

Daddy
Daughter
Dates

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Here are 20 fun filled dates for dads and daughters. For each date, the booklet provides an activity, a scripture verse to read, a short devotion, and conversation starters. Each time Dad and Daughter complete an activity, a memory item is placed in the memory box to remember the date for years to come.



Nature Hike

Go on a nature hike together. Observe the wildlife and take pictures of animals, plants, and amazing scenery.

Verse to Share

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
Psalm 104:24

Devotional

Lions, and tigers, and bears? No way! On most nature hikes you won't find many wild animals lurking around the corner, but you will see some breathtaking beauty. Don't just run past each tree and rock. Slow way down and stroll along. Look at God's gorgeous creation all around you. Look at the detail he put into the tree leaves. Observe the tiny ants and other insects as they trudge over the ground. You don't even notice these guys most days. Stare into the brilliant cloud filled sky, and feel the cool breeze blow over your face. God is everywhere. Don't miss him. It's easy to get bogged down with stress at home, school, and all your activities, but God is right there with you in those areas too. God's creation is truly awesome and that includes you. God made you unique and perfectly you. Sometimes it takes leaving your usual daily schedule behind, to slow down and see God is a whole lot bigger than the problems you are facing. If he can create all the nature you see in front of you, he can certainly handle anything that comes your way. Hike through life with God as your guide. He will never let you get lost.

Let's Chat

Observe an insect for a minute or two, then ask... What worries does that insect have?

Who looks after all creatures great and small? What about us? Who helps us?

Dad- What stressed you out when you were younger?

Daughter- What worries do you have?

Read Psalm 104:24 again and discuss ways to ask for God's wisdom for your worries.

Capture the Moment

Pick up a small stick (it needs to be small enough to fit in your memory box). Have Dad help you carve the date on it with a small pocket knife. Place it in your memory box so you will remember this nature hike.



Dig out the tackle box and fishing poles from the back of the garage and head for the lake. Go fishing with Dad and bring home something to cook up for dinner.

Verse to Share

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” Matthew 4:19 NIV

Devotional

Fishing takes patience and lots of time. Very rarely do you stick a worm on your hook, drop it down in the water, and immediately pull out a fish. If that happens for you, AWESOME, but the rest of us have to rely on patience. In my opinion, there are two very important parts to fishing... baiting and reacting. The first part is easy, sometimes slimy depending on what you use as bait, but still pretty easy. You simply put what the fish wants on the hook. Jesus tells us to fish for people. We lure people to Jesus by living our lives. If they like what they see, they will be hooked and then we have their attention. That means we should be ourselves, but be sure to show the fruits of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control). Once a fish bites on the bait, the second thing you do is react. If you don't, the fish will simply take your free food and say, “See ya!” When you have a nibble, pull back with your pole with a hard yank. If you do it correctly, you'll be having fish for super. If you react when people ask, “Who is Jesus?” then you can have a new brother or sister in Christ. It's simple. Fishing is fun, but God has something more than trout planned for catch of the day. Grab your pole and get fishing!

Let's Chat

What was the most fun about fishing today?

What would have made it even more enjoyable?

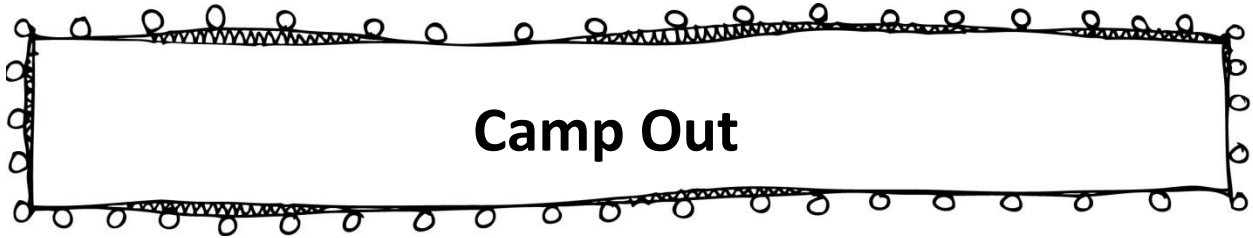
Dad- Tell about your biggest and best fish ever.

Daughter- Jesus says to fish for people. Can you think of a friend that does not know Jesus?

Read Matthew 4:19 again and discuss what fishing for people looks like in our daily lives.

Capture the Moment

Find a fishing hook or lure to stash away in your box today. Put it in the small bag and write today's date on it. Every time you see it you'll think of the fish you caught or the really big one that got away.



