

Father's Day Reflection – 16th June

Father's Day holds a special place in Christian parenting as it honours the paternal figures who are called to mirror the love of our Heavenly Father.

It's an occasion to express gratitude for father figures and their invaluable role in shaping our spiritual and moral development. As we celebrate Father's Day, let us also remember those who may be grieving, estranged, or longing for fatherly love. May this day be a reminder of the profound impact fathers have on our lives and a call to honour and cherish them with love, respect, and appreciation.

Father's Day not only celebrates the role of fathers but also prompts deep reflection on the complexities of family dynamics, especially in the context of brokenness. It's a day where we honour the paternal figures who have positively influenced our lives, but it's also a time to recognize the pain and challenges faced by those in broken families. For many, Father's Day may evoke feelings of loss, longing, or estrangement, highlighting the absence or brokenness of father-child relationships.

As Christians, we're called to acknowledge and respond to the brokenness in our families with empathy, compassion, and love. We recognize that brokenness can manifest in various forms, including divorce, absenteeism, or strained relationships. It's essential to extend grace to those who may be hurting or experiencing Father's Day with mixed emotions.

In recognizing broken families, Father's Day becomes an opportunity for healing and reconciliation. Through prayer, support, and acts of kindness, we can offer comfort to those who feel the ache of broken relationships. We're reminded of God's redemptive power to heal wounds and restore what is broken, including familial bonds. Father's Day, therefore, serves as a call to action, urging us to reach out to those in need, extend forgiveness, and foster healing within our families and communities.

Through shared experiences and expressions of appreciation, Father's Day can help mend rifts and promote reconciliation within families. This day can serve as a catalyst for strengthening family bonds and fostering connections.

Bless you and yours as you pray Malachi 4:6a (NKJV): 'And he will turn the hearts of fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers.'

Intercessions for Father's Day (from Worship Words)

Wonderful God, creator, friend and sustainer; We thank you for nurturing us like a mother and we praise you that your care and protection surround us like a father.

On this Fathering Sunday, we remember all the people who have nurtured us, especially the important men in our lives, those who have seen, not just with their eyes, but with their heart. Hear our prayer for fathers around the world. Loving God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We remember fathers, whose families are torn apart by jealousy, fighting and misunderstandings. We remember fathers who are older, but who still bear the

responsibility of raising children and grandchildren. And we remember fathers who mean well, but make mistakes. Loving God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We remember men who, because of various circumstances, are unable to become fathers. We remember fathers who have adopted children and fathers who given up their rights as fathers. Loving God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We remember fathers who rejoice in the achievements of their children. Who joyfully watch a new generation take hold. We remember fathers who are single parents, who through personal sacrifice and perseverance provide a loving home for their children. Loving God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We remember fathers who helplessly watch their children suffer from malnutrition or disease because of famine, drought, flood or war. We pray for the fathers who do everything they can to support their children. Loving God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, thank you for those who have nurtured us. Open our eyes to the plight of so many fathers and mothers around the world for whom life is difficult. Help us share your love and mercy with them. Mother Father God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In the silence of this moment, hear the prayers of our hearts. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Merciful God, Mother and Father of us all, honour our prayers, spoken and unspoken, humbly lifted to you in faith. Amen.