

Answers:

1. (c) 1910 was when the first Father's Day celebrated annually on the 3rd Sunday in June in the USA began.

TIMELINE OF FATHERS DAY

- 10th century.** (901AD through to 1000AD in accordance with the Julian calendar)⁹ The 19th of March was dedicated to Saint **Joseph**, the patron saint of all fathers (the step-Father of Jesus, husband of Mary) in several Western calendars by the **10th century**.⁸ It is also Father's Day in some countries, mainly Spain, Portugal, and Italy, and this custom was officially established in Rome by **1479**.⁸
- 18th century.** In Germany, Father's Day (Vatertag) is celebrated on the same date as *Ascension Day*.⁷ This tradition dates back to the 18th century when prizes were awarded to fathers after *Ascension Day* parades in rural areas.¹⁰
- Ascension Day** is the 40th day of Easter and commemorates the ascension of Jesus into heaven 39 days after His resurrection on Easter Sunday. You will find the Biblical accounts of the *Ascension* in Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:50-53 & Acts 1:6-11. According to tradition, Ascension Day was first celebrated in **68AD**, the first written evidence of the *Ascension Day Feast* occurred in **385AD**.
- 1908** on July 5th, the first noted "one off" Father's Day celebration was held in a church service in Fairmont, West Virginia. **Grace Golden Clayton** suggested the service to the pastor as a memorial after a mine explosion in nearby Monongah had killed 361 men the previous winter. Also, motivation for the service was Mothers' Day, which had been celebrated for the first time two months prior in Grafton, a town that was just 15 miles away.
- 1910** June 19th The first annual "3rd Sunday in June" Father's Day in the USA began in Spokane, Washington.
- 1930s** There is no definitive explanation why Father's Day is celebrated in **Australia** and **New Zealand** on the 1st Sunday in September, though it is clear that the custom of the September date began in the mid 1930s.
- 1964** An article in the Western Herald said the day was officially designated as the 1st Sunday in September across the Commonwealth in 1964 and that the date was chosen for commercial reasons to distance it from other celebrations. This is similar to the date selected in Scandanavia, where November was also chosen to maximise its commercial value.⁷
2. (a) The inspiration for Fathers Day in large parts of Europe was **Joseph** (Step-Father of Jesus, husband of Mary) celebrated on the 19th of March from around 900AD onwards.

(b) The inspiration for Fathers Day in the USA was Billy Smart.

He was a twice-married, twice-widowed Civil War veteran and father of 14 children, one of whom dedicated her life to the creation of Father's Day in honor of her devoted and selfless dad.¹

- ¹ <https://www.history.com/news/man-who-inspired-fathers-day-civil-war-vet-single-dad>
- ² <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4611428/great-granddaughter-writes-two-Father-s-Day-cards-year.html>
- ³ <https://blog.myheritage.com/2014/06/the-father-behind-fathers-day/>
- ⁴ <https://www.thevintagenews.com/2018/08/11/fathers-day/>
- ⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonora_Smart_Dodd
- ⁶ <https://blog.myheritage.com/2017/06/the-inspiration-behind-fathers-day/>
- ⁷ <https://www.officeholidays.com/holidays/australia/fathers-day>



William Jackson Smart
1842-1919

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Joseph%27s_Day

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10th_century

¹⁰ <https://www.officeholidays.com/holidays/ascension-day>

3. (b) William's daughter



aware of the contribution a father can make to the family unit. She wanted to counteract negative images of fathers that were currently in vogue in the popular culture of her day. She wanted men to step up to the role – perhaps even suggesting a role model for fatherhood – **"leadership with love"**.⁶

Sonora brought a petition before the local Christian leaders about creating **"Honor Thy Father's Day"**³ to recognize the courage and devotion of all fathers like William on June 5th, her dad's birthday. They liked the idea of a special Father's Day service, but couldn't pull something together so quickly, so they settled for June 19th, the 3rd Sunday in June. On that first Father's Day in 1910, church sermons honoring fathers rang out in churches across the city.⁴ Sonora took Father's Day gifts to Spokane shut-ins.¹² Red and white roses were passed out in honor of living (red) and (white) deceased fathers, the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) also got on board and helped with her plans for a civic celebration^{2, 6} and the mayor of Spokane and governor of Washington issued proclamations. Newspapers carried the story to the four corners of America.⁴



