

# 88 GREAT DADDY- DAUGHTER DATES

Fun, Easy & Creative Ways  
to Build Memories Together



Rob & Joanna Teigen

# 88 GREAT DADDY- DAUGHTER DATES

Fun, Easy & Creative Ways  
to Build Memories Together

Rob and Joanna Teigen



Revell

*a division of Baker Publishing Group*  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

© 2012 by Rob and Joanna Teigen

Published by Revell  
a division of Baker Publishing Group  
P.O. Box 6287, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287  
www.revellbooks.com

Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—for example, electronic, photocopy, recording—without the prior written permission of the publisher. The only exception is brief quotations in printed reviews.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-0-8007-2033-9 (pbk.)

1. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX##### 2011

#####—dc23

#####

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com.

Scripture quotations labeled ESV are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ESV Text Edition: 2007

Scripture quotations labeled GW are from *GOD'S WORD*®. © 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group.

11 12 13 14 15 16 17      7 6 5 4 3 2 1

# Contents

Introduction 000

1. Flip a Coin 000
2. There's No One Like You 000
3. Putt-Putt and Pictures 000
4. Puppy Love 000
5. You're All Wet 000
6. That's Amore! 000
7. Lights, Camera, Action! 000
8. Play with Your Food 000
9. Bubble Trouble 000
10. A Walk in the Night 000
11. Treasure Hunt 000
12. Wash Your Wheels 000
13. Up in the Air 000
14. Catch a Falling Star 000
15. Time Capsule 000
16. Shadow Fun 000
17. Parachutes 000
18. Be a Blessing to Mom 000
19. Silly Sock Day 000
20. Picnic at the Park 000
21. Backyard Campout 000
22. A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood 000
23. Animal Pancakes 000
24. One, Two, Three, Go! 000
25. Bowling 000
26. A Basket Full of Fun 000
27. A New "Do" 000
28. Ice-Skating 000
29. We All Scream for Ice Cream 000
30. Diving In 000
31. Nature Hike 000
32. Paints, Pots, and Plants 000
33. Sharing Our Blessings 000
34. Deck the Halls 000
35. Pets and Pics 000

## Contents

---

36. Creative Cookies 000
  37. Sidewalk Fun 000
  38. Can She Build It? Yes She Can! 000
  39. Paint Her Room 000
  40. It's a Jungle out There 000
  41. A Real Page-Turner 000
  42. Bike Ride 000
  43. Video Games 000
  44. Treasure Box 000
  45. Science Lab 000
  46. Playing with a Full Deck 000
  47. A Blast from the Past 000
  48. Indoor Campout 000
  49. Family Coat of Arms 000
  50. Go Fly a Kite 000
  51. Snow Day 000
  52. Follow the Leader 000
  53. Movie Night 000
  54. Garage Sales 000
  55. Mad Libs 000
  56. Prayer Mail 000
  57. Tower Time 000
  58. It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas 000
  59. Your Daughter's World 000
  60. Tell Me a Story 000
  61. When Life Hands You Lemons . . . 000
  62. Have a Ball 000
  63. Rise and Shine 000
  64. Play with Clay 000
  65. All Dressed Up and Someplace to Go 000
  66. What Do You *Do* All Day? 000
  67. An Apple a Day . . . 000
  68. Around the World in 80 Minutes 000
  69. "Sticking" Together 000
  70. Put Your Heart into It! 000
  71. Count Your Blessings 000
  72. It's Out of This World 000
  73. What's Bugging You? 000
  74. Twenty Questions 000
  75. Dinner and a Show 000
  76. Rock, Paper, Scissors 000
  77. Nutcracker Ballet 000
  78. How I Met Your Mother 000
  79. A Doggone Great Date 000
  80. Where in the World? 000
- Extreme Dates**
81. Table for Two 000
  82. Theme Park 000
  83. Camping Trip 000
  84. It's a Capitol Idea 000
  85. Break a Leg 000
  86. Can You Hear Me Now? 000
  87. Horsing Around 000
  88. State Fair 000
- Resources 000

## Introduction

Why a daddy-daughter date book? It all started when I met my wife, Joanna. I remember the restaurants, the flowers, the love notes, and the talking (*all* the talking). She loved it and fell for me since I was such a romantic guy. This was perfect—she married me and I was set!

Well, I believe we men often relax from all that relationship stuff after the “I do” and go back to life as usual. No more flowers, love notes, dinners out—and definitely less talking. I’ve spent my share of nights in bed looking at my wife’s back as she radiated silent misery over being shut out and ignored. Note to self: date my wife!

