

DAD, YOU'RE THE GREATEST

by Ruby Welsh Wilkins



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**DAD, YOU'RE THE
GREATEST**

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CAST GROUPS

Beginners	at least four
Primaries	at least four
Juniors	nine to 16
Intermediates	six or 12
Young People	six or 12

CAST OF SPECIFIC CHARACTERS*(Does not include all participants)***Young People:**

Rebekah
Rebekah's Partner
Joseph
Joseph's Partner
Miriam
Miriam's Partner
Samson
Samson's Partner
Esther
Esther's Partner
Jonathan
Jonathan's Partner

Juniors:

James
James' Partner
John
John's Partner
1st Daughter of Philip
1st Daughter's Partner
2nd Daughter of Philip
2nd Daughter's Partner
3rd Daughter of Philip
3rd Daughter's Partner
4th Daughter of Philip
4th Daughter's Partner
Andrew
Andrew's Partner
Peter
Peter's Partner

ADDITIONAL PEOPLE NEEDED**Director****Pianist and/or Organist****Pastor or Layperson Leader**

PRODUCTION NOTES

Successful production will depend largely upon the director. After the devotional, the Pastor will be free to sit with the audience and enjoy the program, so it will be up to the director to keep things rolling.

While the script is written to accomodate 60 or more participants, it can be produced effectively with less. In the young people's part of the riddle-skit, for instance, six can do the part of 12, with each being character and partner to the other. In the junior part, one person can answer each question, etc. In the father acrostic, six can do both verses. There are many ways to improvise, and a good director can do a lot with a little ingenuity. If a cast of 60 is desired and your church cannot provide that number, try "borrowing" from neighbor churches or present the program jointly with other churches as a community project.

As stage facilities will differ from church to church, one must work out a seating arrangement that will best accomodate the drama. One of the best would be chairs in a semicircle with a center aisle. Be sure that the area is well-lighted and that nothing, such as the pulpit, obstructs the view of the audience.

In the ideal presentation, of course, parts are memorized and spoken clearly with proper enunciation. However, cue cards can be provided. In the father acrostic, the cards can be attached to the back of the letter placards. In the riddle-skit, partners can provide each other's cues. For instance, Rebekah's riddle can be pinned to the shoulder of her partner and his answer pinned to her shoulder. Hymnals or song sheets will be needed for the first song by junior-age and up. Hymnals may be carried in procession or placed in chairs beforehand, or song sheets may be taped to backs of chairs. For this song, beginners and primaries may stand and sing along or remain seated.

In the riddle-skit, the young people will advance down the center aisle to the front, one couple at a time. As they advance, the other participants move one place toward center aisle and remain standing as their turns approach. Members of each couple will face each other for dialogue, then return to the vacated places on opposite sides of the stage and advance one place as the skit continues. When the skit is finished, all participants should be back at their original place.

For the junior part of the skit, James and John will advance down the aisle together, with their two partners following, and face one another at Center Front (likewise the four daughters of Philip, two by two, with their partners following, then Andrew and Peter with their partners). After each skit/section is completed, the juniors will reassume original positions as per the instructions for young people.

If 12 intermediates are available for the father acrostic, have them line up in a sequence of 1 through 12, with numbers 1 and 2 carrying the *F* letter placard, etc. For the first verse of the acrostic, numbers 1,3,5,7,9 and 11 will recite. For the second verse, numbers 2,4,6,8,10 and 12 will recite. Placards must be held straight and even so that the word *FATHER* is easily seen from the audience.

Costumes are optional. The only props needed are the placards, which some artistic intermediates can make with little trouble. An 8" x 11" piece of white cardboard can be stapled to a fly swatter or some such support. The bold block letters can be cut from black construction paper and glued to the cardboard.

Thorough rehearsal of marching and seating is a must. You may work out your own method or use the suggested procedures, but by all means eliminate as much awkward movement as possible. During the processional, the participants march in single file from both sides of the building (side aisles) to their predetermined places on stage, youngest to the front, oldest to the back. The director and pastor/leader will be seated, prior to the procession, near the pianist and/or organist, who will remain seated throughout the drama.