Go camping. Sleep in a tent, build a campfire, sing silly songs, and make some s'mores. Live it up under the star filled sky. Maybe it has to be in your own backyard, but make it a camp out one way or another.

Verses to Share

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:6-7 NIV

Devotional

You might not have tried it before, but you've probably seen someone on television light a fire. Not with a match or a handy dandy fire starter, that would be way too simple and not as much fun. Before the modern conveniences of today, campers would rub two sticks together until their hands were blistered, red, and just plain worn out. Hopefully, at some point there would a small spark produced. When this happened, the person would gently blow on the spark or fan the flame to make the fire grow. This is when you would hear a celebration shout of, "Woo, Hoo!" or "I made fire!" It's not an easy process, but that cozy fire sure feels nice and warm. How does that relate to God, you might ask? Well, God gives gifts and talents to all of His children. We have to work at those gifts and perfect the talents. We don't become experts overnight. Nor did God give us these blessing so we could tuck them away in our back pockets. He desires for us to use those gifts to show off His mighty power. God does not want us to be weak little sparks that give off only small amounts of light and heat. He wants us to shine out so others will see and give praise to our Father in heaven. You have the spark, what do you plan to do with it?

Let's Chat

What was the hardest part of building the fire?

What was the best part of the campfire?

Dad- What memories do you have of camping out as a kid growing up?

Daughter- What talents do you have that would help on this campout?

Read 1 Timothy 1:96-7 again and discuss how you both can fan the flame and ignite the gifts and talents God has given you.

Capture the Moment

Take a picture of you and Dad on the campout. It can be in front of the fire, inside the tent, or just about anywhere. Stash the picture in the box to remember your Dad and Daughter campout memories.



At the Ballgame

Go to a game with Dad. You can pick your favorite sport. Whether it's soccer, football, baseball, or hockey, you'll have a great time cheering on the team.

Verse to Share

but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31 NIV

Devotional

Cheering crowds, intense action, and hold your breath moments are all important parts of a good game. Whether it's a championship game with professional athletes or a little league game of ten year olds, a good sporting event will make you stand up and yell. But there's nothing better than watching a team that's been down and out, left behind, and overlooked, come back from past failures to win big. Yeah! We call them "Cinderella Teams" because when things couldn't get any worse, they take it all the way to the top. Now that's excitement! God often gives us "Cinderella" moments, too. We get tired, weary, and broken down. When nothing seems to be going right and we are about to give up all hope, God shows up and WOWs us. He gives us wings like eagles to soar above all the problems. We're not talking tiny bird wings here, but the mighty and powerful wings of an eagle. This is God we are talking about. He doesn't do anything halfway. He loves you way too much to see you give up hope and throw in the towel. God has plans for you and me that are too amazing for words, too shocking to think about, and way too fabulous that we might just faint when we hear about them. So, do you want it your way or God's way? Don't look now, but I think your "Cinderella" moment is about to arrive.

Let's Chat

What was the most exciting moment in today's game?

What would have made the game every better?

Dad- Tell about your favorite sport "Cinderella team" memory.

Daughter- What was your favorite part of going to the game with Dad tonight?

Read Isaiah 40:31 again and discuss what problems God can help you soar over in the days to come.

Capture the Moment

Keep your ticket stub and place it in your memory box. You might not remember whether your favorite team won or lost, but you'll remember the great time with Dad!



Boots and Horses

Blue jeans, boots, and horseback riding. We'll see if you are cowgirl material. Climb atop a horse and go on a trail ride with Dad today.

Verses to Share

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by as very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. James 3:3-5 NIV

Devotional

Whoa! Halt! Stay! Slow down there, Partner! A horse can be hard to control. Considering the horse weighs 1000 pounds, your words don't carry much weight in this yelling match. However, with a bit in his mouth and reins in your hand, you have more power behind your punch. You can turn to the right, to the left, and then stop on a dime. God reminds us how powerful our tongue can be. Just like the bit in a horse's mouth, our words can make a huge difference. We can praise God, honor Him, and encourage others, or we can use our words to tear down relationships, discourage our friends, and destroy lives. Wow! The tongue is certainly very powerful! Don't try to control your tongue by will power alone. You'll need God's help. Pray, read your Bible, and hang out with people who love the Lord. Those things will help with the task of taming the tongue. Who knew such a powerful weapon was inside your mouth. So, the next time you open your mouth, think before you speak. Will your words help others or hurt them? If you're helping, spout out the words with confidence. If you're not, close your lips tightly, and try again. It takes a while to tame a wild horse, but if that can be done, our tongue can be tamed as well.

