

The Father's Gift

When we think of Dads, I believe we most often see them as super heros. That guy who is strong and brave and can defeat that scary monster under the bed.

But, we may forget that they have a soft side too; it's part of being human. Our fathers are also the medic who applied a band-aid to a scraped knee, cooked wieners and beans for dinner when Mom had to be away, read *The Three Pigs* for the thousandth time, and taught us to drive on that country lane long before we were of age.

Dads have most often taken the back seat and performed as the backup to many of the Moms who quarterbacked most things in our families' lives. But our fathers have also been the ones to teach us the practicality of keeping air in a soft tire and the love of bacon.

To many of us God is our Heavenly Father who gave us each our earthly father. Some of us are privileged to have been raised by one whose influence is as indelible and unique as our fingerprints. Some of us have grown up never knowing him. Some of us have suffered through hardship and trouble and some of us have lost him to accident, illness, or old age. But today, I pray that each of us is able to recognize and be thankful for our Dad's greatest gift to us; ourselves! Let us live in and rejoice over the best parts and forgive the worst as we acknowledge our Dad today.

Father God,

As we celebrate Father's Day, let us give thanks for the one You chose for each us. Let us be grateful, Lord, for the lessons we have learned from our Dad. And God, help us to have understanding for our Dad's humanness. As we remember those Dads who did their best, help us to find forgiveness for those who were absent or difficult to live with. But, regardless Father, we thank You for being Father to us all. We pray, in Jesus Name,

Amen