You may be saying, “Well, duh, Einstein.” But cut me a break. The whole “girl” thing was new to me. I was raised in a home with four boys. We collectively crushed my mom’s attempts to preserve a feminine touch in the house (I remember her weeping as her last collectible plate was smashed by one of us boys during an indoor water fight).

Joanna and I were married for almost two years when we were blessed with our first child, Josh. It was a good thing we had a boy first; God knew I still had a lot to learn about girls before he could trust me with a daughter. After a few years, he tried a new

strategy to teach me about females: full immersion! He has blessed me with three daughters, and now I'm learning more about girls each day than I ever imagined.

Emma, Leah, and Anna have won my heart. They make me want to be the best husband and father I can be. I've spent hours on my knees praying and many more hours scratching my head, thinking, *I don't know if I understand these creatures, but the joy they bring makes it worth the effort to try!*

I found the passion to connect with my daughters, but not the tools. I also discovered that dads I knew felt just like me: they loved their little girls but felt ill-equipped to connect with them on a deeper level, especially in this fast-paced world where girls grow up way too fast.

The pressure is on—I read over and over how significant a dad's relationship with his daughter is to her emotional and spiritual well-being. You're going to be the first important and influential man in your daughter's life. Kevin Leman says in his book *What a Difference a Daddy Makes*:

A woman's relationship with her father, more than any other relationship, is going to affect her relationship with all other males in her life—her bosses, coworkers, subordinates, sons, husbands, brothers, pastors, college professors, and even Hollywood movie stars. (You tell me if a woman chooses Dennis Rodman over Michael Jordan, and I'll give you an accurate picture of her father!) There's not a single relationship that isn't indelibly stamped—for good or for ill—by the man known as Daddy.<sup>1</sup>

So many voices in our culture are calling out for girls' affections. A strong relationship with your daughter can direct her heart and mind toward the right influences, and ultimately toward a relationship with God. Chap and Dee Clark, in their book *Daughters and Dads*, say:

1. Kevin Leman, *What a Difference a Daddy Makes* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2000), 5.

Daughters in today's world need mothers and fathers who are willing to trust God's creative handiwork when it comes to their identity. Society cannot dictate who your daughter is to be, nor is the church called to handle the task. Instead, a daughter needs a few select people in her life who have the conviction and ability to help her become the person God created her to be.<sup>2</sup>

My hope is this date book will help you do that in some small way.

So many voices surrounding our daughters tell them what they're not: not thin enough, not stylish enough, not smart enough, not athletic enough, not, not, not. A dad can communicate to his daughter who she truly is: a beautiful child of a God who created her intentionally, has plans for her, and loves her with all his heart. This message is conveyed through time spent together, where affirmation, fun experiences, meaningful conversations, and prayers happen.

I don't know about you, but no guy is good enough for any of my daughters. The boy that comes along who is interested in my little girl had better be a respectful, trustworthy, kind, and godly man if he even thinks he's going to have a shot at dating her. That's how I feel, but I had better parent my daughters in a way that models how they deserve to be loved. Then they won't want to settle for less—they'll wait for the young man who is worthy of holding their hearts. By developing a pattern of loving, intentional fathering, you will shape her standard for relationships for a lifetime.

There are two primary challenges when it comes to spending time with our daughters: first, making it happen. Second, making the time meaningful.

We all struggle with making it happen as we fall victim to the "I'll do it next week" syndrome. Be intentional with your plans. Choose specific times to spend with your daughter, write them on your calendar, and stick to the plan as best you can. If you need to reschedule due to an unexpected conflict, put a new date on the

2. Chap Clark and Dee Clark, *Daughters and Dads* (Colorado Springs: Nav Press, 1998), 88.



calendar right away. This will assure your daughter of your commitment to spend time with her.

Dates with your daughter need to be not just entertaining but significant as well. You want to create an environment where you can hear how she's doing and listen to her as she opens up.

This book is designed to help you with both of those elements. The "Grab" and "Go" sections listed for each date will help you plan your time and make it happen. You'll get lists of supplies, find out if spending money is needed, and see if it's an at-home activity or an outing. The "Grow" section of each date helps you connect on a deeper level with each other and with God. You'll find questions to talk about, thoughts to share, Scriptures to read, and prayers to wrap up your time together. The last eight date ideas are "extreme dates," which are special activities that require more planning or expense than a typical date. They also allow for a more significant amount of time together.