Let's Chat

What was the most difficult part of riding a horse?

What was easy?

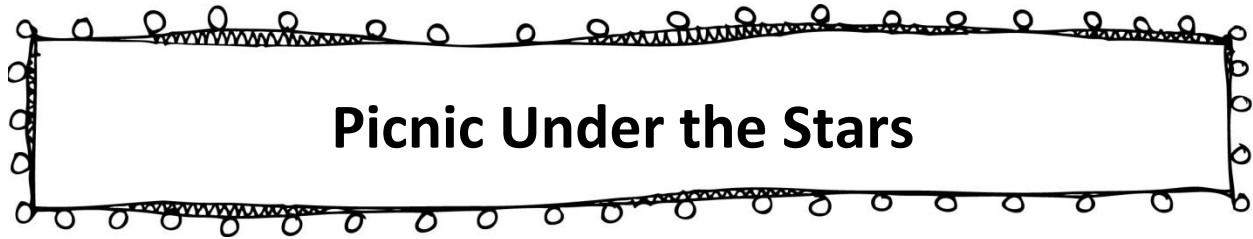
Dad- What were some comments that bothered you when you were a kid?

Daughter- What was said that hurt your feelings?

Read James 3:3-5 again and talk about ways to tame your tongue and how to react when others have trouble taming theirs.

Capture the Moment

Have another person take a picture of you and Dad while riding the trail. Place the picture in your memory box to remember the ride.



Picnic Under the Stars

Have a late night picnic with Dad out under the stars. Lay down a blanket and stare into the night sky.

Verse to Share

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place Psalm 8:3 NIV

Devotional

Have you looked at the stars lately? Don't just glance over them and say, "Wow, what pretty little stars!" Look at them carefully, study them, and really think about them. Sure, stars are a beautiful backdrop to our world, but they are so much more. They remind us that God is bigger than we think, more powerful than we know, and has plans we cannot begin to imagine. He is bigger than the universe, wiser than anyone, and His creativity is immeasurable. If he can create the stars, the planets, and the expanses of space, he can handle anything we throw at Him. Problems with our sister or brother or friend issues at school are a piece of cake for the creator of the stars. The amazing thing is, even though he is so big and powerful, He loves and cares about the small, tiny details of our lives. He provides for our needs, listens to the cries of our heart, and even knows the thoughts pouring out of our heads. It's good to know God is listening to us when we can't even find the words to ask for help. Let God know when you have trouble. Ask Him for help. Talk to Him about whatever is keeping you up at night or troubling you during the day. Let the creator of the stars guide you. He's ready. Are you?

Let's Chat

What is your favorite part of the night sky?

Can you make your own picture out of the stars?


Dad- What do you think about when you look at the night sky?

Daughter- How does the "hugeness" of space make you feel?

Read Psalm 8:3 again and talk about the issues that seem small when we think of the "hugeness" of God?

Capture the Moment

Cut a star out of yellow paper and write tonight's date on it. Place it in your memory box to remember your night with the stars.



Feed the Birds

Build a bird feeder with Dad. Fill it up with bird seed and watch who comes to dine. You might be surprised at how fun it is to watch these fine feathered friends. Name them, laugh at them, and try to guess what they are thinking. Have fun!

Verse to Share

Look at the birds in the sky. They don't plant or harvest or gather food into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. You are more valuable than they are, aren't you? Matthew 6:26 NIV

Devotional

Take a moment to watch the birds. They fly, they land, they eat, and they fly away again. Swarms of birds are even more fun and entertaining. They sit on the telephone wires by the hundreds. Something, and I'm not sure what it is, causes them to fly off. All together they swirl around you, almost like a dance number being performed in the sky, and then land softly all in a line back on the wire. It's like a big choreographed number from Broadway. Spectacular! Magnificent! And the performers are all birds. If God can create such a show out of small birds, think what He can do with our lives? The birds have food to eat, a place to sleep, and everything they need to survive and thrive. God does the same for us. Thank God for your loving family, a place to live, food to eat, friends to spend time with, and loving surprises from above. God performs so many miracles in our lives each day, but we miss them. We get caught up in the everyday shuffle. Move here, go there, rush to practice, hurry to finish school work, and don't forget your chores. Many times we get so grumpy with the daily routine that we forget to see the amazing dance that is going on in front of our eyes. God is working out a plan for us, so don't miss it. Trust God to take care of your needs. He loves you, even more than the birds.

Let's Chat

What is your favorite type of bird? Why?

Have you really noticed the birds in the backyard before? Why or why not?

