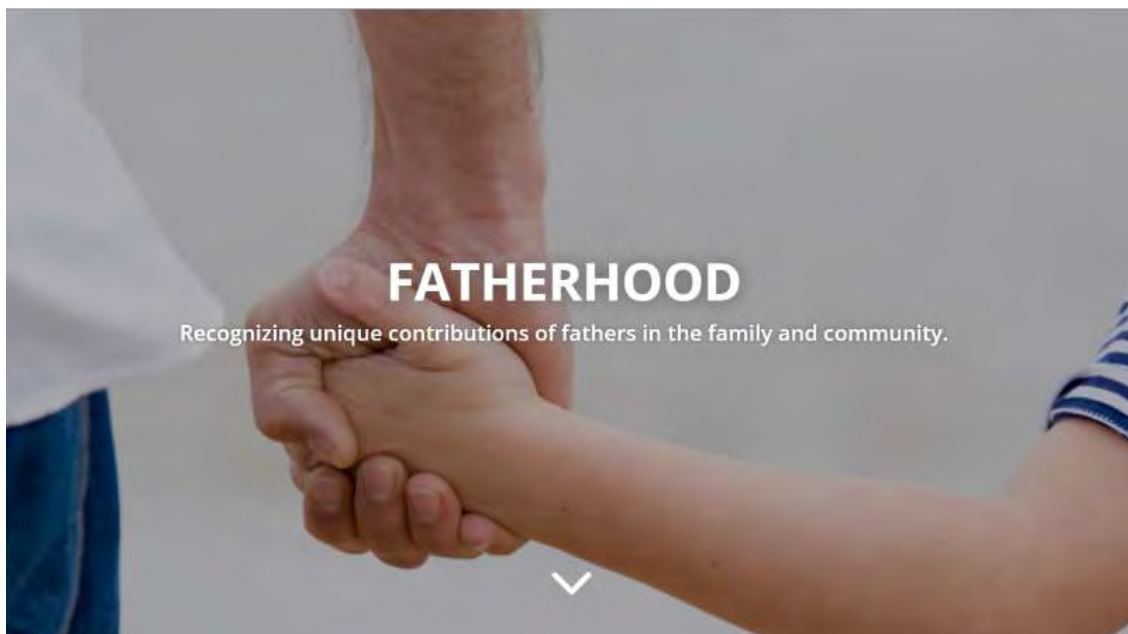


## Hyun Jin Moon's Family Peace Association - Recognizing the Importance of Fatherhood

Howard Self  
June 28, 2023



*Our theme for the month of June was Fatherhood, “**Recognizing the unique contributions of fathers in the family and community.**”*

*We see the best qualities of fathers when they commit to the greatest purpose in their lives – their relationship with God and their families. Fatherhood offers men an opportunity to exemplify the values of self-discipline, courage, dignity, honor, authority, loyalty, security, and strength. When men become fathers, they not only recognize their role in guiding their children to live a virtuous life, but the importance of becoming an effective role model. That example of character and growth becomes the bedrock of security for the family, which in turn is a building block for a vibrant and safe community.*

*Love expressed by fathers may look different from that of mothers. A father can be a tough coach that inspires his children to reach a potential they may not see in themselves or a reliable protector of his family’s values, dreams, and aspirations. Simultaneously, he can crack a dad joke to lighten the load of a difficult challenge. We thank our fathers for those most significant life lessons that have helped frame our lives and how we view the world around us.*

*Enjoy these stories of and by everyday fathers who found **joy in their fatherhood journey.***

[Read Fatherhood Stories](#)



## Featured Stories



### Learning through the Eyes of a Child

by Kimihira Miyake

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### Lessons from My Father

by R. Jeon

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### My Letter to Dad

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### Alan Shepard's Prayer and Fatherhood

by Bill Haire

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## Toolkits for Parents



This downloadable and printable booklet includes an interactive activity to do with your children to help reinforce their appreciation of their mom and dad. It highlights the uniqueness of each relationship and introduces ideas on how they can give love back. Find this free resource [here](#).