Another important element to your daddy-daughter dates actually involves your marriage: make sure you commit to dating your wife first. Not only does this keep your marriage relationship in first place, it sets an example for your daughter of what a loving, committed relationship looks like. Her trust in you will grow as she sees you love her mom. As she sees you treat your wife like a queen, she'll thrive in her role of "princess" even more!

My wife is a key element in the success of my relationships with my girls. That's one of the reasons I asked if she would write this book with me. (Aside from the fact that she's a better writer than me too!) She has been supportive as I block out time in our busy schedules to spend with our girls. She has expressed that my relationship with both her and our children are entwined. She feels loved when I invest in our family, and our daughters feel valued as girls when I honor their mom. Include your wife in setting up a date schedule and planning your outings. She will have creative input and suggestions that can make your time with your daughter even more wonderful.

The dates in this book include a variety of indoor and outdoor, quiet and active, and seasonal and holiday-oriented activities. Some of the suggestions might not be your “thing,” but be brave and try a few anyway. If a date is just not flowing well or you run into obstacles like thunderstorms or car trouble, just drop everything and get some ice cream. (Ice cream is an integral part of both the Teigen family and this book. If you’re lactose intolerant, this may not be the book for you!) Stay flexible and remember that the dates are just tools, not rules. Your daughter won’t care if you are following the date to the letter—she just wants time with you.

I pray for God’s blessing on each dad who uses this book to connect with his daughter. May you find joy in winning her heart!

Rob

Like Rob mentioned in his introduction, I do find that his dates with our girls benefit our whole family. When Rob dates me or any of our kids, he is saying, “You are important. You deserve my time and attention. I’m crazy about you!” We come home from time with him feeling valued and heard as he gives us his undivided attention. My girls carry those feelings into the rest of their lives, where I see them growing in confidence and self-respect.

Rob has made a deep impact on our daughters’ relationships with God as well. They assume their heavenly Father is as gentle and attentive as their earthly father. They expect to be heard when they pray. They believe God is on their side and loves them as daughters. Rob’s love for them is their first taste of the love of God himself, and of course they want to know him more!

It does take some juggling to fit in frequent one-on-one time with each child. I see my role as “date facilitator,” making sure our schedules are in sync and the girls are ready to head out the door. Sometimes I’ll help out with the prep for the dates—getting

cash, tickets, or snacks prepared in advance. I'm happy to help out when I can, since the payoff is worth it!

I'm a wife who is loved very well. It is a thrill for me to see my daughters being cared for so deeply by my husband. When I look to the future, I know my girls will understand what real love looks like and not want to settle for less.

Have an amazing time dating your daughter. I praise God for all he has planned for each of you!

Joanna

# 1

## Flip a Coin



### **Grab**

- » Coin
- » Your daughter's favorite "road music"
- » Digital timer or egg timer
- » Car keys
- » Money

### **Go**

Buckle up in the car with your daughter and give her the coin. Pop in a CD or set your MP3 player to some favorite music. If she asks where you're going, well, you have no idea! Begin driving down your street and ask your daughter to flip the coin. If the coin lands on heads, take the next right turn. If the coin lands on tails, take the next left turn. Set your timer for three minutes. When the timer goes off, have your daughter flip the coin again. If it lands on heads, take another right turn; tails mean another left. Repeat this every three minutes for about half an hour.

During your drive time, don't worry if you find yourselves driving in circles—that's part of the fun. Use this time to talk about her week at school, plans for your next family vacation, or any funny stories you have to share about school or work.

At the end of your half hour of driving, see where you have arrived! Find the nearest place around you to stop for a soda or ice cream.

 **Grow**

Life is full of surprises! Sometimes we can't make heads or tails out of what is going on. The Lord is the only one who knows the future, and he usually only shows us a little bit of his plan at a time. Ask your daughter these questions:

- » Did it make you feel stressed out when you didn't know where you were going?
- » Did you feel relaxed because you knew your dad was in the driver's seat?
- » Was it hard to sit back and enjoy the ride instead of just focusing on the destination?
- » Have you ever felt worried because you didn't know how a situation would turn out?
- » Was it ever hard to make a decision because you didn't know what the outcome would be?

