

**June 19/20, 2010**  
**A Father's Heart**

**Being a loving father is one of the best things a man can be...but it isn't always easy. That's why our dads deserve our love, honor and respect.**

*Ephesians 6:2-3 – "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."*

**Not even the best dads can keep bad things from happening to their children.** But when adversity strikes they do whatever they need to, to get their loved ones the help they desperately need.

*Luke 8:40-56; Mark 9:17-29*

**Over and over Jesus demonstrated the father heart of God toward those who were sick and suffering.** He was full of compassion for their pain and problems and He wants all of us to imitate our Heavenly Father in that way. That's why we attack sickness and suffering in our PEACE Plan. *Matthew 9:35-38;*

*Matthew 10:7-8 – "Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!"*

**Every great dad, including our Heavenly Father, also has a heart to see his children live the best life possible.** This includes spiritual training, education, life skill development and removal of any injustice that would steal their future. Great dads want to give their children a great future. *Proverbs 3:1-7;*

*Ephesians 6:4 – "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord."*

**Not everyone has a dad that can do that for them so we get the honor of coming to their rescue and helping them overcome exploitation, injustice, illiteracy, poverty and even slavery.** We get to show them how much their Heavenly Father truly loves them and has a great future for them.

**Psalm 82:3-4 – "Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people." Isaiah 1:17; Isaiah 58:6; James 1:27**

**We're living our Father's heart when we love and rescue those who desperately need Him the most! That shows we have the Father's heart!**

*Psalm 68:5 – "Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy."*

**Action Steps:**

- 1. Keep filling your PEACE Cup with \$2 a day, and bring it next week for the PEACE offering.**
- 2. Do the PEACE devotional this week and identify with those who live with real need.**