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# Learning through the Eyes of a Child

Jun 27, 2023 | 0 comments



By Kimihira Miyake

Recently, I was reminded as a father just how much our children help us grow.

Our two-year-old has recently been more adventurous: climbing on the dining table, toppling and standing on our full laundry basket to play with the light switches, and accessing the kitchenware including our assortment of spices to make his own medley displayed on the table and floor. It was a pleasant surprise because observing him, he seemed to be the most cautious one among our children. Yet with every month that he is getting older, he seems to be showing his true character more and more.

Our family went to a neighborhood park over the weekend. It was a nice park with many walking trails, fields and courts for sports teams to play in, and playgrounds for various ages. When we got to the playground area, our son immediately found his target challenge – the arched ladder. I have never seen him climb this type of ladder before. Naturally, when he reached where the ladder curved, the most dangerous part, I began to spot him in case he missed his step or lost his balance. I was worried that he might fall in-between the rungs or hit his head on the metal. He was having trouble on the last two rungs where he couldn't quite figure out where to place his hands and feet. In the end, I helped guide him to take his last steps to the platform. The smile of victory on his face when he secured his footing at the top was unforgettable. I was proud of him because he kept going until the end, even though it was with his dad's help.

But what surprised me was that he went back to the starting point and tried again. He did it again, and again, and again. And each time, I worried as his "spotter" and had to continue to assist him in the same rung where he would get stuck. I reflected on this and admired his innocence and purity. Undaunted by feelings of fear, doubt or failure, he diligently kept at it and tried again.

In the words of Jesus Christ, unless you "become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." I find tremendous wisdom in those words. I

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have forgotten the spirit of youth. Our ability to dream and imagine possibilities is limitless. Yet, as we age, what we believe to be possible tends to diminish. Our outlook on life is framed over time by what we deem as “life experience”, but is often simply fear of failure.

It was a profound moment watching my son continue to play. I reflected on where my own zeal and tenacity to pursue what’s worthwhile may have gone. I was reminded that I should not be encumbered by my own limitations. There is still much for me to learn and more growing for me to do. As a parent to my children and as their primary educator, the example I set and the path I walk is that much more important. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “I will not follow where the path may lead, but I will go where there is no path, and I will leave a trail.” How I view my life and pursue that life becomes what is possible not only for me but for my children as well.



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# Lessons from My Father

Jun 17, 2020



By R. Jeon

My father carried with him just two memories of his father. These were given to him by his mother, who told him these two things throughout his boyhood.

One was that his father loved his mother as if she were the only woman in the world. It was such that even when she found herself widowed in post-war South Korea with three young children and even though it meant more hardship for her, she could not bear to remarry.

The other was that in being college-educated – extremely rare in that time and place – had made him an obvious target for roving bands of thugs. Though it must have been agonizing to leave behind his young family and beloved wife, to have them tortured, hurt, or killed by those hunting him was infinitely worse. They never knew what happened to him.

And having grown up without a father, he never really knew how to be a father. He rarely, if ever, disciplined us. Most of the time when he was with us, it was more like another brother or friend who would wrestle and play with us. My mother would sigh that she was raising another son.

All of this had often made me wonder from a young age what it means to be a father. When I was younger, I would criticize – directly and indirectly – my father for the many mistakes I thought he had made. I knew he was not perfect; he knew he was not perfect.



And yet reflecting back, I can see that in his *not knowing* and in his imperfections, he gave me tremendous freedom and responsibility to make my own path. He never pressured me to fit into a specific career or role as many Korean parents have been known to do. And in another way, he modeled for

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me the most important things for my life: the way to love his family.

He mirrored to my brother and me the same love for our mother that I think *his* father may have shown his wife. Every day, I aspire towards the same with my own.

And even though neither of us was faced with the choice of giving up our lives for our family, he lived that out in the way he worked for his family. He worked to build up his own company from scratch, weathered the devastation of having it all taken away in the post-IMF crash, and quickly moved on to take on two jobs to make ends meet.

