



# Sabbath Keeping Youth

## Walk A Little Slower

"Walk a little slower, Daddy",  
Said a little child so small.  
"I'm following in your  
footsteps,  
And I don't want to fall.

Sometimes your steps are very  
fast,  
Sometimes they're hard to see;  
So walk a little slower, Daddy,  
For you are leading me.

Someday when I'm all grown  
up,  
You're what I want to be;  
Then I will have a little child  
Who'll want to follow me.

And I would want to lead just  
right,  
And know that I was true;  
So, walk a little slower,  
Daddy,  
For I must follow you."

## Bringing Down A Giant

What comes to your mind when you think of adventure? Is it the thrill of not knowing what lies around the next bend in the woods? Is it trying something you've never done before? Is it the surge that rushes through your body as you dive into a new experience? It's exciting to try something new without knowing how it will turn out! It's an adventure!

David experienced the ultimate adventure when he stood in a valley looking up at the biggest "giant" he'd ever seen! Talk about the unknown. What thoughts must have been racing through his head as he pulled a smooth stone out of his pouch? Would the rock hit Goliath? Would it bring him down? The one thing David knew for sure was the Lord Almighty was fighting with him. God brought David to this battle, and it was time for Goliath to find out just how big God is. God used young David to flex some heavenly muscle on the Philistine.

Boom! Crash! Goliath is out! It was David's obedience to God which enabled him to win. If David had tried to win this battle using armor and swords instead of five stones and God, he would have been squished like a bug! Listening to God's voice gave him the edge he needed to come out on top. David didn't let his size or his young age keep him from listening to God and being obedient. David knew this battle wasn't about a boy and a giant. It was about a boy, a giant, and God. Guess who wins every time?

The next time you're looking for an adventure, skip the woods and do a little praying. God probably won't have you taking out any giants. But, you can be sure that whatever He asks you to do, He will stand beside you all the way. Be obedient and remember that with God no adventure is too BIG!!!



## The Parents Corner

Summer is just around the corner and you know what that means, it's time for those "summer boredom blues." Don't fear, when your kids got 'em, you can use these great ideas to blast 'em!

- **Chalk Town** - Using sidewalk chalk, draw an entire city on the driveway. Include lots of roads, rivers, train tracks, etc. Then bring out the toy cars, boats, and trains. Let your imagination take you where you want to go.
- **Potato Croquet** - Play regular croquet with a potato instead of a ball. Be gentle or you will be playing "mashed potato croquet."
- **Footprint Beach Towels** - Lay a solid towel on the driveway. Weight it down with something heavy. Coat the bottom of your child's feet with fabric paint. Let them walk and create patterns all across the towel. Check the paint label for washing instructions.

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## The Importance of Fatherhood

When you think of a juvenile delinquent from the past, what comes to mind? You may picture a child smoking and or using foul language. Today we picture children who are arrested for assault, murder, robbery, rape and drugs. How have our communities and families come to the place where we produce such incorrigible children and dysfunctional families? Could it be because fatherhood is under assault?

The Rocky Mountain Council says, "Most fathers are now realizing that they are very important to their children, but are struggling to balance family, church, hobbies and work. Of greatest importance is the time fathers spend with their children. Unfortunately, according to the Family Research Council, the time fathers devote to primary child care activities, such as feeding, bathing, playing with, talking to, helping with homework, etc. has remained stagnant since 1965. Overall, there has been a 49 percent drop since 1965 in the total amount of time both fathers and mothers invest in childcare activities. This is probably due to the increase in two-income families."

For years the heart and fiber of the family unit has been attacked. It is like a deadly disease that has meticulously spread through the fiber of our families year after year. The disease has maligned traditional values and upholding the standard Jesus Christ set for all to follow. The future of our families has been put at risk. No matter what city newspaper you read, the content is the same. There are teen pregnancies, child abuse, gangs and drug abuse. The very fiber of the family along with the importance of the role a father plays in the family is being attacked.

"The feminist hope that fathers are not necessary to the raising of successful children who are high academic achievers has been proven to be a pipe dream. For example, in a study of 17,000 children published in the academic journal Adolescence, children living apart from their biological fathers were 40 to 75 percent more likely to have to repeat a grade of school and 70 percent more likely to be expelled from school than children living with both parents. Children in disrupted families are nearly twice as likely as those in intact families to drop out of high school. According to a study by the National Association of Elementary School Principals, 33 percent of two-parent elementary school students are ranked as high achievers, as compared with 17 percent of single-parent students. Father's need to be convinced of their importance to their children's educational future, and statistics like these can help counter our culture's denigration of fatherhood."

◆ There is no easy method to being a good father. It is a job for life and if done right the rewards are great. God has spoken directly to fathers in the pages of His Bible. There are steps a father needs to take to produce God fearing, law abiding children.

◆ God has given the father a certain role to perform within the family unit. The father is the leader, not a taskmaster; a father and husband, not a boss; his concerns are for the welfare of his entire family; he puts their needs before himself. A father who does this is respected not because he demands respect, but because he has earned it. A husband is to love his wife just as Jesus loves the church (Ephesians 5:22) and he is not to provoke his children.

