



Father's Day Mystery Socks!

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

This special lesson examines fathers in the Bible and how their lives influence fathers today.

Volunteers' Best Sock Competition:

Ask your volunteers to wear the funniest and most colourful socks they can find! Put on a fashion show and ask the children to vote for the socks they like the best.

Bible Lesson: Faithful Fathers

Sock Puppet: Purl

Introduce a delightful sock puppet character to help tell the story! Meet **Purl**—a cheerful girl made from a woollen sock. She's full of personality and perfect for drawing children into the lesson. You'll find simple instructions for making your own sock puppet on page 8. If you choose to create a male sock puppet, you may like to use the name Bobby.

You can choose to have the puppeteer operate Purl in full view of the children—once she starts talking, they'll be so captivated they'll forget the person behind her! Alternatively, set up a small puppet theatre to conceal the puppeteer. If you go this route, be sure they have a microphone so every child can hear Purl's voice clearly.

Mystery Socks You Will Need:

Gather second-hand socks from a charity shop or use mismatched ones from home—just be sure they're hole-free! Each sock represents a different Bible character. Fill each one with small, themed items that hint at the character's identity. As you pull out the contents, children will try to guess who the sock belongs to. (You could use pictures of the objects if that's easier.) For an extra clue, consider stitching an initial onto the sock—especially helpful if the character's name might be tricky for younger children to guess.

1. Adam's Sock: Toy animal, fig leaf, fruit and lastly a rubber snake.
2. Noah's Sock: Hammer, nails, a pair of toy animals, a rainbow picture
3. Abraham's Sock: Stars, sand, a tent peg and blue baby booties
4. Moses' Sock: Mini basket, 10 Commandments, manna (use flat bread), mini bottle of water

5. Mordecai's Sock: scroll, toy horse, sash (representing contest winner), and a noise maker (e.g. a grogger used during Purim)
6. Jairus' Sock: Menorah or candle, tissues, doll
7. Joseph (Jesus' stepfather) Sock: hammer, nails, wooden toy, and baby in a manger.

Script:

Leader: Hey there, everyone!
I've brought some socks into the Children's Church today!

Purl: *(Sock puppet appears)*
Did someone say socks?

Leader: Who are you?

Purl: I'm Purl.
I'm called Purl because I'm a sock puppet made from wool.
You know...knit one, *purl* one.

Leader: Pleased to meet you, Purl.
Hey kids, why don't you say hello to Purl?

Purl: Hello!
(Interaction with the children: Who is wearing socks? What colour? Are they their favourite socks? Do they have pictures on them?)

Leader: Purl, are you ready to start our lesson?

Purl: Sock it to me!
(Laughs at her joke)

Leader: Do you know what special day we are celebrating?

Purl: Let me see...
It's not Christmas, is it?
No, that would be a stocking.
I know, I know, I know!
We're celebrating Father's Day!

Leader: Yes!
I think you're the perfect...um...sock to help with it.

Purl: Of course!
Father's Day is the biggest sock holiday of the year.
Dad's everywhere are given socks on Father's Day.
Sports socks, business socks, hiking socks.
Then you have your ankle socks and your crew socks.
Your no show socks, your knee socks...

Leader: Purl...

Purl: Then you have your bamboo socks, your cotton socks...

Leader: Purl!

Purl: I know, I know.
You want me to put a sock in it!
(Laughs at her joke)

Leader: I have some socks here.
But they're not just any old socks.

Purl: I'm glad they're not any **old** socks.
Old socks stink!
Phew!
(Laughs at her joke)

Leader: I have Father's Day Mystery Socks!

Purl: Ooh! Father's Day Mystery socks!
They sound so...mysterious.

Leader: The children have to guess which Bible father the Mystery sock belongs to.
Like any mystery, there are clues.
The clues are inside the sock.
I'll bring the clues out one by one, and any of you kids guess which Bible father the sock belongs to, raise your hand so I can see it.
No calling it out...raise your hand.

Purl will interact with the Leader and the children as the lesson is taught.

Mystery Sock 1: Adam

Pull the items out one at a time, leaving the toy snake until last. Once the children have correctly guessed that the mystery sock belongs to Adam, display an illustration of Adam while you discuss him.

Leader: Adam was the first human father.
Every human lineage in Scripture traces back to him, making him the ancestral father of everyone!
Adam was created by God and had no earthly father.
God created him and gave him the job of looking after the? *(Garden of Eden)*
Adam was given fatherly authority and named all the animals.
Did your Dad name you?
God created a wife for Adam, and her name was? *(Eve)*

Do you know the names of three of Adam's children? (*Cain, Abel and Seth*) There were other sons and daughters but we don't know their names.

From Adam, we learn that there are always consequences.

Adam disobeyed God and became the father of fallen humanity.