Even while the context is again different, I aspire to live out that kind of love in my life today.

It makes me think that we need not be perfect in all that we might do but find perfection in loving, striving to love.

Today, I continue to honor my father, and the memory of his father, my grandfather, in my family, my work, and life.



# Alan Shepard's Prayer and Fatherhood

Jun 12, 2020



By Bill Haire

*"Perched atop the towering, eighty-three foot tall, Redstone-3, Mercury 7 booster rocket, Astronaut Alan B. Shepard had plenty of time to contemplate and pray before his Freedom 7 capsule was launched into the great unknowns of space. The eyes of every American were glued to a TV set to watch this historic event. On Shepard's shoulders were the combined hopes of a nation. And as he waited for lift-off and becoming the first American in outer space, he uttered a few words that would later become known as, "The Shepard's Prayer."*

*- Ross Engel*

***'Please, dear Lord, don't let me f\*\*K up.'....."***

As a husband to a wonderful wife and father to two gorgeous daughters, I occasionally get asked "Why do you have such a nice family?"

I would like to confess that luck may have had a part, but the truth of the matter is that the driving force behind my efforts in the husband/parent category is two things: fear and humility.

Let me explain:

Like Shepard, I am aware of the daunting task that is my role, in being a husband and father. Like Shepard, I am also aware of the danger that any misguided actions in either of my roles could cause a "catastrophic event".

My wife is a better person than me. Period. Each morning, I wake up and find myself grateful (and a little bit relieved) that she is still there by my side.

Mind you, I am not a bad person. I just feel I am way out of my league in this marriage. When I see that she is still willing to awaken next to me each morning, I resolve to earn her trust and hand in marriage as if it is our first

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morning together. This has not changed since our vows. I am truly humbled that God found a way to bless me in having her in my life and I feel the need to earn God's trust with this gift.

Yeah, and about that "Trust from God" – during my time seeking to earn and honor the gift of my marriage, my wife bore two daughters, who are now young adults.

As if I wasn't at my limits in seeking to keep my debt of gratitude in alignment with Heaven's expectations, I am given two more souls that rise above my comprehension of love, beauty and joy.

I am grateful that I was not asked to decide on what would be my perfect children. I sit here now realizing my mind and heart did not have the capacity to comprehend such perfection that is embodied in my children.

So God put me in a home that I feel woefully unqualified to be part of, yet, here I am.

Each day, as a father and husband, I seek to earn my place by trying to tune in to the will of Heaven for my family, and not stepping on what to me is clearly God's hand in their lives. I feel as if I am an under-qualified au pair to God's children, but being entrusted with His progeny compels me to do my best and guide them to listen to and trust their true "Parent". It is clear to me that this family is "lent" to me to learn how to love, how to offer, and how to serve in a better way. Their existence in my life also teaches me how to love, attend, and cherish others, as what I learn with my family is clearly meant to be manifested in the world outside our home.

I am not offering these thoughts to compare or compete with any other family. I am merely offering that in the matter of being a husband and a father, my ability to be "Good" in those roles is not about my attributes. It is in my efforts to avoid usurping the Spirit and offering support to God's will in the lives of those more closely embraced by Heaven.

My value as a father or husband lies directly in the unique value, love and the trust bestowed upon me by God and my loved ones, not in my own presumption of importance.

I am nothing without them.

So as we approach another day of recognizing "fathers", let me be the first to say that we fathers are good because those in our lives are great, and I, like Naval Officer Shepard, desperately pray with all my heart I can stay worthy of their greatness and, for the love of God – 'please don't let me F\*\*k Up'.