1 (PIANIST plays processional, "God of Our Fathers,
2 Whose Almighty Hand." Participants march in and
3 take their seats.)

4 **DIRECTOR:** Welcome, everyone! The youth of our church
5 are here to bring you a Father's Day program,
6 entitled *Dad, You're the Greatest*. Before they begin,
7 (PASTOR'S name) _____ will share some
8 devotional thoughts.

9 **PASTOR/LEADER:** Thank you! We are happy to see you
10 in attendance for our church's Father's Day program.
11 We want to thank our children of all ages, our
12 pianist (and/or organist) and our director for making
13 this program possible. It is good to set aside a time
14 such as this to honor our fathers; to set aside a time
15 for dad. In the book of Proverbs, we find a portion
16 of scripture that seems especially appropriate for
17 reading on this occasion. (*Reads Proverbs 4.*)

18
19 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father,
20 and attend to know understanding.
21 2 For I give you good doctrine,
22 forsake ye not my law.
23 3 For I was my father's son, tender and only
24 *beloved* in the sight of my mother.
25 4 He taught me also, and said unto me,
26 Let thine heart retain my words:
27 keep my commandments, and live.
28 5 Get wisdom, get understanding:
29 forget *it* not; neither decline from the words
30 of my mouth.
31 6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee:
32 love her, and she shall keep thee.
33 7 Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get
34 wisdom: and with all thy getting get
35 understanding.

- 1 8 Exalt her, and she shall promote thee:
2 she shall bring thee to honour, when thou
3 dost embrace her.
- 4 9 She shall give to thine head an ornament
5 of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver
6 to thee.
- 7 10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings;
8 and the years of thy life shall be many.
- 9 11 I have taught thee in the way of wisdom;
10 I have led thee in right paths.
- 11 12 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be
12 straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt
13 not stumble.
- 14 13 Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go:
15 keep her; for she *is* thy life.
- 16 14 Enter not into the path of the wicked,
17 and go not in the way of evil *men*.
- 18 15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it,
19 and pass away.
- 20 16 For they sleep not, except they have done
21 mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless
22 they cause *some* to fall.
- 23 17 For they eat the bread of wickedness,
24 and drink the wine of violence.
- 25 18 But the path of the just *is* as the shining
26 light, that shineth more and more unto the
27 perfect day.
- 28 19 The way of the wicked *is* as darkness:
29 they know not at what they stumble.
- 30 20 My son, attend to my words;
31 incline thine ear unto my sayings.
- 32 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes;
33 keep them in the midst of thine heart.
- 34 22 For they *are* life unto those that find them,
35 and health to all their flesh.

- 1 23 Keep thy heart with all diligence;
 2 for out of it *are* the issues of life.
 3 24 Put away from thee a froward mouth,
 4 and perverse lips put far from thee.
 5 25 Let thine eyes look right on,
 6 and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.
 7 26 Ponder the path of thy feet,
 8 and let all thy ways be established.
 9 27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left:
 10 remove thy foot from evil.

11
 12 **PASTOR/LEADER:** Now, let us pray. (*Offers prayer, then*
 13 *sits with audience. PIANIST plays introductory prelude*
 14 *to "Faith of Our Fathers." Participants will stand.*)

15 **DIRECTOR:** Our group will now sing for us that favorite
 16 Father's Day hymn, "Faith of Our Fathers." (*Available*
 17 *in most hymnals. After hymn, participants will be*
 18 *seated.*) Now, our beginners and primaries with a
 19 special word of welcome. (*Beginners stand, advance*
 20 *one step and curtsy.*)

21 **BEGINNERS:** (*In unison or one line each in sequence*)

22 We are so very, very, glad
 23 You've come to share this time for Dad,
 24 And we just hope, when it is through,
 25 That we have made you happy, too!
 26 (*Beginners sit, primaries stand.*)

