

## What Did Your Dad Teach You?

### What Opportunities Did You Resist?

My dad lived to be just a few months shy of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Throughout his nearly century old lifespan he was an excellent example of consistency, dedication and diligence. When I think back to lessons learned from him there are many, but here are some of the most unique to him.

- Dad had a strong work ethic, getting up very early in the morning to gain an extra couple of hours of productivity on his own projects before heading off to work.
- He was always helpful at church and community events, arriving early to set up and staying late to put everything away.
- He insisted we shovel the driveway and sidewalks “full width” at our home in the snow belt. He was all about doing any job completely.
- Dad was loyal to family.
- His loyalty and perseverance were very evident when my mom was moved to a nursing home. Dad was never one to let weather prevent him from driving in snowy upstate New York. In the four plus years Mom was in a nursing home there was only one day when dad didn't make the 32-mile round trip. It took the roads being closed because of a major snowstorm to not be physically present for Mom.
- He only missed work once because of illness during my entire lifetime.
- Dad was willing to share his abilities in the community during his evening hours. He designed, installed and maintained telephone and PA systems at the YMCA, churches and schools in the area.



All these things – and much more – Dad taught by example, not by words. It is difficult to admit this but I avoided the intentional learning opportunities with my Dad. I knew that if I asked dad a technical question he would drop what he was doing and literally spend the rest of the evening answering my question. Dad was an electrical engineer so his explanation always included detailed schematic drawings. So, I didn't ask questions. In hindsight, I now realize that I missed out on a great opportunity to learn from my dad.

Our Heavenly Father provides opportunities to learn from both His example and teaching. He sent His son, Jesus Christ, to be the perfect example of how we should live. Jesus came to earth to experience the emotions and trials that we face. God sends the Holy Spirit to us to influence our decision making process. We just need to be open to receive it. As with my dad during my younger years I avoided being a spokesperson for the faith that I could have been. I was a “behind the scenes” guy. I am still working on growing this aspect of my faith and am more vocal in sharing the faith. God was ready but I held back.

How about you? What did you learn from your earthly dad? And, what did you learn from your Heavenly Father? Equally important to understand: what did you resist learning from each? It is not too late to learn from your Heavenly Father. When you are close to your dad and Heavenly Father there is an entirely different relationship. Are you open to opportunities to work *with* God instead of *for* God? This Father's Day appreciate what your dad has taught you. The person you are today is because of what you learned from your parents. Continue to listen to your Heavenly Father will make you into the person He intended you to be. Cherish the relationship with your earthly dad and forever pursue a growing relationship with your Heavenly Father. Hopefully, you can learn from your earthly dad while you seek to follow the teachings of your perfect Heavenly Father.

#### The Bible Says:

- *Listen to your father, who gave you life ... (Proverbs 23:22).*
- *As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him (Psalm 103:13).*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father. Thank you for being a guiding influence on our life, providing our dads as a living testimony to what it is like to be a loving Father. We pray that we can be a wonderful father to our children. Amen.