“Differences in Dads”

by

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What

Being a dad is tough, but sometimes the older you get, the more you get the hang of it.

Themes: Fatherhood, Father’s Day, Parenting, Family, Kids

Who

Rookie Dad
Child
Wife
Daughter
Son

Veteran Dad
Teenager
Child
Older/Grown Son
Daughter
Wife

When

Present

Wear

(Props)

There should be a difference between Rookie Dad and Veteran Dad. Rookie Dad is younger, so his clothing should demonstrate that. Rookie Dad has a lot of energy so it may not help to have him “tied down” to a prop. Veteran Dad wears clothes that are a little (or very) outdated. You can put Veteran Dad in a recliner, or give him any props that help his character differ from rookie Dad.

Why

Proverbs 20:7, 3 John 1:4

How

Rookie Dad and Veteran Dad are opposites. When Rookie Dad is energetic, Veteran Dad is deadpan. Actors could play off each other and use similar motions or idiosyncrasies with different tones of voice. This script is very flexible. Don’t be tied down to the script as it is. Feel free to add in your own situations or take out any provided here. If lots of people want to participate, you can change out the Dad characters for different actors as long as you maintain an obvious distinction. Each dad is set up on either side of the stage with their families, so it’s a back and forth. Stay on top of your cues and keep the scenes moving with no downtime in between. Above all, have fun!

Time

Approximately 8 minutes

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Dads enter.

Rookie: Hey everyone. Let’s talk about Fatherhood.

Veteran: What are we? At some Shoppers Anonymous meeting? Men are go-getters, creatures of action. Talking is for the bridge club. We’re going to show them Fatherhood!

Rookie: Well, as my more experienced counterpart said, we are going to give you some examples of the different ways that men handle being a dad. And the changes they go through as they become more...

Veteran: You’re embarrassing yourself. (To audience) Look, he’s a Rookie Dad and I’m a Veteran Dad. Watch how this works.

Resolving conflict

Child: Dad, my brother keeps trying to fight with me.

Rookie: Oh, that’s not ok. Bring him here. We are going to go over what it means to love our neighbor. Then you both are going to make up and hug.

Child: Dad, my brother keeps trying to fight with me.

Veteran: Just make sure you don’t leave any physical marks that your mom can see.

Sharing video games

Child: Daaaaaad! He won’t let me play Xbox (PlayStation)!

Rookie: All right. I’m coming. We will all sit down and talk about this. Then we will all play together for 15 minutes, then takes turns playing so we can practice sharing.

Child: Daaaaaad! He won’t let me play…

Veteran: (Interrupting) Turn it off!!

Child: (Humbly) I think I’ll give him some more time.
Bullies

Child: Dad, the class bully is picking on me again.

Rookie: Oh no. Come here and sit down. Let’s talk about some strategies to kill him with kindness while keeping yourself safe.

Child: Dad, the class bully is picking on me again.

Veteran: How tall is he?

Child: Why does that matter?

Veteran: Well, we gotta know if we go for the throat, kidneys, or knees.

(OPTIONAL) This time can be used for a member of the congregation who can read a Bible verse about Fatherhood or share an anecdote about their father.

Child’s request

Child: Dad, I just shaved the cat to earn $10 so I can buy a Transformer. Can you give me the money?

Rookie: Wow. I’m so proud of you for taking initiative to earn money. Let’s go take the cat to the groomers before mom gets home, and then we will go to McDonald’s to talk about more ways to earn money, Mr. Entrepreneur.

Teenager: Dad, can I have $50 buy a new jacket?

Old Dad: (Digs in pocket) Here’s $15. I’m sure you can figure out the rest.

Grades

Child: Daddy, look! All A’s!!

Rookie: That’s so great! I’m so proud of you! You are doing so well in school, let’s go get some ice cream!

Child: Daddy, look! All A’s!!

Old Dad: Ok. How much scholarship money does that earn you?

Getting a pet

Child: Dad, can we get a pet?
Rookie: That’s a great idea. I’m sure it will teach you lots of responsibility and it’ll give you a friend to grow up with. Let’s get a puppy. I’ll need your help reinforcing the fence so he can’t get away.

Child: Dad, can we get a pet?

Veteran: *(Matter-of-factly)* Nothing that barks, squawks, stinks, pukes, jumps, or sheds.

Admiration

Child: Daddy, I want to be just like you when I grow up.

Rookie: I appreciate that. But I want to be like Jesus. Why don’t we both start trying to be like Him together?

*(OPTIONAL)* This time can be used for a member of the congregation who can read a Bible verse about Fatherhood or share an anecdote about their father.

Making Dinner

Wife: Honey, I’m beat. Can you make dinner tonight?