27 **PRIMARIES:**

28 Fathers, will you all please stand
 29 For just a moment now, because
 30 We're giving you a hearty hand
 31 Of well-deserved applause!
 32 (*Participants all stand. Fathers stand for ovation.*
 33 *Audience will join participants in applause, then*
 34 *everyone will be seated.*)

35 **DIRECTOR:** Our beginners, primaries and juniors will now

1 bring us a special Father's Day song. The name of
 2 their song is "I'm Positive." (*PIANIST plays*
 3 *introductory chords as these groups stand. See page*
 4 *15 for the music to this song. The groups sing:)*

5 I'm positive that the Father above
 6 Made fathers down here for children to love!
 7 I know my Daddy is good as can be
 8 And I am positive that he loves me!
 9 Daddy loves me!
 10 Daddy loves me!
 11 Yes, I am positive Daddy loves me!
 12 Daddy loves me!
 13 Daddy loves me!
 14 I love my Daddy, too!

15 **DIRECTOR:** (*Beginners, primaries and juniors will be*
 16 *seated.）* Our intermediates now present a father
 17 *acrostatic. (Intermediates advance, bearing placards,*
 18 *and line up down front.)*

19 **1ST INTERMEDIATE:** One of the first words we associate
 20 with *father* is *faith*. We who are privileged to have
 21 Christian fathers are indeed blessed. When we see our
 22 dad's faith in God shining through bad circumstances
 23 and good circumstances, it gives us a feeling of
 24 assurance that he is really "anchored on the Rock."
 25 So *F* stands for *Faith*.

26 **3RD INTERMEDIATE:** We are always reminded that our
 27 father lives by faith when we see and hear him reading
 28 God's word. It is his *allegiance* to this revelation of
 29 God that makes us more aware of what the psalmist
 30 meant when he said that the entrance of God's word
 31 gives light. This *A* represents *Allegiance*.

32 **5TH INTERMEDIATE:** We believe that it is this deep-
 33 seated reverence for the word of God that makes our
 34 dad hold on to God's promises in times of *trial*. In so
 35 doing, he can overcome all odds, for he knows that

1 it is Christ who strengthens him. This *T*, then, is
2 for *Trial*.

3 7TH INTERMEDIATE: We thank God every day for our
4 father's loving *heart*! Even when he is not beside us,
5 we can feel his strong arms encircling his family. It's
6 wonderful to feel loved like that! So this *H* is for
7 that gracious *Heart*.

8 9TH INTERMEDIATE: Our fathers so often go out of
9 their way to do things for us! They make sacrificial
10 *efforts* to ensure our safety and well-being, and more
11 often than not, we are either unaware of these special
12 efforts or just take them for granted. So these *Efforts*
13 are what this *E* represents.

14 11TH INTERMEDIATE: This *R* stands for *Reward*. We
15 may not always thank our dads for their efforts on
16 our behalf, but we know that if Christians are rewarded
17 according to their works, then heaven's best must be
18 in store for our dads.

19 2ND INTERMEDIATE: Sometimes, it must seem to our
20 fathers that children were born to be bad. Halos just
21 don't seem to fit our stubborn little heads. But Dad
22 mixes love with his discipline and never fails to
23 forgive us. In addition to *faith*, this *F* stands for
24 *Forgiveness*.

25 4TH INTERMEDIATE: A most mysterious thing about
26 fathers is that they always seem to have an *answer*
27 for everything. No matter what the question, they
28 can pluck an answer out of thin air, and it makes
29 sense. No question is so unimportant that it doesn't
30 deserve an answer. So, in addition to *allegiance*, this
31 *A* represents *Answer*.

32 6TH INTERMEDIATE: We have already seen that the
33 *T* represents *trial*, but it also means something else.
34 One of the best things about fathers is that they are
35 really *terrific*! They are fun! Fun to play with, fun

1 to live with. Fathers don't make fun *at* you; they
 2 make fun *with* you! So surely this *T* must mean
 3 *Terrific*.