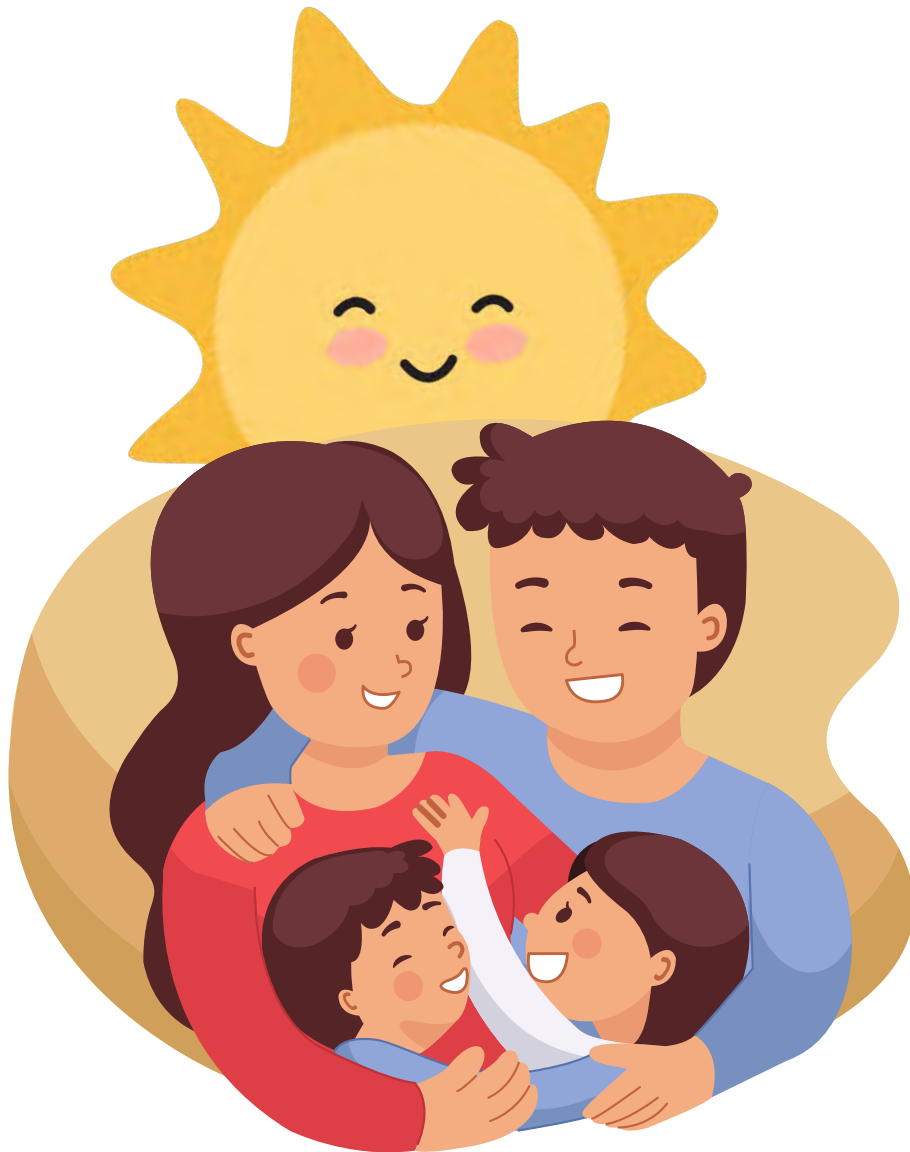


*Mom and  
Dad, you're  
the greatest!*



***Nothing is more important or  
more precious than the  
relationship between  
parent and child.***

**God gave us our families because He loves us very much!**



**How can we show  
our mom and dad  
we love them?**



**We can help them!**

**We can say,  
"Thank You!"**

**We can  
tell them,  
"I Love You."**



We can help mom and dad in many ways, even if we are little!  
Let's think of some ways!

What is she doing?



What is he doing?





What are they doing?



