



I Love You,

Dad!

WORDS TO HONOR
AND HUMOR YOU

BLYTHE DANIEL, WILLIAM DANIEL
HELEN MCINTOSH

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**“AND, ‘I WILL BE A FATHER TO
YOU, AND YOU WILL BE MY SONS
AND DAUGHTERS, SAYS THE LORD
ALMIGHTY.’”**

2 CORINTHIANS 6:18 (NIV)

Hello, Dad!

You are worth so much to your family! You are valuable to those who call you “Dad,” whether they tell you how much they see your sacrifices and efforts, or whether they just hope you know it. Inside these pages is a way for your family to tell you how much they love and appreciate you.

We know dads have a lot on their plates—they work hard to provide for their families, spend time with family and friends, serve in the community, volunteer for different needs, and support the family as protectors and providers.

We want to celebrate you! We also want to inspire and encourage you as you carry these sentiments into your days and nights, and even share some jokes to bring you laughter. Even when things may be hard for you in whatever season you’re in, we want to help lighten the load you may feel by reminding you that you are chosen by God to be a father. God has loved you from the beginning of your life and continues to extend His hand to you. Your life as a man and as a father matters to Him and to your family!

We have dedicated this book to Abba Father, who has given us life. God has given each of us the right to call Him “Father” and to call upon His name in our deepest joy and our hardest grief. He has built you to be a dad, even when you feel weak, incomplete, or unqualified. God has shown you that He loves you exactly where you are.

As you show your children, or those who consider you a father, what it looks like to receive love, may you know and feel the forever love that God has for you.

—Blythe, William, and Helen

TALKING IN THE OPEN SPACES

“A wise man’s heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction. Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

PROVERBS 16:23-24 (NIV)

Dads have the amazing ability to talk in the open spaces and fill it with their wisdom. You never know how much your words are just what your child needs to hear. You might think your words sound a little archaic or maybe irrelevant coming out of your mouth, but have you thought about the timing of what you’re sharing and that it might just be exactly what your child needs to hear?

Watching my husband talk with our kids when I (Blythe) am ready to retire for the night, I see he has the gusto to keep sharing and engaging our children. I hear his voice, followed by one of our children, talking about something related to school and the way he connects something meaningful to their words. It doesn’t matter that time is ticking by. They may get less sleep, but they have full hearts. He has said goodnight to them with words that hug their hearts.

When you talk with your child in the car, going to or from an event or school, you show your child that what they think and feel matters. And that what is important to them is important to you. There may be no one talking, and you fill the space with: “What do you look forward

to today?” or “What was it like to experience the best (or not so best) part of your day?”

Dads fill a space that you may underestimate at the time. You may feel you have missed your daughter or son in telling them what they needed to hear. But “*pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones,*” as Proverbs says.

You are playing a vital role in your child hearing from you, and then being able to have conversations with their friends based on how you share with them.

What are some of your favorite conversations with your child? If you could go back and redo any conversation, what would it be?

Dads may not realize the words they’ve shared have meaning years beyond the moment. Even if all you’re able to offer is “I hear you,” or “You handled that well,” or “You’re an amazing athlete/musician,” your child will thank you. You’re not just filling a space in conversation but offering the opportunity for your child to see who you are in your thoughts and how you value your child. They may not remember all that you say, but they are sure to remember that you talked to them and engaged them, so they felt a little less unknown in the big world in front of them.

HAVE A LAUGH

Q: What did the dad say when his son found his wallet?

A: It pays to clean up your room.

Q: What does a dad do with a leaf blower?

A: Collect all the money that grows on trees.

Q: Why was the solar physicist looking around his house?

A: He was looking for his sun.



Dear Dad

Dad, the goodness of God that you carry to your child is how they know that their Heavenly Father is someone they can trust. When you speak words that light up their face, lift their mood, or give them a pep in their step, God's goodness is over you and reflects your faith in Him, even when you don't always feel like you show it. God's goodness hasn't left you as you relate to your child. When you share words that have a calming and affirming tone and fill the space that's needed, you are quarterbacking God's goodness straight to your child. And however they take off from there, you can know you've not shied away or held back sharing life-giving words to their soul.

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.”

ISAIAH 26:3 (NIV)