

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



THANKING FATHERS

📖 Acts 16:1-5; Philippians 2:19–24; 2 Timothy 1:1-7 Paul encourages Timothy

Father's Day is celebrated to thank fathers and father figures for the role they play in children's lives. Each child will have different experiences with their families and dads in the role they have in providing love, encouragement and instruction. Be sensitive as you explore this together.

God invites us all to receive his love and forgiveness, as he adopts us into his care, teaches and guides us and encourages and empowers us. We will be exploring this by looking at how Timothy was nurtured by Paul.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- Scrabble letters or letters written on small pieces of paper

You will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper

Start It

Ask the children to think of their dad, a father figure or another person in their life who has a parental role (this person could be male or female). Ask them to think about something special about this person; then to write or draw what they would like to celebrate about them. Give the children opportunity to share if they want to.

- 🗣️ **Say:** Father's Day is a day to celebrate and thank fathers and father figures for the role they play our lives. They care for us, help us learn and grow and encourage and support us.
- 🗣️ **Say:** God loves us rather like this, but even better. He invites us to receive his love and forgiveness, as he adopts us into his care; teaches and guides us; encourages and empowers us. Today we will explore the story of Timothy and Paul and the fatherly role Paul had in Timothy's life.

Sing It

Join in the actions and explore God's unconditional love for us with this gentle song.

'Good, good Father' by Orange Kids Music (2mins 43 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BH0y2HfZpy0>

Tell It

Video

Watch 'God's Story: Timothy' by Crossroads Kids' Club (3 mins 50 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4GSFluzBSA>

🗨️ **Say:** Wow, there was lots about Paul and Timothy in the video. It's clear they had a very special relationship.

Ask: What stood out to you about Paul and Timothy?

Screen share: Philippians 2:19-24 (ICB)

'I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon. I will be happy to learn how you are. I have no other person like Timothy. He truly cares for you. Other people are interested only in their own lives. They are not interested in the work of Christ Jesus.'

'You know the kind of person Timothy is. You know that he has served with me in telling the Good News, as a son serves his father. I plan to send him to you quickly when I know what will happen to me. I am sure that the Lord will help me to come to you soon.'

Screen share: 2 Timothy 1:1-7 (ICB)

'From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God. God sent me to tell about the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus.'

'To Timothy, a dear son to me. Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.'

'I always remember you in my prayers, day and night. And I thank God for you in these prayers. He is the God my ancestors served. And I serve him, doing what I know is right. I remember that you cried for me. And I want very much to see you so that I can be filled with joy.'

'I remember your true faith. That kind of faith first belonged to your grandmother Lois and to your mother Eunice. And I know that you now have that same faith. That is why I remind you to use the gift God gave you. God gave you that gift when I laid my hands on you. Now let it grow, as a small flame grows into a fire. God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid. He gave us a spirit of power and love and self-control.'

Discuss

- How does Paul encourage Timothy?
- Why do you think Paul cares for Timothy so much?
- Who are people like Paul in your life?
- How does your father or another important family member encourage you?
- In what ways can we encourage our fathers?

🗨️ **Say:** Paul cared for Timothy as a son, a spiritual son. Timothy found life hard at times but Paul gave him lots of advice and support to help him through. Paul's love for Timothy is modelled on God's love for his people.

🗨️ **Say:** God created each of us to have a relationship with him. What keeps us from being close to God is sin. When we ask to be a child of God, he takes away our sin and we are able to draw closer to him.

Action It

🗨️ **Say:** Throughout the Bible God models many examples of how he is a father to us.

Draw

Describe different images to the children for them to draw. Ask the children to think what each image might represent about God the father.

- A clock: patience / in God's time
- A person with their arm around another: kindness
- An ear: listening
- A shepherd leading a sheep: guiding
- A question mark: God letting us make our own choices
- Holding a baby: love

You could use other examples or change the images.

Pray It

Use Scrabble letters or small pieces of paper with letters on them to create a name puzzle of the people who encourage, support and guide you and that you want to pray for. As each name is formed, pray 'Lord Jesus, I thank you for Amen.'

When all the names or letters have been used, jumble up the letters and start again. This time invite the children to include God's name as part of their puzzle as a way of praying that they want to draw close to him.

Screen share and pray together:

'The Father has loved us so much! He loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are his children. But the people in the world do not understand that we are God's children, because they have not known him. Dear friends, now we are children of God.' Amen.

(1 John 3:1-2 ICB)

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.