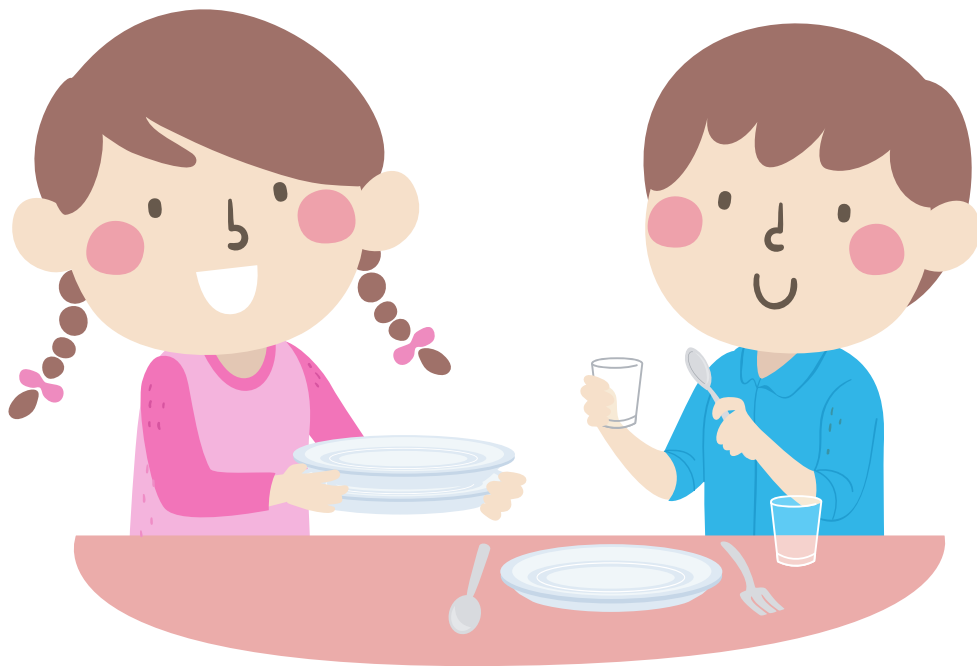
What are they doing?



What are they doing?



What are they doing?



What is she doing?



What are they doing?



What are they doing?



What are they doing?