Fathers make rules and want you to obey them so you are protected, because there are consequences for everything you do.

Mystery Sock 2: Noah

Pull the items out one at a time, leaving the rainbow until last. Once the children have correctly guessed that the mystery sock belongs to Noah, display an illustration of Noah while you discuss him.

Leader: Noah was the father of three sons.
Do you know their names? (*Shem, Ham and Japheth*)
Noah built an? (*Ark*)
Noah was a righteous man who walked with God.
He obeyed God when He told Noah to build a boat when no one had seen rain!
Because Noah loved and obeyed God, he was made fun of by all the people around him.
Noah sheltered his family.
Your father shelters you.
He follows God no matter what people think of him.

Mystery Sock 3: Abraham

Pull the items out one at a time. Once the children have correctly guessed that the mystery sock belongs to Abraham, display an illustration of Abraham while you discuss him.

Leader: Abraham was called the Father of many what? (*Nations*)
He was the founding father of the Israelites.
The name of his long-awaited son was? (*Isaac*)
Abraham had another son. Do you know his name? (*Ishmael*)
After Sarah died, Abraham remarried and had six more sons.
God promised Abraham land and descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the beach.
Abraham is called the father of faith because he trusted God.
Your father trusts God and is the father of faith in your family.

Mystery Sock 4: Moses

Pull the items out one at a time, leaving the basket until last. Once the children have correctly guessed that the mystery sock belongs to Moses, display an illustration of Moses while you discuss him.

Leader: Moses had two sons with his wife Zipporah.
Their names were Gershom and Eliezer.

Moses led the Children of Israel out of slavery into the? (*Promised Land*)
He was like a father, and he taught them. (*The Ten Commandments*)
He was like a father who prayed and interceded for them.
Your father teaches you the Bible.
He prays and intercedes for you.

Mystery Sock 5: Mordecai

Pull the items out one at a time. Once the children have correctly guessed that the mystery sock belongs to Mordecai, display an illustration of Mordecai while you discuss him.

Leader: Who did Mordecai look after? (*Esther*)
Was he her biological dad? (*No, Esther was an orphan*)
Mordecai was Esther's cousin, but he raised her as his daughter.
He made a bold stand and refused to bow to Haman.
He guided Esther and nurtured her character, urging her to act courageously.
Mordecai was wise and advised Esther.
Your father guides and nurtures you.
He teaches you to be bold, standing up for Jesus.

Mystery Sock 6: Jairus

Pull the items out one at a time. Once the children have correctly guessed that the mystery sock belongs to Jairus, display an illustration of Jairus while you discuss him.

Leader: Jairus was the father of who? (*We don't know her name, but Jesus called her 'little girl'*)
Jairus was a respected ruler in the synagogue.
Jairus took action on behalf of his daughter, seeking Jesus out.
His love for his daughter was more important than what other religious leaders might think of him when he asked Jesus for help.
He humbled himself publicly, falling at the feet of Jesus, begging Him to heal his sick daughter.
Your father will act on your behalf, seeking Jesus, praying about you and whatever problems you are going through.

Mystery Sock 7: Joseph (Jesus' stepfather)

Pull the items out one at a time, leaving the baby in the manger until last. Once the children have correctly guessed that the mystery sock belongs to Joseph, display an illustration of Joseph while you discuss him.

Leader: Who did Joseph look after? (*Jesus*)
Was he his biological dad?
No, Jesus' father is Father God, but God entrusted Joseph to be Jesus' legal and adoptive father.

He was called a 'just man' because he was righteous.
Joseph obeyed the angel's command to name the baby, Jesus.
Joseph obeyed every divine instruction – 4 dreams.
Joseph protected Mary and Jesus from danger, including fleeing into Egypt to escape Herod.
Joseph taught Jesus carpentry and life skills.
Your father is your protector.
He keeps you safe from danger.
He obeys God and passes on knowledge about how to do things.

Purl: Well, bless my woollen sock!
The Bible is full of amazing fathers.

Leader: The Bible overflows with stories of fathers—some bold, some broken, some beautifully faithful.
From Adam, the first father of humanity, to Abraham, the father of nations... from Moses, the shepherd of a people, to Joseph, the quiet guardian of the Messiah...
Each one reflects a side of fatherhood: provision, protection, guidance, and love.

Ministry to the Children:

Yet above them all stands Father God—the perfect, eternal Father. He is the source of all life, the giver of every good gift, the One who never fails. Where earthly fathers may falter, God remains faithful. Where human love has limits, His love is boundless. He adopts, restores, disciplines, and delights in His children.

From the beginning, God created us for a relationship with Him as our loving Father. But sin broke that bond, leaving humanity distant, lost, and longing for connection. Yet God didn't leave us in that separation. He sent His Son, **Jesus**, to bring us back home.

