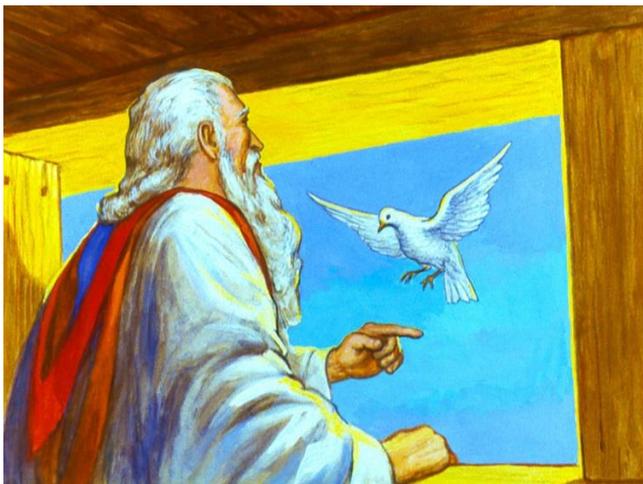


Prayer

Dear LORD, thank you so much for our dads as we celebrate Father's Day with them today. LORD, you are good, you are strong, and you are kind. We thank you for loving us so much. Prepare our hearts as we get ready to learn about you today. Thank you for being our good Father; we love you. Amen

Activity One - Famous Fathers in the Bible

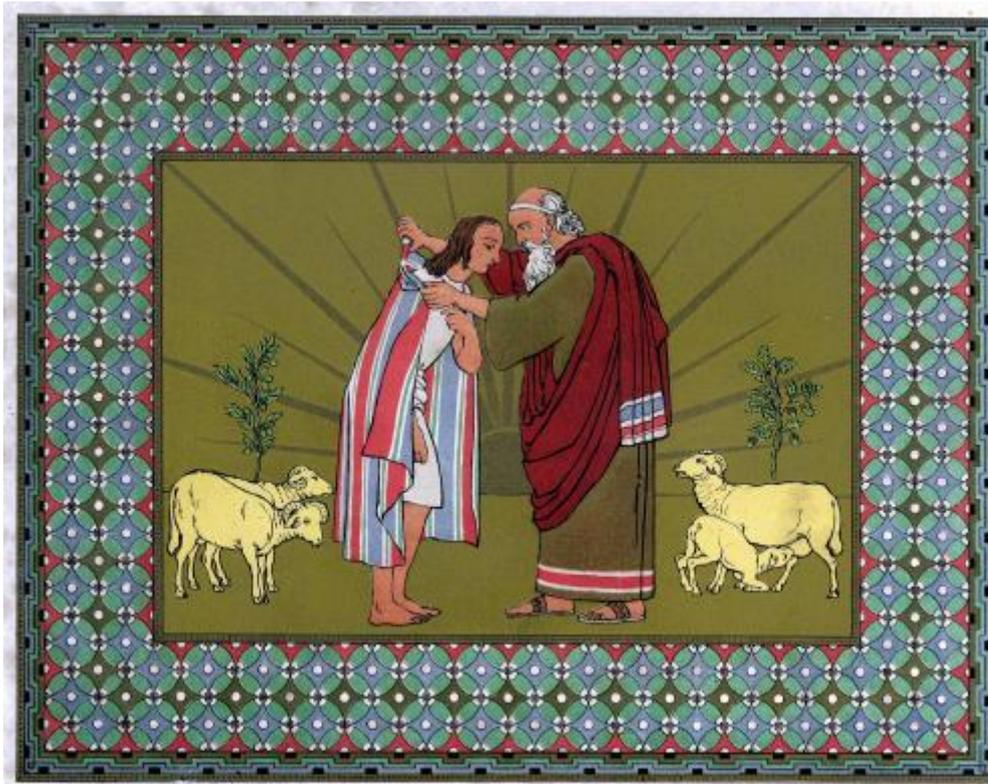
Can you name any of the biblical fathers shown in these pictures?



1



2



3

Answers:

1 Noah

Noah was a descendant of Adam and Eve. We hear about Noah in the Book of Genesis, when, following instructions from God, he and his family build an Ark. After the flood, God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

Noah died 350 years after the flood, at the age of 950, the last of the extremely long-lived patriarchs. The maximum human lifespan, as depicted by the Bible, gradually diminishes thereafter, from almost 1,000 years to the 120 years of Moses.

2 Joseph with Mary and Jesus

Joseph was married to Mary, Jesus' Mother, and was Jesus's foster, or earthly father. In the Gospel of Matthew, Joseph obeys the direction of an angel to marry Mary. Following the

birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, Joseph is told by an angel in a dream to take the family to Egypt to escape king Herod. Joseph is a Saint in the Christian tradition.

