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# DO YOU LOVE ME DADDY?

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## Dedication

This book is lovingly dedicated to my husband, Harvey. He has been a human model of God's unconditional love. He has patiently stood by me throughout my healing and restoration.  
God bless you, Harvey.



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## Introduction

Many little girls are born into loving, secure homes, where daddy is always available for a hug and a kiss. I will call her Sara. Unfortunately, there are many who are born into homes where daddy is indifferent, absent, or simply unavailable. Some girls are able to survive and thrive regardless of this situation. I was not.

The healthier the family, the better the chance our children will navigate this life successfully and cheerfully. Children need training, guidance and unconditional love. They need a healthy heritage from their parents. Your heritage is the spiritual, emotional and social legacy that has been passed from parent to child. It can either be good or bad, strong or weak.

Along with unconditional love, girls long for security. We need to know that daddy will always be here to take care of us and protect us from monsters, whether real or imagined. Even a little bit of indifference speaks volumes to our hearts. A little girl who has lost that security may never really feel safe or valuable.

Puberty is the beginning of adolescence, the fascinating and frightening process of development, which transforms a girl into a woman. She will go through many physical, psychological, and emotional changes. My already fragile self-esteem is shattered. In the courtroom of my mind, the injustice of my adolescent peers played out.

Our individual identity establishes who we are, and who we can become. It is defined as the distinguishing character or personality of an individual. A healthy, positive identity can propel us into greatness. While a negative one is capable of suppressing our growth, altogether.

I had a gripping need to feel valued and loved, trying desperately to have that need fulfilled. I wasn't able to recognize unconditional love, it was unfamiliar to me. Sara understood what true love is. She was showered with it all through her life. Her daddy made sure of it. He educated her in relationships, by the way he treated his wife, and how they themselves interacted. He demonstrated unconditional love and Sara easily recognized it.

I jumped into marriage without the maturity and skills needed to sustain it. The wedding day was my declaration to the world, "I was loveable!" The focus was on the festivities, not the union. Doomed from the start, divorce was inevitable. Sara was prepared for her marriage. Sara's wedding was not focused on her, although she was radiant and stunning in her white gown. During the ceremony, the focus was on their union. The minister spoke about how God predestined them for each other, their purpose as a couple, and future generations. God truly blessed their union.

During my counseling years, I found myself at a crossroads. I was learning many new concepts about God's unconditional love, our need for a savior, my

brokenness, and healing through Jesus Christ. God wants us to call Him "daddy" and to be protected and comforted by Him. It's here in the arms of our father God that we can find unconditional love.

Life is a journey, full of hills and valleys. The best way to navigate this road is to follow Jesus, allowing Him to be your guide. He will make your path straight, even when you drift off to one side or the other. Fathers are ordained to teach their children about God and his unconditional love.



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## Daddy's Little Girl

The delivery room was filled with excitement and anticipation, moments before they heard the first cry. "It's a girl!" the doctor announced, and gently placed the baby into her mother's eager arms. Mother and father were overwhelmed by this precious miracle. When mom handed the baby to her daddy, he embraced his newborn daughter close to his heart. He was bewildered by her very presence, an incredible feeling of love washed over him. He'd never felt this way about anyone, so passionate, so powerful. Gently, he caressed her tiny features. Gazing at her, he began to shed tears of pure joy. Then he whispered to her, "I love you, my precious child. By the grace of God, I will never leave you, you can count on me; I am your champion, your shield, and your provider."



In a perfect world, all daughters would know this intense love from their father. Unfortunately, in this fallen world, many girls are cheated out of this incomparable relationship. There are three basic questions that all children seek answers to; “Do you love me?” “Are you with me?” and “Will you keep me?” Answer these questions positively, and your daughter will grow up confident and secure.

Whether by choice, or not, daddies are emotionally and/or physically abandoning their helpless daughters. They allow their daughters to navigate life without the training, guidance, uncompromising love and the security girls desperately need. Consequently, many grow up doubting their value, purpose, and lovability.

The nursery was a pale yellow with a border of little ducks and bunnies. The linens were clean and fresh. There was a crib along one wall, a dresser, a changing table, and a supple rocking chair in the corner. He spent many nights rocking her gently. Often times, it was daddy comfort she responded to more quickly. Maybe it was his humming, or whispered prayers, or maybe she could feel his strength, and she felt safe and secure.



Experts tell us that a child knows by the time he/she is only a few weeks old whether she is wanted. Though an infant cannot speak, he/she can receive your communication.

In *The Heritage*, J. Otis Ledbetter and Kurt Brunner write, “Within the first year of life, the fragile worth of a child can be either established or seriously damaged.”<sup>1</sup>

As a toddler, it was obvious that Sara was “daddy’s little girl.” Just seeing them together, the way they communicated, you knew they had an exclusive relationship. “Daddy!” she shouted with joy.

“Hello Pooh Bear.” he said. There was a twinkle in his eye as he picked her up. She cuddled herself into his embrace and all was as it should have been.



Mommy was busy preparing supper. I was feeling lonesome, and growing tired. I desperately needed to be held. “Daddy” I said anxiously, searching every room. I began to cry, “Daddy!” But I couldn’t find him. He was working late again that night. My cries turned to sobs as I laid myself down on the floor. Feeling hopelessly alone and frightened, I clutched my blanket in an attempt to comfort myself. *Do you love me, daddy?* I seemed to think, as I drifted off to sleep.



Each of us is created by God, with the intense need for love and acceptance. Even without words we express these desires. Children primarily seek out mother for nurturing and comfort, but little girls create an exclusive love

relationship with their father and look to them for value and ultimate acceptance. In order for a girl to develop into an emotionally healthy woman, she needs to know that the most important man in her life loves her unconditionally. When she is confident of this love, she will be able to embrace God's love.



Whenever Sara toddled into the room, his attention turned quickly to her. As he was addressing a group of people at church, Sara came running in. "Daddy!" She squealed, running into his arms.

"Hi Pooh." He said with a smile, directing his full attention to her.

"That's my daddy," she said proudly and nuzzled into his neck. He continued his announcement, holding his beloved daughter close to his heart. He didn't ignore her or push her away. He knew how important it was to embrace her.



"Daddy," I shouted as I came running into his office. I reached for him, but he stopped me.

"Sorry, I have to finish this." He coldly said.

I instantly felt rejected and sulked away. Unintentional as it was, the impact on me was devastating. Tears began to well up in my eyes as my heart broke. I toddled into my room, and embraced my teddy. Dejected and lonely, I buried my face in his soft fur and softly cried, "Do you love me, daddy?"