Share with your daughter about a time when you were worried about the future or had a tough choice to make. Describe how God took care of you in that situation or helped you with that decision. It can be a challenge to trust our heavenly Father with the future. Read and talk about these verses together:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths. (Prov. 3:5–6 ESV)

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long. (Ps. 25:4–5 ESV)



*Dear Father,*

*We thank you for being in the driver's seat of our lives. You are all-knowing and all-powerful, so we know you can handle anything that comes our way. Please teach us to trust you when hard things happen or we don't know what to do. Help us to be patient when we're anxious to know the future. Show us how to follow you every day. Amen!*

The father of a daughter is nothing but a high-class hostage. A father turns a stony face to his sons, berates them, shakes his antlers, paws the ground, snorts, runs them off into the underbrush, but when his daughter puts her arm over his shoulder and says, "Daddy, I need to ask you something," he is a pat of butter in a hot frying pan.

Garrison Keillor

# 19

## Silly Sock Day

### **Grab**

- » Money
- » Car keys
- » Small notebook and pencil

### **Go**

Make your way to a mall or shopping center. Your goal: get the silliest, wackiest pair of socks for each of you that you can find! Take your time browsing through the stores. Let your daughter make note of the wildest pair of socks in each store, so at the end of your browsing you can go back to purchase your favorites.

Once you've made your purchases, enjoy a snack at the food court.

Put on your silly socks at home. They can be your secret sign to each other. Whenever you see your daughter's socks or she sees yours, it means "I'm crazy about you!"

### **Grow**

Sometimes life is just too serious. Our to-do lists never end, the phone doesn't stop ringing, and the nightly reports bring a daily dose of bad news. We need a break from time to time to leave our worries behind and get silly together.

Ecclesiastes 3:1–4 reminds us that:

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance.

Today was your time to laugh! Whenever you see your socks in the drawer or on your feet, let them be a reminder to lighten up more often and enjoy the funny side of life together.



*Dear God,*

*You give us so many reasons to smile—especially by the way you put my daughter and I together. Please let our silly socks be a reminder of your gift of laughter every time we wear them. Thank you for giving me such a fun girl to spend time with. Amen!*



# 22

## A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

### **Grab**

- » Bag of chocolate chips
- » Baking utensils and ingredients
- » Waxed paper
- » Paper lunch sacks
- » Stickers and markers
- » Paper hole punch
- » Scissors and curling ribbon

### **Go**

Wash your hands and prepare to bake cookies together. Follow the cookie recipe on the bag of chocolate chips to bake several dozen cookies. Allow your daughter to help with the baking as much as possible. Let her crack the eggs (never mind the mess), pour the ingredients into the bowl, and help use the mixer. Keep safety in mind as you handle the oven and hot baking pans.

While the cookies are cooling, put away the baking ingredients and clean up the kitchen together. Let your daughter put on dish gloves and help wash the dishes. After things are straightened up, sit with your daughter while she decorates several paper lunch sacks. Talk together about the neighbors that will be receiving each bag of cookies. This would be a good opportunity to talk about manners, such as introducing yourself politely and saying, “Have a nice day.”

Wrap several cookies in waxed paper and place them in one of the paper sacks. Fold the sack closed, punch holes through the top,

and run ribbon through the holes to tie it shut. Show your daughter how to curl the ribbon with the edge of the scissors. Repeat this until each sack is filled and ready to deliver.

Walk around your neighborhood with your daughter. Let her ring the doorbells and encourage her to say hello and introduce herself to neighbors you might not know. Give the cookies to your neighbors and wish them a nice day.

When you get home, take some time to talk about the following verses and pray for the special people in your neighborhood.

### **Grow**

It's a familiar verse—"You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 19:19 ESV). But why should we concern ourselves with caring for the people around us? They probably don't take much notice of us, either.

The reason is that when we show love to others, we are showing the love of Christ. If we belong to God, then we are to "be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (Eph. 5:1–2 ESV).



*Dear Lord,*

*Please allow our neighbors to see you through the way we love and care for them. If any of our neighbors don't know you as their Savior, please lead them to salvation. Please help us to show your love to each and every neighbor so that your light shines. Give us chances to help and serve our neighbors so we can be "imitators of God" as we "walk in love." Amen!*

# 27

## A New “Do”



### **Grab**

- » Camera
- » Haircut money
- » Car keys

### **Go**

Before you head out to create your daughter’s new hairstyle, use your camera to take a picture of her current look. Let her take a photo of you too. Then grab your wallet and camera and make your way to a salon.

At the salon, look through the books of hairstyles while you wait. Have fun looking at some of the outrageous styles on the various models in the books. Treat your daughter to a shampoo and a haircut. Ask the stylist to blow-dry your daughter’s hair and perhaps curl, braid, or clip it up in a cute style. If the salon offers manicure services, go ahead and let your daughter choose a favorite color for her nails to be painted. When she’s all finished “beautifying,” take a picture of her great new look.

