

The Perfect Father?

There is no doubt over the course of my life I have been blessed. The Lord has been good to me and provided everything I have ever needed. Now, I don't get me wrong, life hasn't been perfect, and I have made my share of mistakes along the way. I am like most other people when it comes to the past. If I had the chance to do it all over again, I would do things a little differently. I don't suppose that there is one individual reading this article today that doesn't feel the way I do.

I was blessed with a good home foundation for life. I didn't grow up in a Christian home, but my parents taught us many good life lessons that prepared us for adulthood. I had a good dad! Now was he perfect? Not by a long shot, but I believed that he was when I was growing up. There are times today that I wish I could go fishing with dad one more time. He would rather fish



JUST A THOUGHT

Rev. Tom Mansbarger



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than eat.

As we reflect back on Father's Day, is there a perfect dad? Have you ever thought about what makes a good dad? I hope you are as fortunate as me to have had a good experience with your dad. Mine was my greatest hero

growing up, and I always loved and respected him. I didn't always agree with him, but he was still my dad. Have you ever stopped to think about all of the responsibilities of a dad? Well, let's take a look at Scripture and see what the Lord has to say.

1. He is to train - "Train up a child in the way he should go and, when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Taking this verse into consideration, what does training entail? There has to be a strong effort to teach children. It is not the school teacher's responsibility to raise up your child. There ought to be a moral and ethical foundation laid in every young person's life. Dad, it is your responsibility. This teaching will only become effective by seeing a strong example from dad. Children watch their parents, and they know if the walk matches the talk. Parents need to be a visible

example of what is being taught. If you don't do it, how can you expect someone else to follow your lead? Training also involves time. It is more important to spend quality time with family than it is buying their love. A child wants parents who invest time in them instead of money.

2. Motivate - Parents should put forth all their efforts in building up their children. I truly believe that if you treat your children like they are stupid, and call them stupid, they will never disappoint you. Good parents believe in

their children and show it by encouraging them to be all they can be. Children want, and need, to be challenged. They are much more perceptive than we ever give them credit for.

3. Direction - Are you trying to live your life through your children, or are you directing them "in the way they should go"? They need their own identity when it comes to life and where they fit in. We had our opportunities, now it is their time.

4. Trust the Lord - Scripture tells us that children are a heritage from the Lord. That means that

they are a gift from God and we don't know how long we will have them. Since they really don't belong to us, we should trust the Lord for a good, solid outcome. God knows much better than us what they need, so let's trust Him for their lives.

A good dad is not a perfect dad. Hopefully, he will leave a life-long impression on his family. Dads should live a life in such a way that the child will want to grow up and be just like dad. Dad, let's leave a positive influence on our families. Happy Father's Day!

"Mrs. Kate's" music, puppets to perform

Bring the kids out to the fair on Wednesday, June 16 to enjoy a music & puppets show by children's entertainer "Mrs. Kate" Carpenter. The event will begin at 5 p.m. at the Family Free Stage, and is generously sponsored by First Farmers Bank & Trust and Modern Machine & Tool.

With puppetry, unusual instruments and riveting storytelling, "Mrs. Kate" motivates, educates and entertains her audience in an interactive musical



extravaganza. Additionally, the audience is a part of the show!

"Mrs. Kate" is a nationally known touring children's performer, who now makes her

home in Marion. She is a Parents' Choice award winning songwriter and has recorded 12 original CD's and several music videos. She has been featured on Radio Disney and several television programs.

After the concert, Mrs. Kate's CD's, videos, puppets, thunder tubes and rainsticks and other items will be available for sale. To learn more, visit www.MrsKate.com.

SUDOKU

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

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!

Proverbs 22: 6 and Eshesians 6: 1-4

CLUES ACROSS

1. "Sleepless In Seattle" actress Ryan
4. One of Santa's reindeer
10. Before the present
11. Type of butter
12. Location of White House
14. Motion
15. Tree part
16. Regions around the North Pole
18. Fits on a boat's gunwale
22. Discuss after it's happened
23. Milk substitute for coffee
24. Describes one who believes in supreme being
26. Equally
27. Famed director Forman
28. Popular apartment style
30. British School
31. Advanced degree
34. Order of architecture
36. Investment account (abbr.)
37. Snakelike fishes
39. Children's tale bear
40. Norse personification of old age
41. Atomic #58
42. Moving your head
48. 1878 Kentucky Derby winner
50. Frankfurter
51. Small, seedless raisin
52. Device in papermaking machine
53. Go
54. Open payment initiative (abbr.)
55. "Westworld" actor Harris
56. Saturated with salt
58. Marry
59. Report on
60. Midway between north and northeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Rays
2. Self-centered person
3. One you look after
4. Prosecutor
5. Portion
6. Speaks ill of
7. Formal system for computer programs
8. To make angry
9. Rural delivery
12. Group of languages
13. Large First Nations group
17. Circulating life force in Chinese philosophy
19. Excludes
20. Body cavity of a metazoan
21. Swedish monetary unit
25. Works with
29. Partner to "to"
31. Rewards (archaic)
32. One of Caroline Islands
33. Type of alcohol
35. Eat a lot
38. Nuns
41. Dog
43. Become more serious
44. Choose
45. Newspapers use it
46. World's longest river
47. Commanded to go faster
49. Cabs
56. Mr. T's "A-Team" character
57. Document signed (abbr.)

Answers to puzzles on Page 12