

Well during lockdown, the word heroes been used quite a lot hasn't it.

So, for example doctors, nurses and other key workers have all been described as heroes.

Captain Tom Moore who raised millions of pounds for the NHS just before his hundredth birthday; has been described as a hero.

And after campaigning for the Government to provide children from poorer backgrounds with free school meals, Manchester United footballer Marcus Rashford has also been called a hero.

And you know according to a recent survey there are lots of unsung heroes as well.

So, listen to this headline.

Good news for Dads, who've been ranked number one as children's top hero in a survey of close to 600 families.

One little girl even said her dad was her number one hero because 'he's there every morning and night and is big and strong enough to give her rides on his shoulders'.

You see ordinary Dads can be heroes as well.

In fact, the famous preacher Billy Graham once said this:
A good father is one of the most unsung, upraised, unnoticed, and most valuable assets in our society.

Which is very high praise indeed isn't it!

And you may've seen the picture of an ordinary dad in the news recently!

You see Patrick Hutchinson has been described by his daughter as a superhero after he rescued a far-right activist from being badly beaten up at a Black Lives Matter protest.

But you know although being a Dads brilliant, and lot of them are unsung heroes, it can also be a tough job can't it, and dad's don't always get it right, in fact sometimes they can get things spectacularly wrong.

And so, it's good to remind ourselves this morning that although Dad's make mistakes, can be grumpy, distant, absent, or just plain embarrassing, because of their cheesy jokes and dad dancing.

We have a heavenly Father who loves us perfectly, never lets us down; and shows us what a true Father looks like.

And that can be so comforting especially if our Dads are no longer with us, or we've had a bad experience because they've been far from perfect.

You see the Bible reading Ian read to earlier from Matthew, we're reminded that God is the true hero who never lets us down.

Jesus says:

Which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in Heaven give good things to those who ask him.

And the good thing we all need the most, is God, who we can go to over and over again with confidence, without fear of ever being turned away or rejected.

And so, I want to read some words made up of different Bible verses, describing God as Our Father.

It says:

My Child

Even if you don't know me, I know everything about you.

I know when you sit down and when you rise up.

I am familiar with all your ways.

Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. For you are made in my image.

In me you live and move and have your being. For you are my offspring.

I knew you even before you were conceived and chose you when I planned creation.

You weren't a mistake; for all your days are written in my book.

I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live.

You are fearfully and wonderfully made.

I knit you together in your mother's womb.

And brought you forth on the day you were born.

Unfortunately, I've been misrepresented by those who don't know me.

And so, I'm not distant and angry, but the complete expression of love.

And it's my desire to lavish my love on you.

Simply because you're my child, and I am your Father.

And because I'm the perfect Father every good gift that you receive comes from my hand, and I offer you more than your earthly father ever could.

For I am your provider and I meet all your needs.

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope.

And because I love you with an everlasting love; my thoughts toward you are as countless as the sand on the seashore. I even rejoice over you with singing.

And I will never stop doing good to you.

For you are my treasured possession, and I'm able to do far more for you than you could possibly imagine.

I'm also your greatest encourager and the Father who comforts you in all your troubles.

When you're broken-hearted, I am close to you.

As a shepherd carries a lamb, I carry you close to my heart.

One day I'll wipe away every tear from your eyes.

And I'll take away all the pain you've suffered on this earth.

I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus.

For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed.

He is the exact representation of my being; and came to demonstrate that I'm for you, not against you.

And to tell you that I am not counting your sins.

Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled.

His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you.

I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love.

If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me.

And nothing will ever separate you from my love again.

I have always been Father and will always be Father.

My question is...Will you be my child?

I am waiting for you.

Love God.

Well that's a wonderful description of God as our Father isn't it

You see although our earthly dads can mess up sometimes and make mistakes; God shows us that he's a perfect Father who loves us so much that he sent Jesus to be our true hero, who to died rose again for the mistakes that we all make; not just dads; but mums and children as well. Amen