◆ God does not want a father to verbally abuse or irritate his children. A parent that belittles his child or teases to the point of provoking anger is not teaching. "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). God apparently believes this is very important because He reinforces it in Colossians 3:21, "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged." Never use cruel words such as you are lazy, foolish, an idiot or you don't do anything right to instruct your child. Things that frustrate a child are not keeping a promise, not knowing what is expected, changing the rules as you go and punishing out of anger.

◆ In Proverbs 22:6, God gives parents a conditional promise, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." The greatest contribution you can make to your child is to love and spend time with him or her teaching and training them in the ways of the Lord.

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## The Loving Father

### Luke 15:11-32

The scribes and Pharisees were critical of Jesus because He talked with known sinners. Scribes were Jewish religious leaders and by New Testament times, they were mostly Pharisees. Pharisees were men who knew the Law of Moses. They would tell the common Jew what he could or could not do. Our story is a parable Jesus told to the Pharisees about a loving father.

“A certain rich man,” said Jesus, “had two sons, whom he loved very much. One day, the younger son came to his father, and said, ‘Father, give me my portion of inheritance you have saved and planned to give me. I would rather have my inheritance now, while I am still young so I can enjoy myself.’ The older brother did not ask his father for his inheritance. Instead he stayed home and helped his father look after his house and land.

“So the father gave the son his share of his riches and made no further comment about it. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all his belongings together and left his father’s home. The young man ended up far from home among strangers. The strangers were happy to befriend the young man who foolishly spent and wasted all his inheritance on high living.

“Not long after, he spent his entire inheritance. A famine came upon the land [A famine is when there is not enough food in a country to keep the people alive]. The young man was alone and without money. He went looking for work and was hired by a man who needed someone to look after his pigs. The young man did not like this job. He was so hungry he would have been happy to eat the pigs’ food.

“He began to think about his family and how well his father’s servants were cared for. While he was hungry and miserable, they had plenty to eat. Unable to bear his condition any longer, he decided to return home and confess to his father that he’d sinned against him and heaven. He planned to ask to be made one of his father’s servants.

“So he set off for home. When he was still a long way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran to meet him. He put his arms around his son and kissed him. The young son began his apology, but his father cut it off with his joyous welcome. The father instructed servants to bring the best robe for his son, a ring for his finger and shoes for his feet. He told them to prepare a celebration dinner. He said joyously, ‘for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’

“During the celebration, the older son returned from the field and heard music and dancing. He asked one of the servants what was going on. The servant told him about his brother’s return. The older brother was furious and would not attend the celebration. His father came out and pleaded with him, but the older son would not come in and welcome his brother.

“The older son complained to his father, ‘for many years I have been serving you and have never sinned against your commandment. Never have you thrown me a party. But, my brother, who wasted his money and brought shame to his father’s name, dared to come home and was rewarded this way!’

“The father replied, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

Just as you have a loving father here on earth that cares for you, you also have a heavenly Father who loves you. God, the Father waits patiently for you to come to your good senses and be obedient to him. One way to show your heavenly Father obedience is to honor and obey your earthly father.

His father saw him and...ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

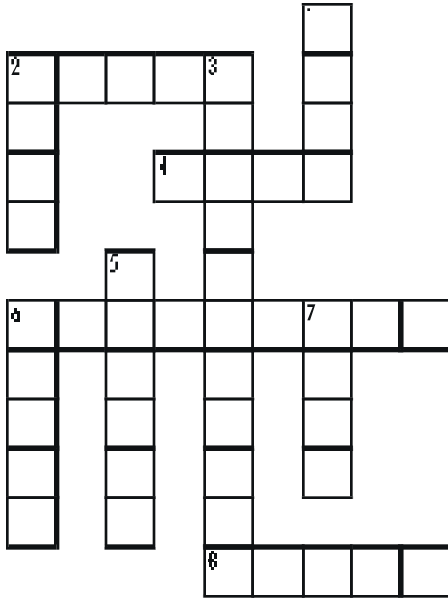
Luke 15:20



## One Boy's Big Adventure

### Across

- David's job was to care for \_\_\_\_\_.
- David chose \_\_\_\_\_ smooth stones.
- David took Goliath's head to this city.
- David used Goliath's \_\_\_\_\_ to cut off Goliath's head.



### Down

- Goliath was over \_\_\_\_\_ feet tall.
- David tried on this King's armor.
- Goliath fought for this army.
- Goliath's helmet was made of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Who was David's father?
- David's battle was fought in the name of the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Wet Fun In The Summer Sun

Life is a giant adventure, and you can be sure God wants you to enjoy your journey. Of course when the thermometer's pumpin' out numbers in the triple digits, it's time to start an adventure that centers around good ol' H<sub>2</sub>O! So gather up a few friends and a parent or two, and have some fun with these wet and wild games.

### Wet Potato

Use a pin to poke a hole in a balloon while it is deflated. Next fill the balloon with water. This will create a slow leak. Have everyone stand in a circle and toss the squirting balloon from player to player. The last person holding the balloon before it runs out of water is out of the game. Continue playing until there is only one person left. They are the winner!

### Tummy Targets

Use finger paints to draw a target on someone's stomach. Everyone else gets one squirt with a water gun to see who gets closest to the bull's eye (belly button). That person gets to be the next one to get squirted!

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