The home where Sonora Smart Dodd lived

Sonora Smart Dodd was attending one of the first official Mother's Day services in 1909 at her church in Spokane, Washington, when she had an epiphany—if mothers deserved a day in honor of their loving service, why not fathers?¹ Sonora and her five younger brothers, after all, had been raised by their father after their mother died in childbirth in 1898. William Jackson Smart became a farmer after fighting in the Civil War. He not only held down both parental roles but did it with "leadership and love," his daughter always said, and she believed he ought to get some credit.¹

Sonora's goal for Father's Day was to honor her father and other fathers who played an important role in their children's lives and make families more

Sonora would spend much of the next 62 years pushing for the official recognition of Father's Day as a national holiday.¹

Several presidents declared it a holiday.⁴ Then, in 1972, US President Richard Nixon signed a proclamation, honoring Father's Day as an official, nationwide holiday in the United States.³

Sonora Smart Dodd was much more than just the pioneer of Father's Day, she was an accomplished artist, poet, children's book author, funeral home director, and founding member of just about every civic organization in Spokane, including the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.⁵ But she never let go of her determination to give fathers like hers the recognition they deserved.



The **Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)** is an active international temperance organization that was among the first organizations of women devoted to social reform with a program that "linked the spiritual and the secular through concerted and far-reaching reform strategies based on applied Christianity." The WCTU was also very interested in a number of social reform issues, including labor conditions, prostitution, public health, sanitation, suffrage (the right for women to vote) missionary work and international peace. At a time when "Suffragists" were viewed as radicals and alienated most American women, the WCTU offered a more traditionally feminine and "appropriate" organization for women to join.^A

The WCTU was originally organized on Dec. 23rd, 1873, in Ohio, USA. By the 1920s, it was in more than 40 countries and had more than 766,000 members paying dues at its peak in 1927.

Matilda B. Carse became an activist after her son was killed in 1874 by a drunk wagon driver. In 1878 she became the president of the Chicago Central Christian Woman's Temperance Union, and in 1880 she helped organize the Woman's Temperance Publishing Association, and eventually started *The Union Signal*. It became the most important woman's newspaper and soon sold more copies than any other newspaper. During her time as president, Carse founded many charities and managed to raise approximately \$60,000,000 a year to support them. She started the **Bethesda Day Nursery** for working mothers, two **kindergarten schools**, the **Anchorage Mission** for erring girls, **Sunday schools**, two **dispensaries**, two **industrial schools**, an **employment bureau**, temperance **reading rooms** (a warm, free space to read newspapers, magazines and books - a popular idea before widespread public libraries).^a

^a https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woman%27s_Christian_Temperance_Union

The life of the man who inspired Father's Day may be summed up in the words from the poem **"My Choice"** by Sonora Dodd:

*If I might choose from all exalted positions of the nations
the one in which I feel I could best serve humanity
I would choose the high office of Fatherhood.
In this responsible niche,
I could build for today
and for tomorrow.*

William Jackson Smart certainly lived up to his responsibility and his memory lives on as an example to fathers everywhere.

(4) Question: How is your Relationship with your Heavenly Father?

Jesus said:

“You fathers - if your children ask for a fish,
do you give them a snake instead?

Or if they ask for an egg,
do you give them a scorpion? Of course not!
So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts
to your children,
how much more will your Heavenly Father give
the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.”

“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive
what you ask for.

Keep on seeking, and you will find.

Keep on knocking,
and the door will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks, receives.

Everyone who seeks, finds.

And to everyone who knocks,
the door will be opened.”

(Luke 11:11-13 & 9-10 NLT)

Jesus said “I have come bearing the plentiful gifts of God;
and all who receive Me will experience everlasting life,
a new intimate relationship with You (the one True God)
and Jesus the Anointed (the One You have sent).”

(John 17:3 Voice)

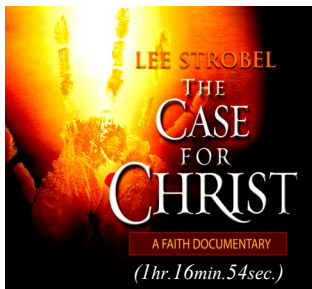
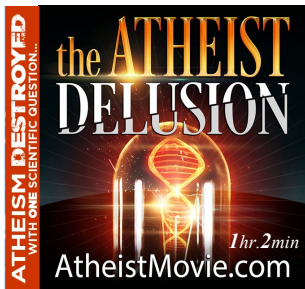
The apostle Paul taught that to honor one’s earthly father is not
only one of the 10 commandments (the 5th) but the first
commandment that, when obeyed, has a promise that goes with
it: “Honor your father and mother—

which is the first commandment with a promise—
that it may go well with you

and that you may enjoy long life on the earth”

(Ephesians 6:2-3).¹¹

If you know someone who doubts their Heavenly Father’s existence
share with them these wonderful Award winning movies:



FREE on YouTube

Lee Strobel, educated at **Yale Law School**, was the award-winning
legal editor of the **Chicago Tribune** and a spiritual skeptic.