Dad- What task do you get overwhelmed with? What can make this easier?

Daughter- What everyday activity do you dread each day? How can you make it better?

Read Matthew 6:26 again and discuss ways to relax, stop stressing, and enjoy God's blessings more often.

Capture the Moment

Use one of the small baggies and gather up some bird seed. Write today's date on the bag with a permanent marker so you can remember your date with the birds. Seal up the bag tightly and place it in your memory box.



Fly a kite together. Select the perfect kite and find a wide open space. Soon you will have it soaring in the clouds.

Verses to Share

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV

Devotional

When you fly a kite, you are at the mercy of the wind. You cannot make a kite float up in the air. You have to rely on the gust of wind to send it flying. Without wind, you might as well use that kite as a picnic blanket. In the same way, we cannot expect to get very far in life without the refreshing wind of God. He makes it all happen. We can try to do it all on our own, but like the kite without wind, we won't be going anywhere. Many times we think we can use our muscles to make things happen. We can work harder, study more, practice extra, and make a bright future for ourselves. I've got bad news for you. It doesn't work that way. Your thoughts are not His thoughts. Your ways are not His ways. Our Heavenly Father knows best. He knows what we are good at, what we like and dislike, and what will make us the happiest. Why wouldn't you want His help? So, the next time you have high flying plans, stop trying to do it all by yourself. Talk to God. Pray and ask how He wants you to do things for a change. You might just be surprised at the fresh breath of air He brings to the situation. With God holding the kite, the sky is the limit!

Let's Chat

What was the most difficult part of flying a kite?

What would have made it easier?

Dad- Is there something you have been trying to do on your own?

Daughter- What about you? Is there a goal you are trying to reach?

Read Isaiah 55:8-9 again and talk about ways you can seek God's plan instead of your plan.

Capture the Moment

Take a piece of kite string and place it in a baggie. Write today's date on the bag to remember your high flying adventures.



Build a fort out of blankets, sheets, and pillows. Pull up a few chairs for support and design a home away from home. Transform the room into a whole new imaginary world. Oh, and don't forget a door.

Verse to Share

Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance. Proverbs 1:5 NIV

Devotional

How many times did you have to rebuild your fort today? If you're like most people, it fell to the ground the first couple of times. Maybe Dad offered some words of wisdom to help the building process. It's okay to get advice. In fact, that's a very smart thing to do. We can all learn from past experiences of others. What went well and what flopped in their faces, these are discussions that should take place with Mom and Dad. Get their sound advice for all topics. Whether it's school, friends, sports, boys, or bullies, just listen. They've been through it all and can tell you what to do and what not to do. Will you still have to try and fail some on your own? Of course. Everyone does. But, seek their wisdom when you can. Don't be afraid to ask, "Hey Dad, have you ever...?" or "Dad, what should I do about...?" Now don't overlook the wisdom of the ultimate fort builder. God created every mountain, valley, desert, ocean, and all parts in between. He is just a prayer away. Ask Him for help and he will give you the guidance you're seeking. And you thought you had to do this all alone. God and your family are by your side. God has an awesome blueprint for your life. Get ready... It's building day!

Let's Chat

What was the coolest part of your fort?

What would have made it even better?

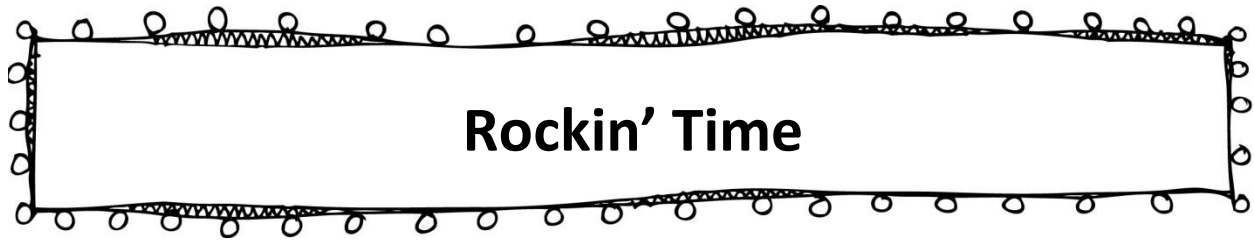
Dad- Tell about a past fort making memory of your own?

Daughter- If you could redesign your own room, what would you include in the plans?

Read Proverbs 1:5 again and talk about some situations you would like some help with.

Capture the Moment

They say a picture paints a thousand words. It would probably be impossible to describe this architectural creation, so snap a photo of your newly built fort instead (with you two peeking out the window of course). Place the picture in your memory box to remember this moment.



