

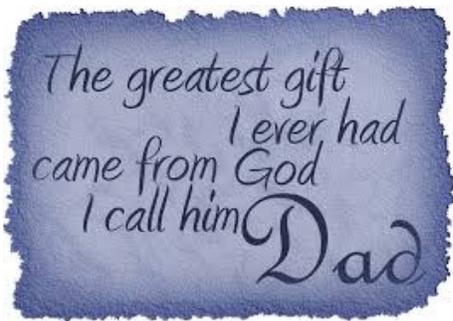
"Son" Flowers... A Devotional by the members of New Hope Church in Cooper, TX

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Scripture Verse Reference: Genesis 18:19; ***"For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him."***

On Father's Day

For the first twelve years of my life, I seldom felt the joy of being loved. I never knew the difference encouragement made in a young life; and never understood how being part of a family was something to cherish. By the time I was twelve, I all but gave up on the dream of being truly loved, with one exception. When I prayed at night to belong to a family that cared about me, I felt sheltered from the reality I had grown all too accustomed to.



My prayers were answered when a Massachusetts family moved to my small central Florida town and adopted me into their family. When my Dad brought me into his family, my world began to blossom. I was immersed in a family where my brothers and sister loved and accepted me. I was in a world where Mom and Dad taught me true Christianity by their actions; a world where I learned by their example what it meant to be a member of a family. In this environment, the foundation for my life was laid.

Years later, I tried to repay this gift with a few simple words of a poem I wrote for Father's Day. I've realized in the years since, my words were not directed only to my earthly Dad, they are repayment for the gift of family from my Heavenly Father.

My Father's Arms

When I'm tired, sad, or lonely,
When few others seem to care,
There's a place I go to get away,
For there are no troubles there.

I can laugh or cry, or fall asleep,
Or all my problems bare.
It's the one place where I can just be me,
For there are no troubles there.

I love that place, its peaceful warmth,
A place with many charms.
My favorite place... in all the world,
Is in my Father's arms.

-jdw 6/78