Wrap up your date with an ice cream cone and have fun comparing your daughter’s before-and-after pictures.

#### **Dad to Dad**

*Check with Mom before making a drastic change to your daughter’s hairstyle! Plan together with Mom and your daughter how short or different the new haircut will be. Make sure you know how to explain*

## 10 Great Daddy-Daughter Songs

*Cinderella* by Steven Curtis Chapman

*Butterfly Kisses* by Bob Carlisle

*Fathers and Daughters* by Paul Simon

*Dancin' on Daddy's Shoes* by Leon Redbone

*Stealing Cinderella* by Chuck Wicks

*I Hope You Dance* by Lee Ann Womack or Ronan Keating

*Do I Make You Proud* by Taylor Hicks

*Daddy's Little Girl* by Kippi Brannon

*My Little Girl* by Tim McGraw

*I Loved Her First* by Heartland

*what you want to the stylist before you get there to avoid any unhappy surprises.*

### **Grow**

Did you know that God knows each of us so well that “the very hairs of your head are all numbered” (Luke 12:7)? There is no detail about you or your daughter that escapes his notice. It’s encouraging to know that he loves us completely and is watching over us every moment.

Thank him right now for making your daughter so beautiful and keeping her in his sight all the time.



*Dear Father,*

*You did an amazing job when you made my daughter! Thank you for her pretty eyes, her awesome smile, and her beautiful hair. Thank you for watching over her all the time—it means so much to me that you are caring for her and protecting her even when I can't be there. Thanks for giving us this time together today. Amen!*

### **Dad to Dad**

*For a special gift, burn a CD of these or other great daddy-daughter songs. You can listen to them in the car on your dates or play them in her room when you tuck her in at night.*

# 32

## Paints, Pots, and Plants



### **Grab**

- » Terra-cotta flower pot with saucer
- » Acrylic craft paints
- » Paint brushes and sponges
- » Stencils, masking tape
- » Paint smock or oversized T-shirt
- » Potting soil
- » Small flower or plant
- » Car keys

### **Go**

Make your way to a local garden center with your daughter. Choose a medium-sized terra-cotta flowerpot and saucer. Have your daughter select a small flower or houseplant that she would like to plant in the pot.

Once you've returned home, have your daughter protect her clothes by wearing a paint smock. Cover your work area with newspaper. Have your daughter use a larger paintbrush to cover the flowerpot with a coat of paint. Then, when the base coat is dry, let her imagination take over! Perhaps she'll make stripes by sticking strips of masking tape onto the pot and painting between the lines of tape. Maybe she'll want to use stencils or make her own designs with brushes or sponges. She can even finger paint or make a colorful handprint.

When the pot is completely decorated and dry, have your daughter carefully spoon potting soil into the bottom of the pot. Place the flower or plant in the center and fill in the pot with more soil. Have your daughter carefully water the flower.

Work together to rinse out the brushes and clean up the “gardening” mess. Find a sunny spot to place the flower pot—or even better, give someone a wonderful surprise by making it a gift!

 **Grow**

The flower you found at the garden center was in a small plastic container. Were the roots beginning to grow out of the bottom of the container or becoming twisted around themselves? The flower didn’t have what it needed to survive for long until you came and gave it a better pot where it could thrive.

Ask your daughter the following questions:

- » What does the flower need to grow? (water, sunlight, soil, etc.)
- » What do *you* need to grow? (food, sleep, safety, etc.)

It is God’s plan for your daughter to grow not just in size, but in wisdom and in her relationship with God. In 2 Peter 3:18, we are encouraged to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Rather than soil, water, and sunlight, we need prayer, time in the Word, and encouragement from other Christians. How are you growing your faith this week?



*Dear Father,*

*Thank you for helping my daughter grow each day. I see her becoming taller and stronger, learning a lot at school, and becoming closer to the friends and family in her life. Thank you for planting a “seed” of faith in her heart. Please “water” this seed by teaching her to pray and read the Bible all the time. Surround her with others who love you and will encourage her to follow you. Help both of us to grow in “the grace and knowledge of our Lord” until the day we see you in heaven. We love you so much! Amen.*

# 35

## Pets and Pics

### **Grab**

- » Camera
- » Walking shoes
- » Computer and printer
- » Stapler
- » Markers

### **Go**

It's time for a walk! Head out into your neighborhood with your camera and keep your eyes open for any creatures you can see, whether family pets or wildlife. Capture a photo of each animal, bird, or bug you encounter. Allow your daughter to be the photographer as much as possible.