Using his skills and access as a internationally recognised legal
journalist he records interviews with the worlds leading experts, and
documents the startling evidences that led him from
atheism to belief.

“Prepare to meet your Maker.”

(Amos 2:10)

After we die we all have to face what is called “the law of sin & death.”
(Romans 8:2) That Law is known as “The 10 Commandments.” So, let’s
look at that Law & see how you will do when you face it on Judgment day:

- (1) How many times have you told a lie?** Be honest. Revelation 21:8 says,
“All liars will have their part in the lake of fire (hell).”
- (2) Have you ever stolen anything?** (the value is irrelevant) 1 Corinthians 6:9-
10 says, “No thief will enter heaven.”
- (3) Have you looked with lust toward anybody?** Jesus, said in His most famous
Sermon on the Mount, that if you look with lust you commit adultery in your
heart *(Matt. 5:27-28)*.
- (4) Have you hated anyone?** God counts this as murder *(Matt. 5:21-22)*.
- (5) Finally, have you put other things before God?**

If you answered **yes** to any of the questions above, then you are not a good,
innocent person. The Almighty Creator God sees you as a lying, thieving, adulterer,
a murderer and you’d also be guilty of breaking the first and greatest
commandment. (& we’ve only looked at 5 of the 10 Commandments, see *Exodus 20 &/or
Deuteronomy 5 & Matthew 5*)

If you are honest, you know you will be guilty on the Day of Judgment.

The Bible warns that the punishment is death, eternal separation in hell from God and all
that is good. That’s not God’s desire for you.

So, how can you escape God’s righteous judgement?

God provided a way for you to be forgiven and your punishment paid.

Our Creator God in His great mercy came down, took on flesh as Jesus, who lived a
100% pure sinless life, then gave Himself as a payment for your sin when He
“laid down His life” and died on the Cross. He went to hell in your place,
so you could go free!

Then He rose from the grave and defeated death, so you can have a relationship with
Him **now and** eternally.

That’s how much your Heavenly Father loves you.

You broke God’s Law (the 10 Commandments), and Jesus paid your fine.

It was a legal transaction. This means that, God can legally dismiss your case.

You can leave the courtroom on the day of judgement because Jesus paid your fine.

So, **“What should we do?”** *(Acts 2:37)*

The Right Response Required:

Repent - turn right back round 180 degrees (↵) from your sinful, selfish way
to God’s way - know and do His will.

Believe - trust that Jesus has paid for and can forgive your sin by taking *your*
death penalty on the cross.

Be Baptized - this sacred dipping is your **bath** (2 clean you up *Acts 22:16*),
burial (2 lay 2 rest your mess *Rom. 6:4*) & a
re-clothing (dressing you in your new “*adult faith wardrobe*” *Gal. 3:27*)

Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit - He empowers and leads you into
actually living this new abundant life of deep peace, joy & freedom
that you could never do in your own strength! *(see Acts 2:37-38)*

If you do this, God will forgive you of every sin that you have committed
and grant you everlasting life.

Do this today! _ _ _

Find a Bible believing, Jesus following, disciple-maker to help you grow.

(see Matt. 28:18-20)

I pray you have a very wonderful life and an even better Eternity!

An *Eternal* gift from:

www.NeedGod.com www.MeetGodatHome.com



Quiz Questions

**(1) Which year did the annual tradition
of Father’s day in the USA begin?**

- (a) 1479**
- (b) 1908**
- (c) 1910**
- (d) 1930**
- (e) 1964**

**(2) Which Dad was the inspiration for
Father’s Day?**

- (a) Joseph (Step-Father of Jesus)**
- (b) Billy Smart**
- (c) Homer Simpson**
- (d) Darth Vader**

**(3) Who started the modern annual
Father’s Day celebrations?**

- (a) A sock & tie company**
- (b) Sonora Smart Dodd**
- (c) Bart Simpson**
- (d) Luke Skywalker**

**(4) Final & most important Question:
How is your Relationship with your
Heavenly Father?**