4 **8TH INTERMEDIATE:** Fathers are always helping us.
 5 They know how to make things, fix things, work
 6 things, paint things, plant things, take care of things.
 7 It's easy to learn from them, for their *helping hands*
 8 are good teachers. *H* is for *heart*, of course, but it
 9 also means *Helping Hands*.

10 **10TH INTERMEDIATE:** Fathers have an uncanny way
 11 of picking you up when you're down. Even when
 12 your morale has hit rock-bottom and you're singing
 13 real minor-key blues, there's something in Dad's
 14 little grin, his understanding look and his cheering
 15 word that makes you want to get up and get going
 16 again. This *E* means *effort*, all right, but it also
 17 means *Encouragement*.

18 **12TH INTERMEDIATE:** We have seen that the *R*
 19 represents *reward*. But there is another word that
 20 comes to mind, and that word is *reliance*. Have you
 21 ever felt that there just wasn't anyone you could
 22 count on? That just about everyone had lost
 23 credibility in your book? Well, fathers are folks that
 24 you can trust. You can rely on fathers to be true
 25 to their word. So, in addition to *reward*, this *R*
 26 stands for *Reliance*. Now all this is really something
 27 to sing about!

28 (*PIANIST plays introduction: "Faith of Our Fathers."*)
 29 *Intermediates sing the following to tune of "Faith*
 30 *of Our Fathers."*)

31 F for his Faith in our wonderful Lord;
 32 A for Allegiance to His word;
 33 T for each Trial that he overcomes;
 34 H for the Heart encircling our homes;
 35 E for the Efforts made in love;

1 R for Reward he's worthy of!
 2
 3 F for Forgiving us when we are bad;
 4 A for the Answers he's always had:
 5 T for Terrific, for he's surely this;
 6 H for the Helping Hands that are his;
 7 E for Encouragement often heard;
 8 R for Reliance on his word.

9 *(Intermediates return to places and take their seats.)*

10 **DIRECTOR:** Our juniors will now introduce the next
 11 presentation. *(Juniors will stand to recite, in unison*
 12 *or line sequence, the riddle-skit introduction:)*

13 We'd make some country music,
 14 But we have no bows and fiddles,
 15 So we are substituting
 16 A skit of Bible riddles.
 17 If you would like to help us
 18 Play this little game,
 19 Then listen close as we present
 20 "What Was My Father's Name?"

21 *(Juniors will be seated. REBEKAH and REBEKAH'S*
 22 *PARTNER advance to Front Center for the riddle-skit.)*

23 **REBEKAH:**

24 I am Rebekah. My husband was Isaac.
 25 We became the parents of twins.
 26 I helped Jacob pretend to be Esau
 27 By using some animal skins.
 28 The land of Mesopotamia
 29 Is where my youth was spent,
 30 But when I married Isaac,
 31 I lived in Sarah's tent.
 32 I left my father's homeland
 33 With fanfare and acclaim.
 34 My grandfather's name was Nahor —
 35 What was my father's name?

1 **REBEKAH'S PARTNER:**

2 Rebekah, the things that happened to you
 3 Didn't just happen by chance
 4 And the story of how Isaac got you
 5 Is like fairy-tale romance.
 6 How you and Jacob deceived him
 7 Without him ever guessing
 8 Amazes me, but Jacob got
 9 The birthright and the blessing!
 10 Now the question that you ask of me
 11 Has an answer easy to tell:
 12 Your mother's name was Milcah
 13 And your father's was Bethuel.

14 *(JOSEPH and JOSEPH'S PARTNER advance.)*

15 **JOSEPH:**

16 I am Joseph. In my youth
 17 I did a lot of dreaming,
 18 But I had some jealous brothers
 19 Who did a lot of scheming.
 20 So I wound up in Egypt
 21 And my father thought me dead,
 22 But during that awful famine
 23 I supplied them all with bread.
 24 I quite perplexed my brothers
 25 With a clever little game,
 26 But when they knew me, they rejoiced.
 27 Now, what was my father's name?