Take your camera home and load the photos onto your computer. Print a copy of all the pictures you took today. Staple the pictures together to make a picture book. Work with your daughter to label each of the pictures. She can write what kind of animal or bug it is and even choose an imaginary name for each one. On the back of the book, write your names and the date.

### **Grow**

Ask your daughter the following questions:

- » Which kind of animal did we see the most?
- » Which one was the funniest? Cutest? Ugliest?
- » Which animal would be the most fun to play with?

Enter our children's world. Be intentional about knowing more about who they are and what influences their lives.

Jay Payleitner, *52 Things Kids Need from a Dad*

Most girls are complete and total animal lovers! It's a wonderful thing, because they have a continually fresh appreciation for the variety of God's creation. Share this passage with her:

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that

move about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. (Gen. 1:20–25)

God enjoys the living creatures of the earth too! He made them all and declared them "good." He wants us to obey him by caring for the animals of the world. Take some time to thank God for the amazing creatures he has made.



Dear God,

*Your creation is incredible! Each living thing is an example of how brilliant you are. Thank you for giving us this world to enjoy. Please give us wisdom for how to be the best caretakers of your earth that we can be. Help us to stand up for creatures that can't protect themselves. Help us, too, to be loving owners of the pets in our care. We want to live up to the responsibility you have entrusted to us. Amen.*



# 38

## Can She Build It? Yes She Can!

### **Grab**

- » One 1-foot-square wooden board, at least ½-inch thick
- » 4 feet of narrow wooden molding
- » Hammer and nails
- » Small saw
- » Ruler
- » Small flowerpot saucer
- » Wild birdseed

### **Go**

A platform bird feeder can be made by creating a wooden tray with a board and pieces of molding. Cut molding into four 1-foot pieces. Your daughter can help measure, mark, and saw through the molding with your help. Praise her for her efforts, even if she has trouble cutting smoothly or straight.

Nail cut pieces of molding around the top edges of the square board to form the sides. You may need to get the nails started, then your daughter can finish hammering them in the rest of the way. Encourage her to hammer with two hands, or to keep one hand out of the way so she doesn't end up with a hurt finger!

Find a great spot for your bird feeder. Perhaps it could rest on top of a large rock or an upside-down flowerpot, or place it on the railing of your deck. Have your daughter set the flowerpot saucer in the center of the bird feeder and fill it with water—you have a mini birdbath! She can sprinkle a scoop of birdseed around the tray along with slices of fruit or unsalted nuts.

Have a great time observing your bird feeder together and keeping it supplied with fresh food and water for your feathered friends.

**Dad to Dad**

*If you would rather not do this activity at home, check out your local home improvement store. Often, monthly classes are offered for kids that include projects like making bird feeders.*

 **Grow**

If you keep your feeder stocked with fresh food and water, the birds in your yard will become daily visitors. It's a great experience to be a part of meeting their needs and observing their habits. God is attentive to us in the same way: he makes sure we have what we need and he is constantly watching our coming and going. The Bible says we can be encouraged by the way he takes care of the birds he has made.

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. (Luke 12:6–7)

It's comforting to know that our Father never takes his eyes off of us. He knows every detail of our lives and just what we need. Doesn't that take a weight off your shoulders?



*Dear Father,*

*Thank you for your amazing love and care for us. Just like you watch over the smallest living things, you never take your eyes off of us. Help us to trust you with everything. Fill our hearts with peace as our faith in you grows. We love you! Amen.*

# 44

## Treasure Box

### **Grab**

- » Washable tempera paints, brushes
- » Beads, glitter, feathers, ribbon
- » Stickers, stick-on plastic gems
- » Glue, scissors
- » Wooden or papier-mâché box with lid
- » Newspaper

### **Go**

Your daughter's treasure box will be a treasure in itself! Help her spread newspaper over your work area. Lay out all of the various craft supplies, paint, and glue. Provide her with a water cup for her paint brushes.

Follow her instructions as you work together to paint her box. Let her choose the colors. Let the paint dry, then begin gluing gems, ribbon, glitter, etc. onto the box. In this case, there cannot be too much of a good thing! When your daughter decides her box is complete, set it aside so the glue can dry.

### **Grow**

While the box is drying, read the following verses:

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys

and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt. 6:19–21 ESV)

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. (1 Tim. 6:18–19)

1. Work with your daughter to make a list of the treasures we try to store up on earth.
2. Brainstorm together to make a list of ways to give and share that “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”
3. Commit to using the treasure box to hold dollars and spare change that can add up to a wonderful gift to help others. Consider the church or organizations you may be able to donate your savings to.
4. Pray together, thanking God for all the ways he has blessed you with “treasure” in your lives.