3 Jacob with Joseph

According to the Old Testament Jacob was the younger twin brother of Esau. During her pregnancy, Rebekah was told by God that she would give birth to twins; each of them would found a great nation, and Esau, the elder, would serve his younger brother. As it turned out, Jacob, by means of an elaborate double deception, managed to obtain his older brother's birth-right from their father. Jacob then fled his brother's wrath and went to take refuge with the Aramaean tribe of his ancestors at Haran in Mesopotamia.

Along his journey Jacob received a special revelation from God; God promised Jacob lands and numerous offspring that would prove to be the blessing of the entire Earth. Jacob had 13 children, 10 of whom were founders of tribes of Israel. The story of Jacob's later years more properly belongs to the story of Joseph. Late in his life, a famine prompted Jacob and his sons to migrate to Egypt, where he was reunited with his son Joseph, who had disappeared some years before.

Activity Two

Describe your father. Start with physical attributes, such as appearance or body type; but then focus on inner characteristics and qualities that make your dad special.

Draw picture of you and your dad as you talk about him.

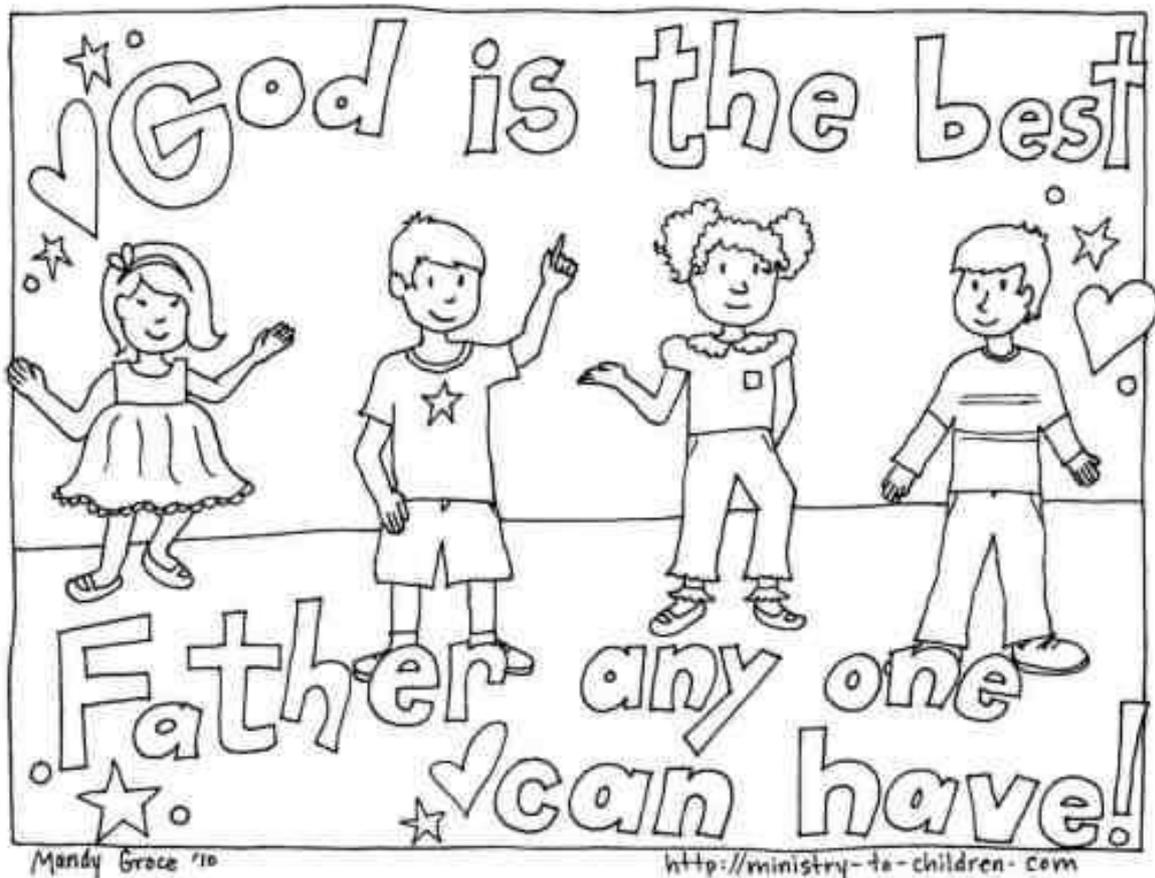
Are you like your dad? Do you look like him? Do you like some of the same things? Do you behave like your dad?

Activity Three

God is the first Father because He is the Creator of all things. He is the father of humanity.

God is addressed as "Father" in both Old and New Testaments. God loves us as a Father. He invites us to call Him Father, and wants us to have a special relationship with Him as such. We are in His family, and that makes us brothers and sisters in Christ.

In the New Testament Jesus taught His disciples to address God using the personal term *Abba*. Only through Jesus Christ can we claim the right to become the children of God (John 1:12).



Dear
God,



Thank
You

for my
Daddy!

Mandy Groce '10

<http://ministry-to-children.com>



Mandy Groce '11

ministry-to-children.com