

a
**FATHER'S
LOVE**

DEVOTIONS FOR

*Father's
Day*
Creative's
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Sample



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A Father's Love Is

THE FATHER'S LOVE

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **EPHESIANS 2:10**

As Christian fathers—if we are responsive to the call inherent in our roles as the biological creators and cultural and religious nurturers of our children—we spend much of our time providing and caring for others. It's what we do.

And like all creators, we are merely weak reflections of the original Creator, poor copies of the Father of all. "We are his workmanship, created for good works," Paul writes to the Ephesians. We are made to care for others, but in order to respond to those immense responsibilities, we must learn to care for ourselves first. That self-care begins with prayer and with our connection to the giver of life. Take that moment each day—perhaps these devotions have given you a place to begin—that will nudge you into a closer relationship with God—Father, creator, nurturer, and role model for all that we live and do.

**Loving Father, may my plan for my life include
all the dreams, and the love, you have for me.**

A Father's Love Is
BALANCED

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **MATTHEW 6:33**

Most of us, it seems, desire balanced lives—ones that give nearly equal measures of time, talent and energy to our professional and personal lives. Even in the most driven leaders, there is something that whispers, “Slow down...find some balance.”

We can try to find balance in many ways and places—from fitness clubs and golf courses to book clubs and church organizations. But as Christian fathers, we have these (paraphrased here) words of Jesus: “Seek me first and everything else will fall in place.” But it’s the “first” thing that gives us pause. Church and God are good and important, but do we really need to put them first? That might upset our priorities. And God whispers to us: “Exactly. Now you’re catching on.”

**Guiding Spirit of God,
I'm not sure I want
to ask this but: What
priorities need
to change in my life?**



A Father's Love Is

FAIR

Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do. **1 THESSALONIANS 5:11**

Every two years, many turn their eyes to the Olympic games, hoping to catch some moment of greatness and see the world's best athletes compete. It can be a wondrous, inspiring time. Unfortunately, there is also a dark side. We see gloating winners and name-calling losers, and poor sportsmanship gets shrugged off as “competitive spirit.”



As fathers, we are often coaches and spectators at our children's sporting events, where it is tempting to relive our glory days (or the lack thereof) through these young athletes. This is one of our greatest challenges. Can we build confidence without criticizing them and down-playing others? Are we strong enough to leave sarcasm and name calling outside the lines of our children's lives? They don't need it, and neither do we.

God of all wins and losses, what can I do today to encourage my children in their activities and dreams?

A Father's Love Is
CENTERED

Lord, you have probed me, you know me. **PSALM 139:1**

The lives of fathers can be rather hectic as we hustle to and from work and family obligations. Finding time for quiet prayer is easier said than done. Still, to be our best as Christian fathers, we need this time with God, for it is the starting place for everything else we are and do.

If we want our lives to speak to our children of the importance of God and faith, they have to see us actually praying, whether sitting reverently in church or on the patio with eyes closed and Bible across our knees. In those sacred and quiet moments, we are saying to them: "This is where it all comes together for me. This where I find God, God finds me, and I learn what I need to be your dad."

**God of peace, help me make the time
to be alone with you.**



A Father's Love Is **FORGIVING**

If you forgive others their transgressions,
your heavenly Father will forgive you. **MATTHEW 6:14**

Sadly, there is a part of my extended family that no longer talks to another part because of something that happened several generations ago. As a result, there are children who are related and should be celebrating life's important moments together but do not even know each other.

Perhaps some things are too late to change, but we have the daily choice, as fathers, to not let such things happen again under our watch. When we model forgiveness in our families (and especially when we seek forgiveness for our own moments of impatience and temper) we set in motion a family that forgives and seeks forgiveness, a family that lasts and loves because all are willing to accept failings, forgive, and go on loving and embracing family, warts and all.



**God of mercy, what can I do today
to set forgiveness in motion in my family?**

a FATHER'S LOVE

Receive encouragement as a faithful father, grandfather, stepfather, man of faith with this handy two-week devotional. Through twelve devotions in *A Father's Love*, author (and father) Steve Givens provides much needed scriptural support to men as they walk faithfully each day as Christ-led and Christ-like examples to their children and families.



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