Rockin' Time

It's Rock Day. No, it has nothing to do with music, just real rocks. Go for a walk and collect interesting rocks and pebbles along the way. If you have a lake nearby, try skipping a few rocks just for fun.

Verse to Share

Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. Psalm 71:3 NIV

Devotional

Rocks are hard, uncomfortable to walk on, but very strong and secure. Cowboys hide behind them in gun fights, and cartoon characters push rocks off cliffs to stop their enemies. God has often been compared to a rock. I know, it's hardly a fair comparison, but hear me out. A rock is strong, and if it's large enough, can be used for protection. God is certainly strong enough and can definitely protect us from any enemy or lurking danger. We can hide behind rocks or put lots of rocks together to make a wall of protection. In the same way, God's love provides a wall around us that nothing can get through. We might not be able to see God's rocky wall, but it's there. It's there when our car stops just in time to avoid a wreck. It's there when we make a friend on that first nervous day of class. It's there when that close call in sports happens and everyone breathes a sigh of relief. God is looking out for you and He is the only rock you'll ever need. He's watching, protecting, and helping you each step of the way. So, step out, be brave Daughter, and follow His lead. With God's as your rock, nothing can stop you.

Let's Chat

What's your favorite rock that you picked up today?

What else can rocks be used for?

Dad- How is God a rock in your life?

Daughter- What do you want to hide from some days?

Read Psalm 71:3 again and discuss some scary things we face in our daily lives? How does God help with those situations?

Capture the Moment

Pick your favorite rock and add it to your memory box. Make sure it's not too large. You have to leave room in the box for a few more memories to come.



Fill up a bucket of soapy suds with the water hose and grab a sponge. It's time to wash the car. Sure, it's a chore, but it can also be a fun, splashy, soaking wet memory with Dad.

Verses to Share

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13:14-15 NIV

Devotional

You know it's time to wash the car when your white car turns grey and people begin writing messages on the back window. Yep, that's a pretty good sign it's time to scrub up your ride. An automatic car wash is fast and does a good job, but washing the car by hand makes sure every last inch is cleaned to perfection. We often find our lives in the same condition. We get dusty and worn out from our daily activities and we lose that squeaky clean appearance. We need to be cleaned up, polished, and made new again. Jesus's feet were just as dirty and tired as his companions, but he became the servant and washed his disciples' feet that day. He didn't have someone else do it or find a quick way to accomplish the task. No, he washed the feet of his companions and friends. It was his way of saying, "I love you guys!" He didn't want the message to stop there. He urged them to serve others and meet their needs. That message is for you and me, too. Get out there and do something. Open the door for a stranger. Strike up a conversation with your neighbor. Help out your friend down the street. Don't just rush through your day, but take your time, like you took time to hand wash the car today. People need that same special attention. Love them as Jesus did. Serve them well.

Let's Chat

What was the toughest part of washing the car today?

What tools would have made the job a little easier?

Dad- Name a service project you have helped with.

Daughter- How do you feel after doing something good for someone (like washing the car)?

Read John 13:14-15 again. Pick someone who could use a reminder of God's love and plan your next service project?

Capture the Moment

Cut off a section of the carwash sponge, and when it dries out, place it in your memory box. It will be a bit too tiny to scrub a car, but it will remind you of the fun you had with Dad.



Snow Sledding

It's sledding time. Locate a small snow hill or a gentle slope. If there's no sled around, a cardboard box does wonders. Remember, it doesn't have to be steep for it to be fun. Stay safe and have a blast gliding down the hill.

Verse to Share

He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing is impossible for you." Matthew 17:20 NIV

Devotional

Move a mountain? Sounds impossible doesn't it? You wouldn't think to ask a mountain to move, a lake to leap, or the desert to disappear, would you? The point is, with God, anything is possible. All through the Bible we see amazing, "I can't believe this!" moments. People survive a blazing fire, hungry lions' mouths are shut, and mighty rivers stop flowing, just to name a few. What we need to understand here is that God's power is unlimited. If God wanted us to move a mountain, with His authority, we could do it. Nothing too difficult for Him. We often miss out on God's immense power because we don't believe He is capable. The people of the Bible saw incredible events, and we can too. Just believe and watch God's wonders unfold. He can tackle illness, loneliness, and sadness. He can rescue us from dangerous situations. He can wow us with amazing beauty, and show us the most fun we have ever experienced. Are you ready to see some mountains move? Are you ready to see things you have only dreamed of? Nothing is too big, too complicated, or too difficult for Him. Why not ask God for a miracle today?