*Dear Lord,*

*You have blessed us in every way! Please teach us to have thankful hearts and to see all of the ways you share your treasure with us each day. Please give us hearts that care for others. Please show us how you want us to share with those around us. Amen.*

# 53

## Movie Night



### **Grab**

- » Money
- » Car keys

### **Go**

Choose an age-appropriate “girly” film and head to the theater. (Don’t worry, Dad, you will survive one chick flick!) Once you have your tickets and popcorn, enjoy the movie!

#### **Dad to Dad**

*For an at-home date, see page 000 for a list of great video suggestions. Also, [www.pluggedinonline.com](http://www.pluggedinonline.com) provides helpful movie reviews as you select quality films for your family.*

### **Grow**

After the film is over, take some time to talk about the movie together. Ask these questions:

- » How did the main character seem great on the outside? (pretty, talented, etc.)
- » How did the main character seem great on the inside? (kind, brave, generous, etc.)
- » What do you think the main character wanted more than anything else?

## 20 Movies to Watch with Your Daughter

Because of Winn-Dixie	Mandie and the Cherokee Treasure
Bolt	Mandie and the Secret Tunnel
The Chronicles of Narnia	Molly: An American Girl on the
Despicable Me	Home Front
Felicity: An American Girl	Night at the Museum
Adventure	Nim's Island
Flicka	Ramona and Beezus
Fly Away Home	Samantha: An American Girl
Kit Kittredge: An American Girl	Holiday
Letters to God	Soul Surfer
A Little Princess	Up
Little Women	

- » How do you think you would have handled the character's problems?
- » Do you think the character was a good friend? How?
- » Do you think the character had a loving family? In what ways?
- » What would be fun about being that character?
- » What would be hard about being that character?

What makes the story in a movie or a book so exciting is seeing how the characters overcome the danger and drama they're faced with. We may never find ourselves living in a fantasy world with imaginary creatures, having to solve a mystery or a crime, or discovering that we've been a prince or princess our whole lives and never knew it! However, we all know what it's like to have to stand by a friend and face challenges that seem too big to overcome.

If someone made a movie of *your* life, how would they describe you as the main character? How would they answer the questions listed above if they were talking about you and your family?

Hopefully, what others would see as they watched your life would be Jesus: his goodness, his joy, and his love shining through you.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matt. 5:14–16)



*Dear Father,*

*As other people watch the "movie" of our lives, let our characters be known for looking like you. Give us your love, your goodness, and your wisdom as we face the challenges that come our way. Please let us be a light in the darkness that draws people to you. We want to share you with others so they can be saved. Thank you for writing our story. We love you! Amen.*

# 56

## Prayer Mail



### **Grab**

- » Blank note cards or index cards
- » Markers, stickers
- » Tape
- » Car keys

### **Go**

Make a list together of several people you can lift up to God in prayer. Think of neighbors, friends, your pastor, your daughter's school teachers and classmates, church friends, or family members that live nearby. Make a note card for each one. On the front of each card write, "We prayed for you today!" On the inside or the back of each card, work together to copy Isaiah 40:31:

But those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

Have your daughter decorate the cards with stickers or her own drawings. Then gather the cards together and get ready for your prayer drive!

Drive together to the house of one of your friends or family members. Pull over and park the car. Spend a few moments praying for that special person. Ask for God's protection and healing, that their studies or work would be successful, and that they



would have peace and joy in their homes. Thank God for making each person a part of your life and name the ways they have been a blessing to you. When you're finished praying, place a piece of tape on a card and have your daughter attach it to the person's door. Try to be anonymous as you do so—imagine what a fun surprise it will be for that person to find out they have been lifted up in prayer by a secret someone!

Travel from place to place until you've prayed for each person on your list and left a card for them. When you return to your own house, take a moment to pray for each other and the loved ones you share your home with.

 **Grow**

The Bible tells us that we should never stop praying for each other!

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Eph. 6:18)

God cares about each person that you care about. He created each one and put them in your life as part of his plan. One way we can love our friends and family is to

In all my years of practice and of speaking to literally millions of people through radio and television and at seminars, one fact has impressed me as much as anything else: Fathers leave an indelible imprint on the lives of their daughters. They shape their daughters in ways so profound that many women live with unwritten rules they've never thought to question. These rules were ingrained into them so deeply, many women don't realize that though they may graduate from college, get married, and even give birth to a half-dozen males, they'll still never stop being Daddy's girl.

