

1. Sing: Children's Songbook #209, "Fathers."

2. Read: Matthew 26:39

"And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

3. Watch: chapter 2 from Visit Israel With Dr. Cleon Skousen, *Last Days in the Life of Jesus Part 2*, DVD. (Video clip is also provided for viewing online.)

4. Heavenly Father has given us earthly parents to help teach us what we must do to live with Him someday (Mosiah 4:14). We have been commanded to honor our earthly parents (Exodus 20:12).

Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June. This is a special day set aside to honor our fathers. It is not the only day we should honor our fathers—we can do this everyday. When the Savior was on the earth He taught us to honor and respect our fathers (Matt. 19:19).

5. **How did the Savior honor His Father?** (Discuss ideas.)

"Jesus Christ honored [His Father] by keeping His commandments and obeying His will. Our Savior taught us this when He said, 'For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me' (John 6:38). ... The Savior is our example and model of life. We must strive every day to follow his teachings and do the things that he did, for 'the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do' (John 5:19)." *Lino Alvarez, Ensign, Nov 1992 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

6. **What can we do to follow the Savior's example and honor our fathers?** (Discuss ideas.)

"Young people, if you honor your [fathers], you will love them, respect them, confide in them, be considerate of them, express appreciation for them, and demonstrate all of these things by following their counsel in righteousness and by obeying the commandments of God." *Dallin H. Oaks, Ensign, May 1991 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

7. **Are we all expected to honor our fathers?** (Discuss ideas.)

"Most of us have fathers for whom we feel respect and love, and we find it easy to honor them. Others who may not have such feelings for their fathers may find it difficult to honor them. ... If our fathers do not keep the commandments, we might question if they deserve to be honored. But the fifth commandment tells us simply to honor them—it does not excuse us from this responsibility by adding qualifications such as 'if they are members of the Church,' 'if they are rich, healthy, or educated,' or 'if they deserve honor.'" *Lesson 16: The Latter-day Saint Woman: Basic Manual for Women, Part B © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

Honoring our fathers means more than just being obedient and respectful. It also means loving them freely. We need to remember that, like us, they are not perfect. While we are learning to be good children, they are learning to be good fathers.

8. **What other fathers should we honor?** (Discuss ideas.)

"Besides Heavenly Father, who is the Father of our spirit bodies and our earthly fathers, who are the fathers of our earthly bodies, there are other fathers who are concerned about our happiness and success whom we should honor—our grandfathers; our bishops, who are often called the father of the ward; or some people even have stepfathers. We should always honor all these fathers and make every day of the year Fathers' Day." *Friend, June 1981 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

9. **Quote:** "As the presiding priesthood officers in our homes, the father fills an irreplaceable role. Father is the patriarch of an eternal family unit. Heaven, to us, will be simply an extension of an ideal home." *A. Theodore Tuttle, in Conference Report, Oct. 1973 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*