Let's Chat

Why are mountains and hills so much fun?

Imagine God moved the hill you were sledding down. What would people think?


Dad- What is the most incredible miracle you have seen in your life?

Daughter- What amazing "mountain moving" miracle would you like to see one day?

Read Matthew 17:20 again and talk about a miracle you would like to start praying for.

Capture the Moment

Take a picture of you and Dad posing with your sled. It's okay if you have snow in your hair or a red nose from the cold. That just shows you've had fun today.



Castle in the Sand

Find a sandy location (maybe a beach, lake, or go out and buy your own bag of sand). Dig in with your hands and feet and build a sandcastle together. Make it big! Make it grand! Have tons of fun in the sand!

Verse to Share

They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. Luke 6:48 NIV

Devotional

It is frustrating isn't it? You get the sand castle just right. The moat is perfect. The castle is towering in the sky with exactly the look you were going for. And after an hour of planning, forming, and shaping, the waves come (or maybe it's your sister with a bucket of water). In seconds, your hard work is washed away to just a lump of soggy sand. Heartbreaking, right? If only you had taken the time to set up a firm base and placed the castle in a location far away from the dangers of wind, waves, and siblings with pails. Jesus tells us to build a foundation on rock. Not just any rock, of course. He means we should begin everything with God. Read the Bible, pray, and talk to God every day. Don't wait until the rain comes, and troubles start to happen. God should be the foundation, or bottom floor, of everything. Looking for a new friend, start by asking God. Need help in math class, talk to God first. Starting a new sport or activity, don't forget about God. He cares about your every detail, activity, thought, and worry. If you forget to include God, watch out for the waves. You're going to be shaky. You might see your own building fall to the ground. Without God's help, you are at the mercy of the winds, waves, and buckets of water. Wouldn't you feel safer with God's rock as your foundation?

Let's Chat

How could you make your sandcastle more secure?

What additions would you add the next time you build a castle?

Dad- What areas has God helped you with in your past?

Daughter- What areas could you use some help in right now?

Read Luke 6:48 again and talk about some areas you both need God to be your firm foundation.

Capture the Moment

Scoop up some sand and put it in a baggie. Write the date on the bag and stash it in your memory box for safe keeping.



Dancing with Dad

It's dancing time. Dress up in your best clothes and hit the dance floor. If there's not an event to attend, set up your own party right in your own living room.

Verse to Share

Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp. Psalm 149:3 NIV

Devotional

Dancing can be a lot of fun. It's great exercise and keeps you healthy. It makes you feel great, cheers you up, and makes you smile from ear to ear. No doubt, dancing is a good thing. In Psalms, we discover that dancing can also be a way of praising God. Dance to express your love for God. Dance to honor his goodness and loving kindness. Dance to let others know that God is a mighty, powerful, and oh so good to you and me. Dance your heart out, Sweetheart. Dance, dance, dance! Now of course, there are dances that do not glorify God. Stay clear of those and dance in a way that pleases your Father in heaven. Be a witness to others and let them see the reason behind your dance. They will see that the spring in your step does not come from money, the latest toy, fashion, or gadget. Your joy comes from the Lord. Your feet, arms, and legs and expressing your heart's song. So the next time you feel blue, glide across the dance floor. When you are happy and want to celebrate, dance away the night. Dance when you are happy, dance when you are sad, and dance when you don't know how to feel. Praise God with dancing and see how he moves you.

Let's Chat

What is your favorite type of dance?

When is your favorite time to dance?

Dad- What was a popular dance from your past?

Daughter- What do you like the best about your dad's dancing?

Read Psalm 149:3 again and talk about ways you can dance for God.

Capture the Moment

Take a picture of this Daddy Daughter dancing date. Place the picture in your memory box do you will remember the evening you boogied the night away.



Buckle up your seat belts and go for a ride... a go cart ride. Speed, race, and fight for the finish line. Who will win? It won't take long to find out.

Verse to Share

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1 NIV

Devotional

A race is not over until the very last second. Until the runner, bicyclist, or go cart driver crosses the finish line, first place is up for grabs. Just because someone has a huge lead, doesn't necessarily mean they will be the winner. Many things can get in the way. There could be an equipment or mechanical problem, an injury, or the race could just be too physically tiring to complete. No, the race isn't over until it's over. It's the same in God's race. We have friends and family members cheering us on. We run and try our best to avoid the traps, pot holes, and dangerous areas along the path. It's our job to seek God's help and guidance so we don't lose our way or start racing in the wrong direction. All of this racing is exhausting, but the prize is so worth it. Don't give up or get content with where you are. Always push harder and get to know God more every single day. God is waiting in heaven to congratulate you on the victory. So, Sister, keep your eyes on the prize and race toward God. He will guide you. He will watch your back and make sure you're fueled up, prepared, trained, and ready to race. And don't forget... He is waiting at the finish line. His arms are open wide. Run to Him. Believe me...This is one race you don't want to miss.