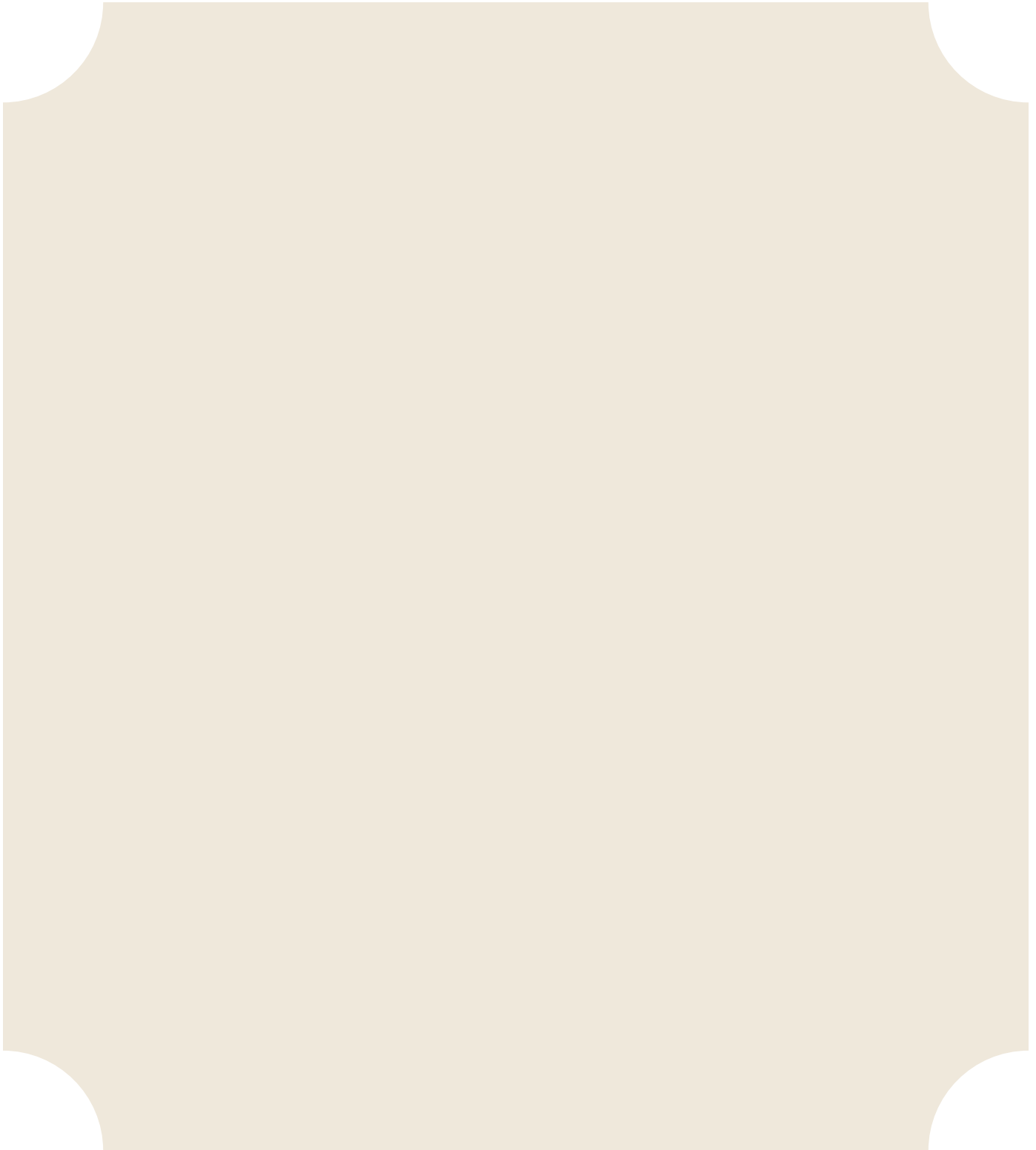


How can you help your parents?



