

Sample Prayer Service Father's Day

Introduction:

Leader/Principal: Welcome everyone to our celebration of fatherhood.

Acknowledgment to Country

Let us start our prayer service with the Sign of the Cross. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Today is an opportunity to recall and affirm the particular gifts that fathers bring to families. This includes our own fathers, grandfathers, single parent fathers, or anyone who is taking the part of father in our lives. These people mean a lot to us. Please join us in our opening hymn/song.

Song

Suggestion: Rainbow- Andrew Chinn

Opening Prayer

Student Reader 1:

Father's Day has become a day of celebration and remembering in almost all countries around the world. It has become a day not to only honour your father, but all men who act as a father figure. Stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers, and other significant adult males are honoured on 'Father's Day.

Student Reader 2: Father God at this special time of the year we pause to give thanks for our dads, uncles, grandfathers and other special men in our lives. Guide all children to remember the special men who help them in their lives.

All: Amen.



Scripture Reading (Luke 2: 41-49)

Reader:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer of the Faithful

[This will include a candle lighting ceremony. At the word (pause) in each of the prayers another student will come forward and light a candle to represent the theme of the prayer.]

Leader/Teacher: We know that God always listens to us when we pray and so we bring our prayers before God.

Student 1: We light a candle for all fathers in our community... *(pause)*.

May they continue to love and nurture children and cherish their precious gift of fathering. May they offer friendship, support and encouragement to each other.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 2: We light a candle for our Father's here today... *(pause)*.

We give thanks for the life and love they give us. May we show them respect and love and remember to tell them often how grateful we are.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.



Student 3: We light a candle for men who have assumed a fathering role... (*pause*).

We give thanks for how they mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 4: We light a candle for all fathers in war torn lands and all fathers who are refugees... (*pause*).

May they be given the right to raise their children in peace, dignity and delight.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 5: We light a candle for all our fathers and grandfathers who have died... (*pause*).

We give thanks for their love, their laughter and their labour. We give thanks for the way they shaped our values, our faith and our family traditions and rituals. May they rest in peace.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader/ Teacher: God of love, you gave us fathers to give life to us and glory to you. Let us sing together in the words our Father taught us.

Song: Andrew Chinn- Aboriginal Lord's Prayer.

Reflection

Suggestions:

- Could show a short video in which students of all ages talk about what makes their Dad special.
- A few weeks prior to the service, the school community could be asked to send in a photo of Dads with their children to be presented in the PowerPoint at this time.



Blessing for Fathers

Reader: Student/Teacher

Could all our fathers and significant people who are visiting with us today please stand?

Loving Father,
You trusted your Son Jesus,
The child of Mary,
To the care of Joseph, an earthly father.

Bless all fathers
As they care for their families.
Give them strength and wisdom,
Tenderness and patience;
Support them in the work they have to do,
Protecting those who look to them, as we look to you for love and salvation.
We ask this through Jesus Christ.

All: Amen

Let us end our prayer service today with the Sign of the Cross. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Final Song

Could be a hymn or a performance to a popular song.

Suggestion:

Hey Dad I Love You- Michael Mangan

Reader: Leader/Principal

This draws our prayer service to a close. We thank you for coming and for always being there to support your children and our school community.