Let's Chat

Who won the race?

Who should have won the race (in your opinion)?

Dad- Tell a favorite racing story from your past.

Daughter- What obstacles are you facing right now?

Read Hebrews 12:1 again and talk about how both of you can keep running the race of life with God by your side.

Capture the Moment

Place the ticket from your go cart ride in your memory box. You'll remember this ride with dad for a long time to come.



Playing Catch

Play catch together in the backyard. A simple game can be a lot of fun between a daddy and his daughter.

Verses to Share

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. Luke 5:4-6 NIV

Devotional

You can catch a ball. You can catch a clue. You can even catch a cold. And with Jesus’s help, his disciples caught a boatload of fish one day. They could have ignored his advice. Besides, what does a carpenter know about fishing anyway, right? They have been professional fishermen their entire lives. Then, Jesus comes along and tells them to put out their nets in the deep water. I guess they thought it couldn’t hurt. They weren’t catching any fish their way, so why not give it a try. And boy did they have a surprise. The net was breaking it was so full of fish. What a wonderful problem to have. The lesson to learn here is to listen to Jesus. Sometime we do not understand why God is telling us to do something, but do it anyway. You might feel Him guide you to talk to the new girl at school or say a kind word to your teacher or friend. He might urge you to be extra nice to your sister or do an extra chore around the house to make your parent’s day. Listen and act. That’s all need to do. God will show up and provide amazing results. Just watch and see!

Let’s Chat

What sport or activity do you enjoy?

Who would you seek advice for in this area?

Dad- What were you good at when you were younger (sports, art, music, etc.)?

Daughter- What are you gifted in?

Read Luk5:4-6 again and talk about how you can use the gifts God has given you.

Capture the Moment

Take a picture of you and Dad playing catch. Place the picture in your memory box so you will always remember the moment.



Laser Tag Laughs

Run around and play laser tag with Dad. Will daughter conquer all with her youthful energy, or will Dad's wisdom and skill prove to be the winning combination. Fire away and see for yourself!

Verse to Share

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged; for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 NIV

Devotional

The buzzer sounds and you're off. Does your heart start pounding loudly or your nerves begin to shake? In the heat of the battle, what do you think about? Are you on offense, trying to shoot every target in sight, or do you retreat into defense mode and attempt to protect the home base. It's interesting to see how people react when it's crunch time. Some are fearless and up to the challenge and others find the nearest corner and cover in it. The laser tag arena is not the real test though. How do you handle the tough times of life? God tells us to be strong and courageous. There's no time to hide or run for the hills. We really have nothing to be afraid of when we are walking with the Lord. If we talk to our Heavenly Father, he will help us when life gets rough. If we spend time in His Word, his wisdom will be our guide. There will be no doubt whether to be on the defense or the offense with God playing the role of commander. No battle is too tough and no fight is too frightening. God is your light when the whole world grows dark and scary. God is your home base when you can't get away from the action. There is nothing, and I mean nothing, too difficult for God. So don't worry. Don't fret. God's with you in the battle.

Let's Chat

Who had the best score today?

Who had the best accuracy?

Dad- What was your battle strategy today?

Daughter- Was your strategy the same or different from Dad's?

Read Joshua 1:9 again and talk about ways to prepare for the battle of life.

Capture the Moment

Add your laser tag scorecard to the memory box. Who cares about the score? The fun is all you will remember.



To the Theater

You're off to the theater. Watch a play, an opera, a musical, or a ballet. Appreciate the arts today with Dad.

Verse to Share

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15 NIV

Devotional

The performers on stage were not always as wonderfully skilled as you see them today. The singer started out hitting flat notes, but kept singing until she hit perfection. The dancer began by tripping over her feet and missing the dance combination, but she kept at it until the steps flowed naturally. The musician undoubtedly tooted out plenty of wrong notes at the start of her musical career, but that didn't stop her. No, they were all trained by masters in the field of art. They listened to their teachers and were guided in the right direction whether it was singing, dancing, or music. They learned well and can now perform with ease on stage. You and I have a Master to learn from, too. God is the greatest Master of all. He will teach you to love, to give, and to use the gifts and talents you were created to have. One day, you will be on that stage, or in an office, or somewhere for eyes to see. You will inspire others to strive harder and do their best. When that happens, be sure to give the glory to the Master you learned from. God deserves all the credit!

