

Like Dad

By Tom Mansbarger

As I sit here at my desk this morning, I have been reflecting on some of my fondest memories. Do you ever stop and think about what life was like when you were growing up? As I ponder wonderful memories as a child, I realize I was blessed. Blessed in the fact that I had a mom and dad who were still together and looked out for what was best for my brother and me. We lived a simple life and that was good. Usually on the weekend it would be fishing in the river.

Thinking about my childhood has caused me to realize the influence of my dad. Now, dad wasn't perfect, but I thought he was. He taught me lots of things about life and the importance of how to treat others. Dad wasn't a Christian when he was young, but he lived by a lot of Christian principles. As I was growing up I soon came to realize that I wanted to be just like my dad. I suppose lots of children have had that very same thought, "I want to be just like dad."

Recently, while studying, I began to think about King David. He was a man that made more than his share of mistakes. Lots of church people today probably wouldn't welcome David



JUST A THOUGHT

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into their fellowship. However, the Scripture tells us David was a man after God's own heart. David had many issues as a parent. It would be easy to say that he fell short of being the perfect dad.

When David was on his deathbed (I Kings 2:1-4), he passed the mantle on to his son, Solomon. He knew that Solomon could lead the people. In this passage David laid out the things that Solomon should do if he wanted to be successful and have God's blessing. David instructs him to "be strong and show yourself a man" (I Kings 2:2). He also

told him to walk in the way of the Lord and keep His statutes. He went on to tell Solomon that he would prosper if he did those things.

It is an interesting study to see Solomon's response to his dad, and the deep love and respect he had for David. (I Kings 3:3-9). He not only loved his dad, his dad loved him as well. Have you ever thought what you would say to your family if you were on your deathbed? We sometimes lose sight of the powerful influence we have on others. We must understand that there is never a time when others aren't watching us. They are listening and observing.

One of my greatest privileges in life is being a dad. I have fallen short of the mark so many times. There have been lots of times I wished I could turn back the clock and do things differently. The sad part is, that is not an option. We only get one chance to pass through this life. As I watched my two boys grow into manhood, I must confess, they have done well. They are both respected at what they do, and they are good examples of manhood.

The thing that I am most thankful for today is my Heavenly Father. He knows

all about our shortcomings and all our failures. He has a way of bringing blessings to us, in spite of us. You have the ability to be a great influence on others. I can tell you up front that there will be failures, and it

won't be a perfect journey. The thought of having a part in influencing another's life is exciting and rewarding. Someone may be waiting today for you to step up and make a difference. Are you willing?

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Crossword and Sudoku answers, page 12

1	2	3								4	5	6	7	
8			9						10					
11									12					
13				14				15						
16							17							
18						19	20							
					21				22					
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			25				26							
		27				28				29	30	31	32	33
	34									35				
36										37				
38											39			
40											41			
42												43		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Sound unit
4. Trim by cutting
8. Small buffalo
10. Ancient manuscript
11. Look angry or sullen
12. Glum
13. Northern Zambia peoples
15. Central
16. Collector of birds' eggs
17. Misbehavior
18. Top of the line
21. Political action committee
22. Have already done
23. Al Bundy's wife
24. Entertainment channel
25. Holiday (informal)
26. The common gibbon
27. Legendary actress
34. Seasoned sausages
35. Bluish greens
36. Ridiculed
37. Three-dimensional arrangement
38. Emerged
39. Type of protein
40. Denmark natives
41. Leak slowly through
42. Expression of sorrow or pity
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Artistic dancing
2. Plenty
3. Act leisurely
4. Serve as a warning
5. Admired lovingly
6. Leftover oil from distillation process
7. Company officer
9. Egyptian unit of capacity
10. One transmits information
12. Middle layer of an embryo
14. Form of "to be"
15. Cairo Regional Airport
17. Partner to cheese
19. Sample
20. A shirt may have none
23. Public gatherings
24. Disallow
25. Overnight suitcases
26. French river
27. Where boats dock
28. Top of a pot
29. Type of drug
30. City along the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. They go in martinis
33. A way to break away
34. Intermediate ecological stage
36. Baby term for father

For the latest information on COVID-19, go to IN.gov. The site gives current information about testing and what stage Indiana is currently practicing.

SUDOKU

	2						4	
	1			2	7			
8						9	3	
	3							4
	4		3					9
9		2			1		5	
	8		7		9		2	
			1			6		5
				6	8			

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!