



Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Drive, Marysville, Ohio 43040

The Perfect Parent

Memory Verse: "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise. . . . Ephesians 6:2

Lesson Overview: This lesson is designed to teach children two things: 1) show them the father-heart of God; and 2) appreciate their parents--particularly those who only have one parent. We often tell children that God is our Heavenly Father, while thinking this gives a child a loving picture of God. However, we usually assume that every child has such impression of a good father. Unfortunately, we do not take into account those children who may have abusive fathers, fathers that do not know how to love, or fathers who abandoned them. What kind of picture does "father" paint to such children? By the end of this lesson, children should know exactly what Father God is like, along with a better appreciation for their own earthly parent(s).

Requirements for the lesson:

Dry marker board and marker, or chalk board and chalk
Assorted items, such as a TV/VCR, a video game, a tape recorder

Object Lessons and Lead-in to the Lesson:

"My New Dad!" You can present to the class something like a TV/VCR as your new perfect parent! You can sell them on the idea that it doesn't get mad at you. You could say that it entertains you, educates you, and gives you what you want. The children should start to point out to you that it can't love you, or feed you, etc. After continuing this for a short while, you can lead the children to the perfect parent: Father God.

"Myth Killer" Split the dry erase board in half by drawing a line down the center of it. Begin by having the children offer some ideas about what a perfect father should be like, and write those things on the right side of your board. After you have a good list, ask the children to give some thoughts of what a father should not be like. Write these things on the left side. Don't be surprised if this list is actually longer. You may need to guide the children a little so that they do not get off track. Once this is done, ask them which side best describes God. Explain a little why the right side of the board best describes God. Next, ask the children to add other things to the lists that describe a "good" or "bad" God. When you are finished, the children should see that some of the things that they thought described God are in the wrong category, thus not being of God.

Lesson:

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: *"My New Dad!"*

1. What Is A Perfect Parent? Today we are talking about Father God.

QUESTION: We talk about God as a Father a lot. Just what is God the Father of?
(Everything, but allow the children to respond. You may want to write their suggestions down as you go.)

Remember that God made all of creation, and He called His creation "very good" or "perfect".

QUESTION: Have you ever wanted something to be perfect?
(Perhaps something they made or accomplished)

QUESTION: If God's creation is perfect, then do you think God is perfect too? (Yes, of course)

If God is perfect, then let's take a look at what a "Perfect God" is like.

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: *"Myth Killer"*

a. No Perfect Parents

QUESTION: So we can see now what a "perfect parent" is like. A perfect parent is like God. Would you say that your parents are perfect? (Probably not)

When you think of God as a father, you may think of Him being like your own earthly father. Of course, no Father on the whole earth is perfect. But God wanted everyone to be perfect—just like He is.

QUESTION: But something went wrong. What was it?
(Adam and Eve sinned, and ruined it for everyone)

Jesus came to us for so many good reasons.

QUESTION: Can anyone tell me what the greatest reason is?
(Save us from sin and get eternal life)

But that's just the best one. Jesus had something to teach people while He was on the earth.

QUESTION: Can anyone think of something that Jesus came to teach parents?
(How to be good fathers and mothers to their children)

Jesus never had children, but He sure loves them! He scolded men when they didn't treat children right. Jesus thinks children are so special. Did you know that He actually sits by your Father God in heaven and asks God to bless you? It's true!

b. God Is Our Perfect Parent

Someone who has a Father that doesn't pay too much attention to them may think that their Heavenly Father doesn't pay much attention to them too. But God is a perfect parent. He is always paying attention to you. When you are sad, then God is sad for you too.

Think of all the things we put on the board earlier that we say a perfect parent is like. That's God. He wants you to come to him when you have problems, or when you are sick, or even just need some love. Since God made love, then He has plenty of that too. God even sent His only Son to die on a cross because He wanted to take all of you sin and troubles away. That's love! God even loves you enough to correct you.

2. What's your opinion of God?

He wants you to be the best person you can be. That's why He corrects you. Some people think that if others really love them, then they should always let them get their way. What if you ended up in big trouble? What if someone in your family got sick, or died? Some people hate God when these things happen because they blame Him. They say, "If God really loved me, then He wouldn't have let that happen." The truth is that our sin gets us into most of our trouble. God didn't do anything "to" us at all. He's waiting for us to call on Him so He can help us. We must remember that God has the last word. When our enemy Satan tries to trip us up, God protects us.

QUESTION: Would you still need God if there was never any danger, sin, enemies, trouble, or hate in the world?
(Not much)

God wants us to depend on Him so that He can take care of us. He wants to bless us.

QUESTION: What have you thought God is like? Why?

3. God and Our Parents

QUESTION: Should we expect God to be like our own parents? (No. They should be more like God.)

QUESTION: Does God expect them to be perfect parents? (No. But He loves them too, and He wants them to be the best parents they can be.)

Mom and dad are not always perfect--just like you and I are not always perfect. We have to remember that. While you are trying to learn how to be a "kid", our parents are learning how to be a good parent for you.

4. Dealing with Imperfect Parents

QUESTION: What should we do for our imperfect parents?

a. Pray for them.

Many children come from broken families. Many children are now raised by single parents, or have step parents. You may use this example, but **do not** bring up a particular child's situation in class as an example. These children often do not know where to begin forgiving their parents who have left the home. It is important for them to understand that God still loves that parent, and wants the children to forgive the parent too.

QUESTION: How should we pray for them?

- To understand you
- For their protection
- To be the best parent
- Salvation
- Health
- God to help with their troubles

These are just a few ways you can pray for your parents. What are some other ways that you can think of?

b. Forgive them

God loves our parents just the way they are, and we need to love them with all our hearts too. God may not always like their actions, but that doesn't mean that He doesn't love them. Your parents may not always like your actions either, but they still love you.

QUESTION: What should you do if your parents hurt your feelings? (Forgive them!)

No matter what they do, God expects us to love them—just like He loves us.

5. Father God Wants to Help You

If we don't like things our parents do, we should love and pray for them all the more. They need us just as much as we need them. We also need our Father God just as much as He needs us. Yes, He needs you! Do you know that He loves you so much that He has a perfect plan for your life? It's true. He worked you in to the great big plan of creation (and that's a pretty big plan). That's why He wants you to always try your best.

a. What God our Father wants to do for you

- a. Love you
- b. Save you--He sent his son...
- c. Make you better
- d. Protect you
- e. Be a friend
- f. Heal you
- g. Correct you
- h. Discipline you
- i. Teach you
- j. Explain things to you
- k. Make you smart
- l. Guide you
- m. Help you with tough stuff

b. Closer to you than your own parents

Do you know that God wants to get closer to you than your own parents are to you. He loves you so much, and He is sad when you do not come to Him for help. Our parents help us, but there are times when only God can fix things. He wants you to ask Him, especially when no one else can help.

6. Ministry time

Have a time of prayer. Ask the children to raise their hand if they now have a different idea of what God is like. Maybe some have thought of God as a mean God, or felt that He would leave them in times of trouble. Pray for God's help and guidance in their lives.

Ask if any of the children feel they need to forgive their parents. Pray for this need.

Ask if any of the children have a prayer request for either of their parents. Let the other children pray for these needs.

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