Let's Chat

What did you like best about the performance today?

Who were you most impressed with?

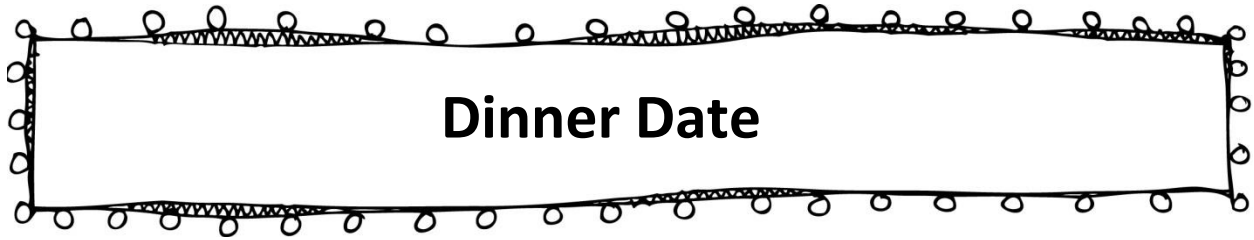
Dad- What artistic talent did you have growing up?

Daughter- Who has inspired you in your area of expertise?

Read John 15:15 again and discuss ways to give God the glory for our talents.

Capture the Moment

Put the program from the performance in your memory box. Maybe you can even get an autograph or two.



Go on a dinner date with Dad. Pick a place you rarely go and splurge a little.

Verse to Share

Then he said to his disciple, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." Matthew 9:37 NIV

Devotional

In restaurants, there is rarely a shortage of food. In fact, it's normally the exact opposite. Waiters and waitresses cart away lots of left-overs from table to table. Some restaurant owners give away left-over bread, muffins, and side dishes to local homeless shelters. There is plenty to go around as long as there are enough people to help out. This is the problem. Many times there are so many customers but only a few waiters and waitresses. What happens then? The orders are painstakingly slow, the food takes a long time to arrive, and there is no one to assist the hungry masses of people. This spells trouble for everyone involved. In today's verse, Jesus talks about spreading the good news to the people of the world. People have to help for this plan to work. Everyone can't be a customer. People have to help serve. So... why not you? Get out there and serve it up. Tell the hungry people about Jesus. Explain that God loves them so much that He sent His only Son to earth to die for their sins. He offers this loving gift to anyone willing to accept it. Serve the people God's unfailing love. Offer up a life worth living. Dish out a lifestyle so many are hungering for. After a bite of God's goodness, they will hunger no more.

Let's Chat

What was your favorite dish tonight?

What would you like to try next time?

Dad- What is the best meal you every had?

Daughter- What is your favorite dessert?

Read Matthew 9:37 again and decide how you can work for the Lord and serve up God's goodness to others.

Capture the Moment

Take home something from the restaurant as a memento (a paper napkin, take-out menu, or something with the restaurant name on it). Stick this item in your memory box so you will always remember your dinner out with Dad.



Daughter's Choice

Go bowling, play miniature golf, or whatever activity you like best. It's Daughter's Choice Day.

Verse to Share

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deed for mankind Psalm 107:8NIV

Devotional

The best sight in the world is when you spot a young girl running into her daddy's outstretched arms. Let me set the scene for you. Dad's been away on business and the daughter hasn't seen him in days. From far away they spot each other. Daddy opens up his arms wide and gets down on his knees. The little girl runs, teetering, tottering, and bounding along because she's just getting the hang of running. She runs as fast as her little legs can take her and then falls into Daddy's arms. He hugs her, lifts her up, and swings her around and around. What a beautiful sight! A daddy and his daughter share a love that can't be explained. No matter how old that little girl gets, she is still Daddy's little girl. This is just a glimpse of how much God loves each one of us. His love is unfailing and he cares for us more than we can ever imagine. He lifts us up and wraps his loving arms around us. How comforting to know we are loved by an earthly father and a heavenly one too!

Let's Chat

What was the best part about your activity today?

What was a funny memory from today?

Dad- What do you love most about your daughter?

Daughter- What do you like best about your dad?

Read Psalm 107:8 again and thank God for his unfailing love for us.

Capture the Moment

Bring home a ticket stub or picture from today's adventure together. Make it a memory to remember.