Rookie: No problem! I’ve been thinking about trying a recipe for gluten-free chicken pesto I found. Garlic bread from scratch sound good? If not, I can make a low-calorie salad using 7 different vegetables.

Wife: Honey, I’m beat. Can you make dinner tonight?

Veteran: Absolutely dear. No problem. *(Pauses)* What’s the number for Pizza Hut again?

Taking care of a baby

Wife: Dear, the baby is sick. He hasn’t stopped crying. Can you go see what’s wrong?

Rookie: Sure thing. I prepped my own emergency fanny pack with bottles, toys, pacifiers, and liquid vitamins. I will stay with him/her till he/she calms down. I got this!

Wife: Dear, the baby is sick. He hasn’t stopped crying. Can you go see what’s wrong?

Veteran: How much Benadryl can we give him before it damages his liver?
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Helping with homework

Child:  Dad, can you help me with my homework? I don’t get it…

Rookie:  Sure! I aced college statistics. This will be a breeze!

Child:  Dad, can you help me with my homework? I don’t get it…

Veteran:  (Looking at homework) Can’t you get on the computer and Yahoogle this or look it up on Wookiepedia or something?

Helping around the house

Wife:  (Voice from offstage) Honey, I had such a bad day at work and I’m so far behind with the chores. Do you think you could give me a hand?

Rookie:  Sure honey. Can I borrow your apron? You go lay down. I’ll grind up some coffee beans, clean the house, and then give you a foot massage.

Wife:  (Voice from offstage) Honey, I had such a bad day at work and I’m so far behind with the chores. Do you think you could give me a hand?

Veteran:  Sure thing, dear. Consider it done. (Yells) KIDS! GET IN HERE AND HELP YOUR MOTHER!!

(Optional) This time can be used for a member of the congregation who can read a Bible verse about Fatherhood or share an anecdote about their father.

Repairs

Wife:  Honey, did you fix the leak in the sink?

Rookie:  Well, almost. After I took out the pipe, I took it down to Lowe’s and they didn’t have the size we need. Then I went to Home Depot. I bought a new wrench set so I could grip the piping. But when I got home, the sealant that we have was all dried up, so I have to go BACK to Home Depot tomorrow, but I promise I’ll get to it tomorrow.

Wife:  Honey, did you fix the leak in the sink?

Veteran:  The plumber will be here tomorrow morning.

(Optional) This time can be used for a member of the congregation who can read a Bible verse about Fatherhood or share an anecdote about their father.
Movies

**Daughter:** Daddy, will you watch a movie with me? I want to watch a movie about princesses!

**Rookie:** Hey sweetheart, we just watched a princess movie last week and I was thinking, what if we watch Toy Story or another movie that has some boys in it?

**Daughter:** Daddy, will you watch a movie with me? I want to watch a movie about princesses!

**Veteran:** Sure, sweetheart. *(Sits down to watch the movie; quietly sings “Let It Go”)*

Boys

**Daughter:** Daddy, there’s a boy who wants to sit next to me in class.

**Rookie:** Wow! I bet he likes you. Let’s talk about strategies to maintain a healthy friendship with a boy as you grow up.

**Daughter:** Daddy, there’s a boy who wants to sit next to me in class.

**Veteran:** *(Frantically)* He probably has a contagious disease. You need to stay away from him. In fact, don’t even think about him as a boy. Now we are only going to refer to him as “Stinky Ogre” Do you understand?

Appreciation

**Grown:** Dad, I just want to thank you for all you have taught me over the years. I learned so much from all your time and attention.

**Veteran:** You’re welcome. And thank you. Because whatever you learned from me, it can’t compare to what I learned from you.

Girls

**Son:** Dad, there’s a girl I like…

**Rookie:** Whoa, cool! You and me are going to the mall right now. We need to talk about finances, your goals, and purity. I’ll then give you some pointers that I used to get your mom.

**Son:** Dad, there’s a girl I like…
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Veteran: *(Grabs Son by arm and pulls him closer, as if telling a secret)* Son, whatever you do, the most important thing you MUST do right now is discern if she can cook.

**Playing ball**

Son: Dad, let’s play basketball!

Rookie: All right. You know, I played a little ball in college, but I’ll be careful so I don’t hurt you.

Old Son: Dad, How ‘bout some one-on-one?

Veteran: Ok. But just don’t hurt me.

**Understanding**

Old Son: Dad, now that I’ve got kids of my own, I realize how hard it is. How did you get do it so well?

Veteran: I prayed real hard.

**Acceptance**

Old Child: I just hope that you are proud of me.

Veteran: If Jesus was proud of me, even as they were nailing him to the cross, there is no way I could be anything less than honored that I could be a father.

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