Answer – 3.8 million (ONS 2012)
8. What is the missing word from this film title: '_____ Men and a Baby.'
Answer – Three
9. What is the oldest known 'Father's Day' card?
Answer - a 4,000-year-old Babylonian tablet that a young boy named Elmesu carved to wish his father a long life and good health
10. Which British Monarch had the most children?
Answer – Henry I had 29 children
11. Which car manufacturer has invented a crib that simulates the conditions of driving to put your baby to sleep?
Answer – Ford
12. The New International Version of the Bible states in Proverbs 15:20:
'A wise son brings _____ to his Father.'
Answer – joy
13. True or False – In New Zealand Father's Day is celebrated on the first Sunday in September?
Answer – True
14. 'Haakoro' is 'dad' in which language?
Answer – Maori

Compiled by www.DAD.info
an advice and support website
dedicated to helping Dads – Because Dads matter!

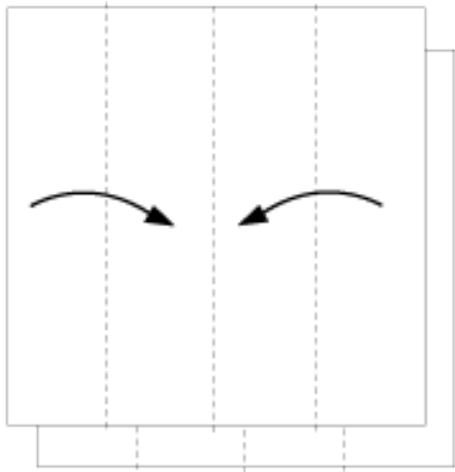




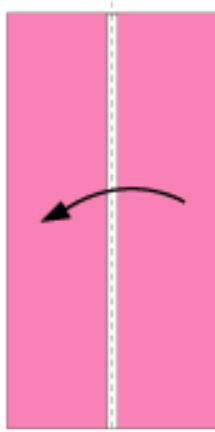
Colour in and decorate this gingerbread man



Colour in this 'Happy Father's Day' message



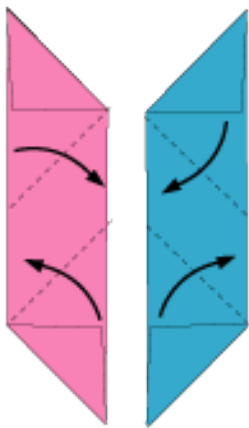
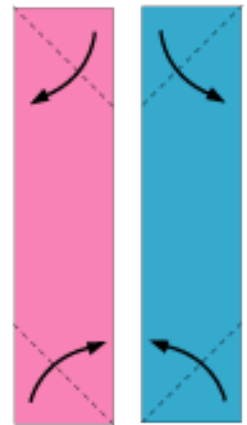
1 Fold in the dotted line



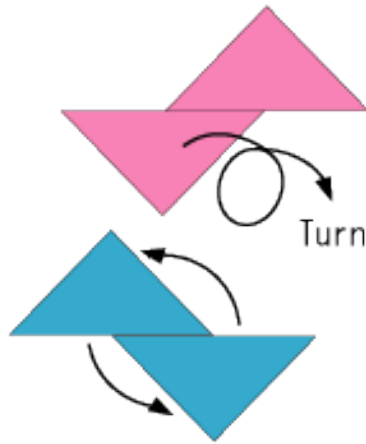
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3 Fold in the dotted line

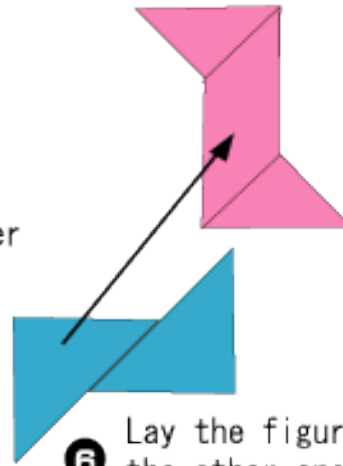


4 Fold in the dotted line

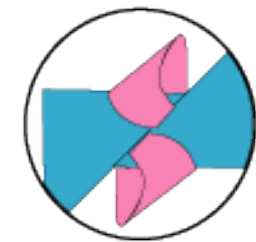
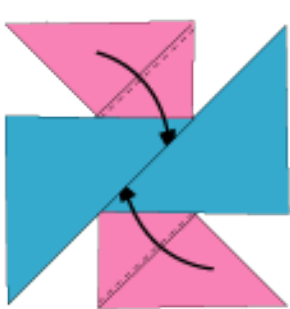


5 Turn around

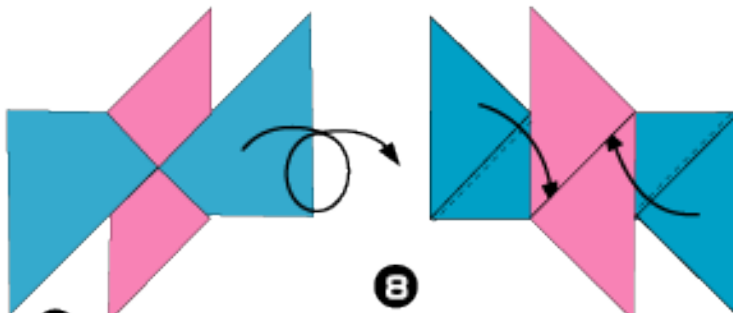
Turn over



6 Lay the figure on the other one

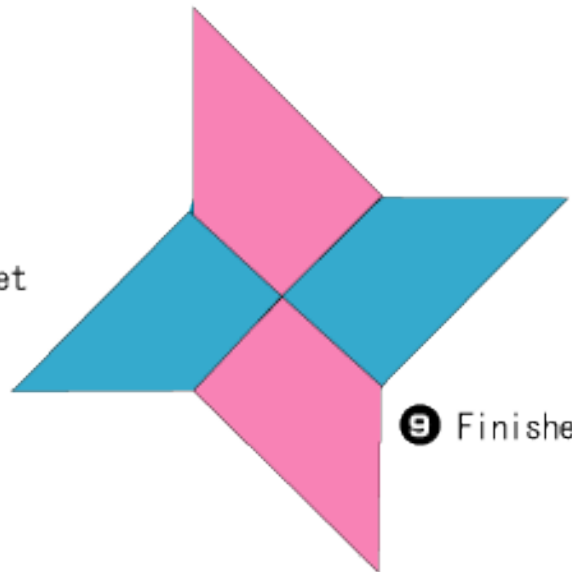


7 Tuck them into the pocket



7 Turn over

8 Tuck them into the pocket



9 Finished