**Father and Five Tips to Being a Best Father**

**Father**

By David Jeremiah

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. **(Matthew 6:9)**

English "father" was vader in Dutch, fader in early German, vater in later German, and fader in Middle English. And all those words were built on Latin pater, which was very close to Greek pater. But all those Western spellings were a radical departure from Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke. He would have pronounced "father" as abba, derived from Hebrew ab.

In fact, Jesus' use of "father" represented a major shift in how the Hebrews used the term -- almost exclusively to refer to human fathers. God was rarely called Father by the Jews (Isaiah 63:16; 64:8; Jeremiah 31:9; Malachi 2:10), but Jesus called God "Father" (Abba -- Matthew 11:26) and taught His disciples to do the same (Matthew 6:9). But this was not the formal, Victorian "father" of the English language. This was the abba of the Hebrew family unit -- the "papa" or "daddy" used by children the world over today (Mark 14:36). Jesus introduced a new way to relate to God -- a familial way of fondness and closeness.

However you view and address your earthly father, feel free to address your heavenly Father the way Jesus did -- as Abba Father.

*For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

*For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"*

*The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,*

*and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.* (Romans 8:14-17)

The name Jehovah carries majesty in it; the name Father carries mercy in it. **Thomas Watson**

**Five Tips to Becoming the Best Dad**

Focus on the Family

1) Guide your children toward a relationship with their heavenly father. Show them the love of the God you serve by being a godly man yourself. Let them see you praying, reading His Word and living the faith you claim. Walk the talk.

2) Show genuine respect and love for the mother of your children. Nothing will make your children feel more secure in your love and acceptance than seeing you cherish their mom. Boys, especially, need to see how a godly man loves a woman.

3) Remember that love is the motivation for discipline. Dads discipline because they love. The two are inseparable. Seek to guide, mold and correct – all with a gentle spirit of fairness and acceptance.

4) Spend time with your children. In your children's eyes, time spent with them is the measure of your love. Show them they're high on your list by giving them your time. There is no substitute.

5) Demonstrate your affection. Hug, kiss and offer a kind word. Every day. Tell your children you love them – and then show you mean it with your actions.

(Aside: A father needs to "bless" each and every one of his children. A child not receiving the blessing of his/her father is left inhibited in some way, often difficult to overcome [for me lack of confidence and fear]. My father didn't bless me and I didn't bless my two children. Predictably, by others, my children have nothing to do with me. Pat)