Kevin Leman, *What a Difference a Daddy Makes*

give them to God in prayer. It's exciting to see the way he listens to us and moves through the prayers of his people!



*Dear Lord,*

*Thank you so much for our friends and family—you have put so much of your love into our lives through them. Please encourage them today by the cards we delivered and the prayers we offered up. If anyone is tired, give them strength. If someone is sick, please give them healing. If they are worried, give them your peace. If they are celebrating, give them hearts that praise you! Thank you for watching over each and every one of us. We love you! Amen.*

# 59

## Your Daughter's World

### **Grab**

- » Decorative gift for your daughter's room
- » Mini-picnic, such as fruit and crackers

### **Go**

Dads, prepare to enter a strange and unfamiliar world—your daughter's room! Ask your daughter to prepare for your visit ahead of time. She can arrange all of the stuffed animals and dolls she'd like you to meet, and gather together the most recent drawings or crafts she's made. Perhaps she has a scrapbook, photo album, or school yearbook she'd like to look through with you. Make sure she has a favorite collection ready to show off, whether it's glass figurines, china dolls, hats, or a sticker album.

When she's ready for your visit, arrive at her bedroom door with a wrapped gift and snacks in hand. Knock politely and allow her to show you in! Sit on the floor and enjoy the window into her world. Ask questions about her toys, such as where she received them and what she likes about them. Take time to admire her artwork—be specific about what catches your eye in each one. If she has pictures of friends, take time to learn their names and hear her stories about them. Ooh and aah over her collections. Brainstorm about how you could add to her collection in the near future.

When your daughter has shared all of her special treasures with you, thank her for letting you visit. Enjoy your snack together and present her with the gift for her room.

 **Grow**

Romans 15:7 tells us that just like Christ has made us welcome, we should welcome one another into our lives. Today your daughter invited you into her room. She showed you her prized possessions—the things that reflect her unique personality and interests. Christ has also made us welcome. He made a way for us to have a home in heaven with him forever. Whenever you share your home or belongings with others, you are loving as Christ loves.



*Dear Lord,*

*Thank you for making us welcome in the family of God. Thank you for the home you are preparing for us in heaven. We understand that you know us inside and out, and that our home in heaven will be perfect for us in every way. Please help us to be openhearted and willing to share our home and what we have with others. Please use our home as a blessing to all who come here. Thank you for my daughter and her willingness to share her room with me today. Help us to love each other as you love us, always. Amen.*

# 62

## Have a Ball



### **Grab**

- » Clothing in your team's colors
- » Car keys
- » Money

### **Go**

Whether it's a nationally televised pro football game or a basketball game at your local high school, nothing beats the fun of cheering on your favorite team!

Gear up in your team colors. If you're feeling bold, bring out the face paint and foam fingers! Travel to the stadium, field, or gym of the sporting event. Grab your seats and check out the action around you. How are they prepping the field? Are there players and cheerleaders warming up? Once the game begins, be sure to point out your favorite players and explain the rules and calls by the refs to your daughter—or ask her to explain them to you. And of course, don't forget the hot dogs!

### **Grow**

In every game there's a winner and a loser. How do you think the winning team is feeling right now? How about the losing team? Do you think that one person on the team gets all the credit for winning the game? Does one person get all the blame for their team's loss? Sometimes one person has an amazing pass or goal, or one

person makes a crazy mistake, but usually it takes great teamwork to win and poor teamwork to lose.

Families are like that too. We have to be a team to have a happy home. If only one person is doing all the chores, they're going to feel overworked and stressed out. If one person oversleeps, it makes everybody late to church on Sunday morning. Everybody needs to be pitching in and helping each other out for things to go smoothly.

What are some ways our family works together so our home can "win"?

When have things been hard at home because somebody "fouled" and let the others down?

Read these verses together:

How good and pleasant it is  
when God's people live together in unity! (Ps. 133:1)

As holy people whom God has chosen and loved, be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Put up with each other, and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Above all, be loving. This ties everything together perfectly. (Col. 3:12–14 GW)

What a great blueprint for a family: we put up with each other's weaknesses, care about each other's struggles, and forgive. It's our love for each other that keeps us on the same team!



*Dear God,*

*Please let us be the kind of family that "dwells in unity." Help us to be a team by helping each other out and cheering each other on. Sometimes we do let each other down. Please enable us to show forgiveness every time. Teach us to care for each other the way you do, with patience and perfect love. Amen!*