28 **JOSEPH'S PARTNER:**

29 Joseph, you were remarkable!
 30 I often read your story,
 31 Of your coat of many colors
 32 And your reign in Egypt's glory.
 33 I read of your mother Rachel
 34 And your brother Benjamin,
 35 Of the time you spent in prison

1 For an uncommitted sin.
 2 Your father's name was Jacob
 3 And he was a famous man.
 4 He was a noble patriarch
 5 And headed quite a clan.
 6 (*MIRIAM and MIRIAM'S PARTNER advance.*)

7 **MIRIAM:**
 8 My name is Miriam. I had
 9 Two very famous brothers.
 10 I also had, in Jochebed,
 11 One of the best of mothers!
 12 I waded in the river Nile
 13 And talked with Pharaoh's daughter.
 14 I walked across the Red Sea
 15 And didn't touch the water!
 16 I was called a prophetess
 17 And earned a bit of fame —
 18 Can you tell me from these clues
 19 What was my father's name?

20 **MIRIAM'S PARTNER:**
 21 Yes, Miriam! Most certainly
 22 I know what your father's name was.
 23 I also know as certainly
 24 Just what his claim to fame was.
 25 He had three famous children
 26 One, of course, was you;
 27 And any Bible student
 28 Can name the other two.
 29 Miriam, Moses, Aaron,
 30 In the Bible Hall of Fame,
 31 Were children of a Levite,
 32 And Amram was his name.

33 (*SAMSON and SAMSON'S PARTNER advance.*)

34 **SAMSON:**
 35 My name is Samson. From my birth

1 I was destined to be a Nazarite,
 2 But I spent much time in showing
 3 The Philistines how to fight.
 4 I was a living terror
 5 Whenever my hair was long,
 6 But Delilah was a crafty girl
 7 And she sure did me wrong!
 8 But after all, I realized
 9 I had only myself to blame.
 10 My parents were of the tribe of Dan.
 11 Can you tell me my father's name?

12 SAMSON'S PARTNER:

13 Samson, you judged Israel —
 14 God's answer to their pleas.
 15 With a bone and flaming foxtails,
 16 You vexed their enemies.
 17 So don't judge yourself too harshly,
 18 For it all just plainly shows
 19 It isn't strength that makes the man
 20 And it isn't what he knows.
 21 There's a moral to your story
 22 And it must have been God's plan.
 23 Your father's name was Manoah
 24 And he was a righteous man.

25 *(ESTHER and ESTHER'S PARTNER advance.)*

26 ESTHER:

27 My name is Esther. When a queen,
 28 I went unbidden to my king,
 29 For Mordecai had brought the news
 30 Of Haman's cruel scheme.
 31 So we blocked his plan to kill the Jews
 32 And we also saw him die
 33 Hanging on the gallows built
 34 For my cousin Mordecai!
 35 Though I surely came to the kingdom

1 For a most noble cause
2 My father's name is not well-known
3 Can you tell me what it was?

4 **ESTHER'S PARTNER:**

5 Esther, it seems that history
6 Just somehow didn't bother
7 To tell us very much about
8 Your mother and your father.
9 But we know they died when you were young,
10 And I also know quite well
11 That your father was a Benjamite,
12 And his name was Abihail.
13 But we all know that Mordecai
14 Was near and dear to your heart
15 And, though he wasn't your father,
16 He surely played the part!

17 *(JONATHAN and JONATHAN'S PARTNER advance.)*

18 **JONATHAN:**

19 I am Jonathan, David's friend.
20 I loved him like a brother.
21 My father was Israel's first king
22 And Ahinoam was my mother.
23 My father was a son of Kish
24 And a taller man than most.
25 A valiant warrior, Abner,
26 Was captain of his host.
27 I was much grieved for David
28 For my father had done him shame.
29 Still, I did love my father.
30 Tell me now, what was his name?

31 **JONATHAN'S PARTNER:**

32 Jonathan, your type of loyalty
33 Has seldom been seen since!
34 What a gracious ally David had
35 In such a manly prince!



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Toll Free: 1-844-841-6387 - Fax (319) 368-8011

customerservice@christianpub.com