**YOUR  
TURN!**

Draw what you can do  
to help Mom and Dad

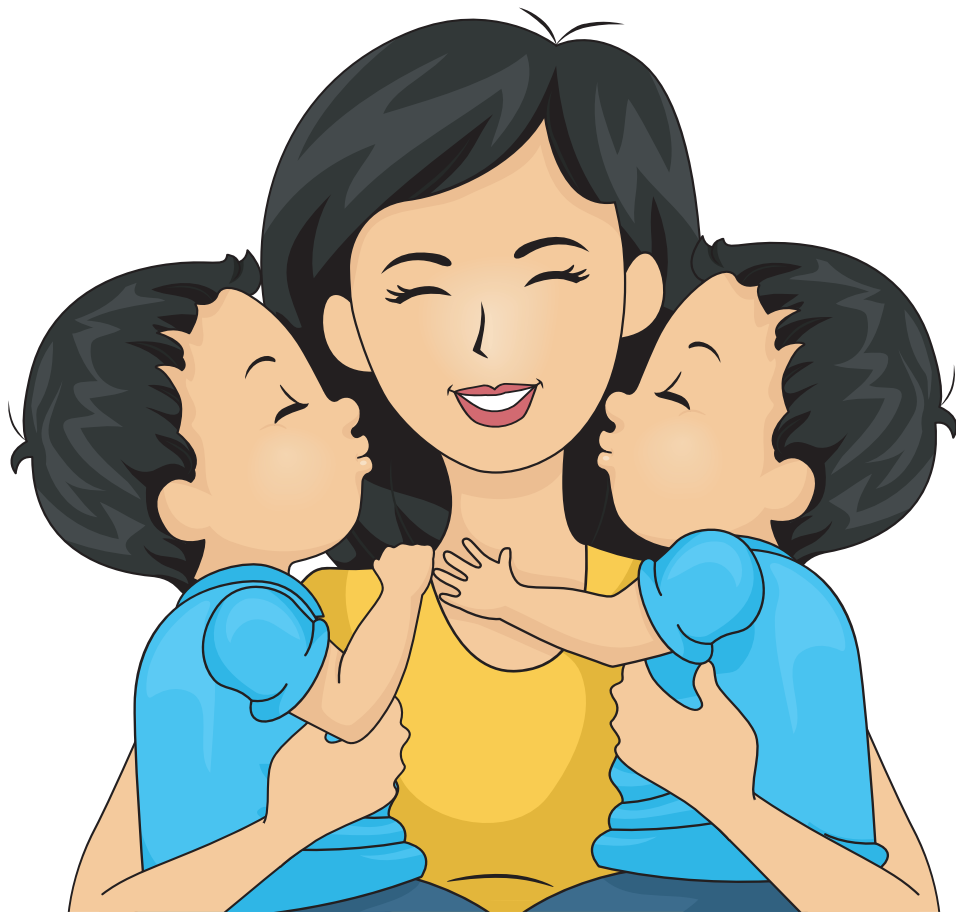


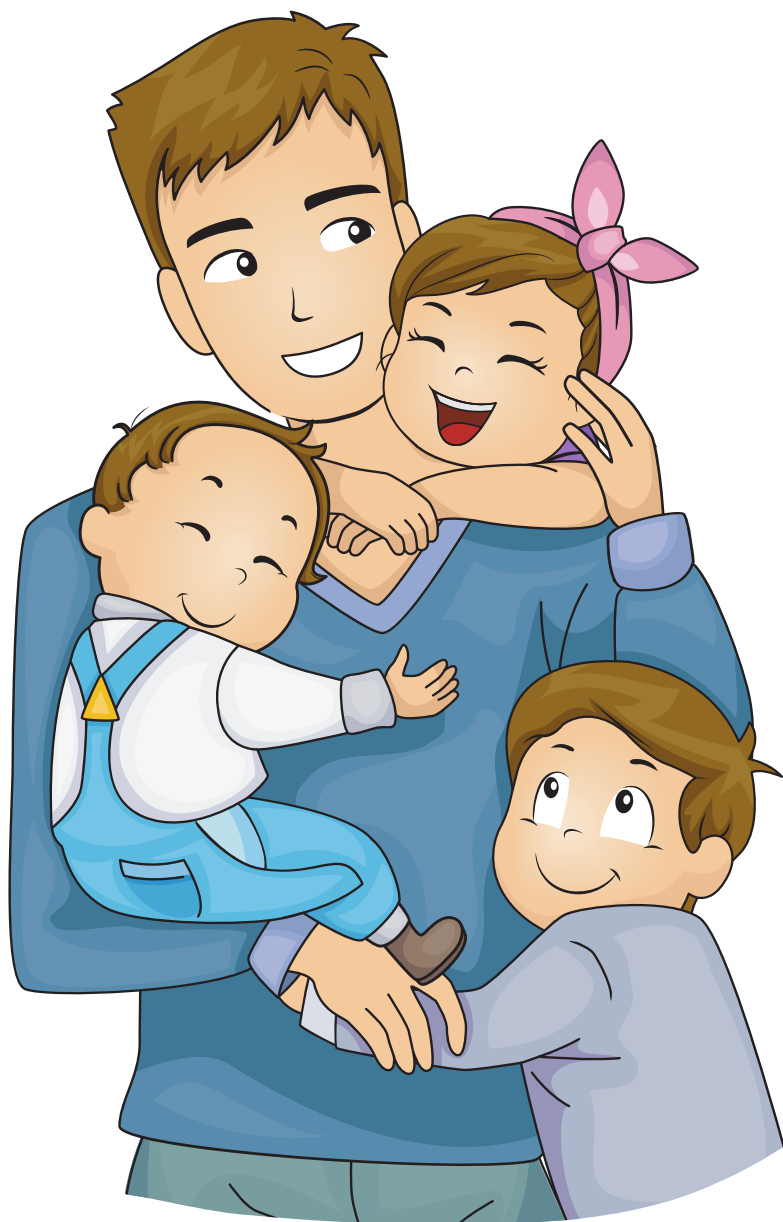
What are they doing to show mom and dad "Thank You"?