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus." — *1 Timothy 2:5*

Jesus didn't just come to forgive sins—He came to restore relationships. He lived the life we couldn't live, died the death we deserved, and rose again to open the way back to the Father.

Through Him, we are no longer strangers—we are sons and daughters of God.
"To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." — *John 1:12*

The Bible tells us (John 3:16) 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

God's love isn't distant or conditional—it's personal, powerful, and freely offered to every heart. He saw your brokenness, your sin, and your need for rescue. And

instead of turning away, He gave us Jesus—His only Son—as the greatest gift of grace.

Leader: Well, Purl, thanks for your support!

Purl: You're welcome!

Leader: Yep, I guess you're not such an odd sock!

Leader and Purl leave the teaching area laughing or singing The Heel and Toe Polka.

Song: Father Abraham!

Memory Verse: Find the Sock!

1 John 3:1 (NIV)

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

What to do:

- Write a word from the verse onto a cardboard sock and laminate it
- OR use real odd socks and tuck the words of the Memory Verse inside
- Hide the socks around the room
- Ask the children to find the missing socks
- Once found, they work together to arrange the verse in order
- You might like to peg the socks on a clothesline

Game 1: Sock Hop

Arrange numbered 'jumbo' socks on the floor. Play music as kids hop between the jumbo socks. When the music stops, call out a number. All the children must hop to that jumbo sock. Children who don't reach the correct jumbo sock or fall while hopping are out. Continue playing until one child remains.

Game 2: Sock Balls

Make your own sock balls by taking a sock and rolling it from the toe end towards the opening. Once you have a tight roll, tuck the open end of the sock over the rolled part to secure it. Repeat the process with more socks to create multiple sock balls, and you can play...

- Dodge Ball
- Bowling
- Basketball
- Sock ball Soccer

- Catch and throw
- Target practice (aim at an empty laundry hamper or a bucket)

Game 3: Floppy Socks

Every child must wear socks, but wear them half off so their heels are bare, making the socks floppy. On the count of three, children try to step on each other's socks to pull them off. The last player with a sock or socks on their feet wins.

Craft: Dad, You Knock My Socks Off!

You will need:

- 1x pair of socks per Dad
- 1x decorated tag (see overleaf)
- Length of twine or ribbon to tie the sock closed with the tag
- Variety of items to add to the sock...here are some suggestions...
 - Coffee or tea sachet
 - Chocolate bar
 - Manicure item
 - Skin care item
 - Handkerchief or small pack of tissues
 - Golf ball
 - Pen and other small stationery items, like a notebook, paper clips

Father's Day Card:

Use the template to photocopy a card for each child. They can colour and decorate the card to personalise it for their Dad using felt pens, pencils, glitter and stickers.

How to Make a Sock Puppet:

- Step 1:** Use a clean sock that is long enough to cover your arm.
- Step 2:** Slip the sock over your hand.
Once you the sock on, make a C-shape with your hand.
Put your fingers into the toe part.
Try to get your thumb into the heel part.
If you can't reach it, tuck the sock into the groove between your thumb and fingers.
Open and close your hand. Your sock should already start looking like a puppet.
- Step 3:** Use a marker to make two dots above the seam for the eyes.
If you want your puppet to have a nose, make a dot for that as well.
- Step 4.** Take the sock off.
Spread it flat on the table.

The marks for the eyes and nose may look out of place, but that's fine. This is why you made them while wearing the sock.

- Step 5.** Glue some eyes onto the sock.
You can do this with a hot glue gun, fabric glue, or tacky glue.
You can use buttons, pompoms, or googly eyes.
Draw on eyelashes if you are creating the character Purl.
- Step 6.** Glue a small pompom just above the seam for the nose.
Or you can also use a felt triangle or circle, or a button.
- Step 7.** Add ornamentation to create character.
- Glue lengths of wool to the top for pigtails or a ponytail (if you are creating the character Purl).
 - Add ribbons or bows to the hair
 - Draw on eyelashes



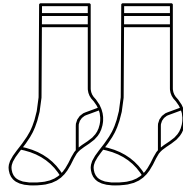
Dad...

*You knock
my socks off!*



Dad...

*You knock
my socks off!*



Dad...

*You knock
my socks off!*



Dad...

*You knock
my socks off!*



Dad...

*You knock
my socks off!*



Dad...

*You knock
my socks off!*



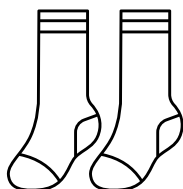
Dad...

*You knock
my socks off!*



Dad...

*You knock
my socks off!*



Dad...

*You knock
my socks off!*



*HANDMADE WITH
LOVE BY...*



*HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY!*

