

Ideas for your service

Thank you for signing up to use our Father's Day resources for 2021. Along with our new short film, we have compiled additional suggestions below to help shape your service on Sunday 20 June 2021, which we hope are helpful.

We suggest you tailor these suggestions to fit for your congregation and encourage you to be particularly sensitive towards those who may find Father's Day particularly difficult this year.

Gathering together

Churches will likely still have social distancing measures in place this Father's Day, or may still be gathering virtually or with a combined approach. These things can make a warm welcome seem a little more challenging.

Here are some ways you can make your service a space of welcome at this time when many are feeling particularly isolated:

- Write 'Welcome' in different languages on your screen.
- Have a diverse range of different voices, ages and faces contributing to your service, through readings, worship, prayers etc.
- Host a pre- or post-church video call and create space for your church family to catch up over a virtual coffee!
- In accordance with current local restrictions, consider whether a social gathering outside is possible - perhaps a picnic after the service (in smaller groups if numbers don't allow for the whole church to gather in this way)

Acknowledge that for many, Father's Day can be complicated or painful – let those joining you know that whatever their experience, they are welcome and valued.

Sung worship

There are countless hymns and worship songs that worship God our Father and celebrate that we are His children. Here are some of our favourites, which might be a nice addition to your service!

- No Outsiders – Rend Collective
- Good Good Father – Chris Tomlin
- Nothing Can Separate – Lucy Grimble and Matt Redman



- Great is Thy Faithfulness – Chris Rice
- Friend of God – Israel Houghton
- Who you say I am – Hillsong Worship

While these and many others are wonderful expressions of worship to our Father God, you may want to be sensitive that a repeated emphasis on the word 'Father' could be difficult for some in your church family today. You may want to consider a balance of themes and emphases across the hymns and songs you choose.

Bible readings

Father's Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all those in 'father' roles who make a difference. This year's film highlights just a few men in the bible who cared for others in 'fathering' ways. You might want to use their stories as readings, to guide moments of reflection, as points for a sermon or for children's and youth ministry.

Mordecai and Esther

[Book of Esther](#)

Mordecai cared for his cousin Esther as if she were his own daughter, and he helped her see her place in God's purposes.

David and Mephibosheth

[2 Samuel 9:1 – 13](#)

David made space at his table for Mephibosheth, son of Jonathon, and made sure he was cared for throughout his life.

Prophets

[Isaiah 1: 10-18](#)

There are a number of cases in the Old Testament when the Prophets reminded the church that to seek justice and care for the vulnerable is an act of worship.

Joseph and Jesus

[Matthew 1: 1 – Matthew 2: 23](#)

[Luke 1: 1 – Luke 2: 52](#)

Joseph stood by Mary and raised and loved Jesus as his own son, trusting God.

Jairus and his daughter

[Mark 5: 21 - 43](#)

[Luke 8: 40 – 56](#)

Jairus went to great lengths to seek Jesus' help when his daughter was sick, refusing to give up even when others said it was too late.



Paul and Timothy

Acts 16:15

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Paul was a spiritual father and mentor to Timothy, pointing him to Jesus and helping him lead others.

Prayers

Home for Good has produced a congregational prayer that you can use within your service and you may want to consider incorporating our creative prayer idea too.

Father's Day Card Prayers

It's common practice to send a Father's Day card to the important father figures in your life, so let's write one for our Father God.

Encourage your congregation to take the time to write a prayer, thanking God for being our Abba Father. You could do this on printed cards or give time to create a card. Children could join in too, and for those who find it easier, our thanks can be expressed through pictures instead of words.

You could extend this prayer to also thank God for the important father figures in our lives and in the lives of children and young people. Thank God for all who are making a difference.