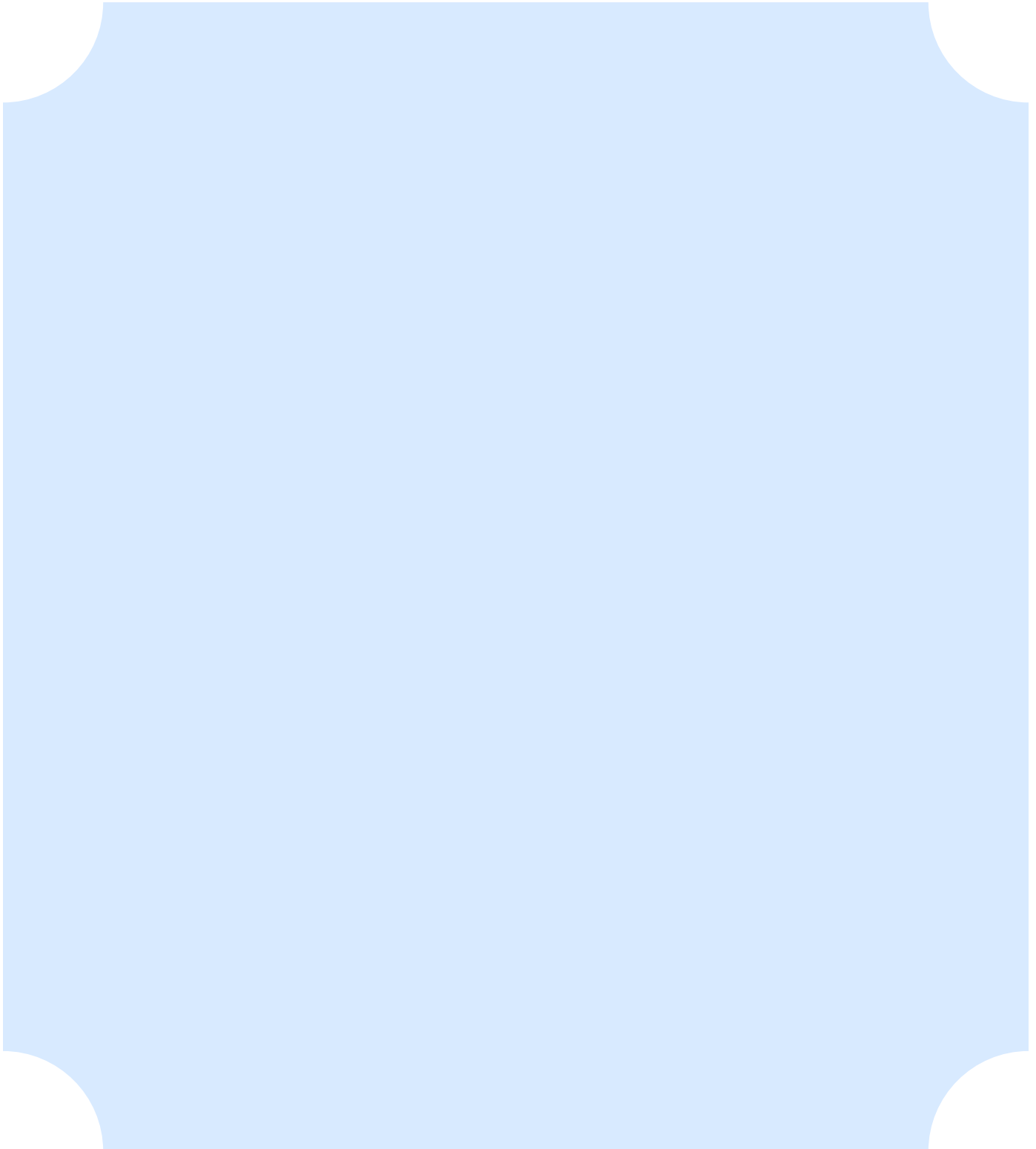
What are they doing to tell  
mom and dad "I Love You"?





**YOUR  
TURN!**

Draw how you can tell Dad,  
"Thank You" and  
"I Love You."



**YOUR  
TURN!**

Draw how you can tell Mom,  
"Thank You" and  
"I Love You."

