

88 Great Daddy-Daughter Dates

Fun, Easy & Creative Ways
to Build Memories Together

Rob and Joanna Teigen



a division of Baker Publishing Group
Grand Rapids, Michigan

© 2012 by Rob and Joanna Teigen

Published by Revell
a division of Baker Publishing Group
PO Box 6287, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287
www.revellbooks.com

Expanded edition published 2018

ISBN 978-0-8007-2911-0

Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—for example, electronic, photocopy, recording—without the prior written permission of the publisher. The only exception is brief quotations in printed reviews.

The Library of Congress has cataloged the previous edition as follows:
Teigen, Rob.

88 great daddy-daughter dates : fun, easy & creative ways to build memories
together / Rob and Joanna Teigen.

p. cm.

ISBN 978-0-8007-2033-9 (pbk.)

I. Fathers and daughters—Religious aspects—Christianity. I. Teigen, Joanna.

II. Title.

BV4529.17.T45 2011

248.8421—dc23

2011041153

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com

Scripture quotations labeled ESV are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ESV Text Edition: 2007

Scripture quotations labeled GW are from *GOD'S WORD*®. © 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group.

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



Rob and Joanna Teigen, *88 Great Daddy-Daughter Dates*
Revell Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, © 2018. Used by permission.

To Josh, Emma, Leah, Anna, and Mason

It is a privilege to be your mom and dad.
You are our greatest blessings and we're crazy about you!

Contents

Introduction 13

1. Flip a Coin 21
2. There's No One Like You 24
3. Putt-Putt and Pictures 27
4. Puppy Love 29
5. You're All Wet 32
6. That's Amore! 35
7. Lights, Camera, Action! 37
8. Play with Your Food 39
9. Bubble Trouble 42
10. A Walk in the Night 45
11. Treasure Hunt 48
12. Wash Your Wheels 51
13. Up in the Air 53
14. Catch a Falling Star 55
15. Time Capsule 57
16. Shadow Fun 60
17. Parachutes 62
18. Be a Blessing to Mom 64
19. Silly Sock Day 67
20. Picnic at the Park 69
21. Backyard Campout 71
22. A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood 74
23. Animal Pancakes 77
24. One, Two, Three, Go! 79
25. Bowling 82
26. A Basket Full of Fun 85
27. A New "Do" 88
28. Ice Skating 91
29. We All Scream for Ice Cream 93
30. Diving In 96
31. Nature Hike 98
32. Paints, Pots, and Plants 101
33. Sharing Our Blessings 104
34. Deck the Halls 107
35. Pets and Pics 109

Contents

36. Creative Cookies 112
 37. Sidewalk Fun 114
 38. Can She Build It?
Yes She Can! 116
 39. Paint Her Room 119
 40. It's a Jungle Out There 122
 41. A Real Page-Turner 124
 42. Bike Ride 127
 43. Video Games 129
 44. Treasure Box 132
 45. Science Lab 134
 46. Playing with a Full
Deck 137
 47. A Blast from the Past 140
 48. Indoor Campout 143
 49. Family Coat of Arms 146
 50. Go Fly a Kite 149
 51. Snow Day 152
 52. Follow the Leader 155
 53. Movie Night 158
 54. Garage Sales 162
 55. Mad Libs 165
 56. Prayer Mail 167
 57. Tower Time 170
 58. It's Beginning to Look a Lot
Like Christmas 172
 59. Your Daughter's World 175
 60. Tell Me a Story 177
 61. When Life Hands You
Lemons . . . 179
 62. Have a Ball 182
 63. Rise and Shine 185
 64. Play with Clay 187
 65. All Dressed Up and
Someplace to Go 190
 66. What Do You Do All
Day? 193
 67. An Apple a Day . . . 196
 68. Around the World in
80 Minutes 199
 69. "Sticking" Together 202
 70. Put Your Heart into It! 205
 71. Count Your Blessings 208
 72. It's Out of This World 211
 73. What's Bugging You? 214
 74. Twenty Questions 217
 75. Dinner and a Show 220
 76. Rock, Paper, Scissors 222
 77. Nutcracker Ballet 225
 78. How I Met Your
Mother 227
 79. A Doggone Great
Date 229
 80. Where in the World? 232
- Extreme Dates**
81. Table for Two 237
 82. Theme Park 240
 83. Camping Trip 243
 84. It's a Capitol Idea 246
 85. Break a Leg 249
 86. Can You Hear Me
Now? 252
 87. Horsing Around 255
 88. State Fair 258
- Resources 265

Introduction

Why a daddy-daughter date book? It all started when I met my wife, Joanna. I remember the restaurants, the flowers, the love notes, and the talking (*all* the talking). She loved it and fell for me since I was such a romantic guy. This was perfect—she married me and I was set!

Well, I believe we men often relax from all that relationship stuff after the “I do” and go back to life as usual. No more flowers, love notes, dinners out—and definitely less talking. I’ve spent my share of nights in bed looking at my wife’s back as she radiated silent misery over being shut out and ignored. Note to self: date my wife!

You may be saying, “Well, duh, Einstein.” But cut me a break. The whole “girl” thing was new to me. I was raised in a home with four boys. We collectively crushed my mom’s attempts to preserve a feminine touch in the house (I remember her weeping as her last collectible plate was smashed by one of us boys during an indoor water fight).

Joanna and I were married for almost two years when we were blessed with our first child, Josh. It was a good thing we had a boy first; God knew I still had a lot to learn about girls

before he could trust me with a daughter. After a few years, he tried a new strategy to teach me about females: full immersion! He has blessed me with three daughters, and now I'm learning more about girls each day than I ever imagined.

Emma, Leah, and Anna have won my heart. They make me want to be the best husband and father I can be. I've spent hours on my knees praying and many more hours scratching my head, thinking, *I don't know if I understand these creatures, but the joy they bring makes it worth the effort to try!*

I found the passion to connect with my daughters, but not the tools. I also discovered that dads I knew felt just like me: they loved their little girls but felt ill-equipped to connect with them on a deeper level, especially in this fast-paced world where girls grow up way too fast.

The pressure is on—I read over and over how significant a dad's relationship with his daughter is to her emotional and spiritual well-being. You're going to be the first important and influential man in your daughter's life. Kevin Leman says in his book *What a Difference a Daddy Makes*:

A woman's relationship with her father, more than any other relationship, is going to affect her relationship with all other males in her life—her bosses, coworkers, subordinates, sons, husbands, brothers, pastors, college professors, and even Hollywood movie stars. (You tell me if a woman chooses Dennis Rodman over Michael Jordan, and I'll give you an accurate picture of her father!) There's not a single relationship that isn't indelibly stamped—for good or for ill—by the man known as Daddy.¹

So many voices in our culture are calling out for girls' affections. A strong relationship with your daughter can direct her heart and mind toward the right influences, and ultimately

1. Kevin Leman, *What a Difference a Daddy Makes* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2000), 5.

toward a relationship with God. Chap and Dee Clark, in their book *Daughters and Dads*, say:

Daughters in today's world need mothers and fathers who are willing to trust God's creative handiwork when it comes to their identity. Society cannot dictate who your daughter is to be, nor is the church called to handle the task. Instead, a daughter needs a few select people in her life who have the conviction and ability to help her become the person God created her to be.²

My hope is this date book will help you do that in some small way.

So many voices surrounding our daughters tell them what they're not: not thin enough, not stylish enough, not smart enough, not athletic enough, not, not, not. A dad can communicate to his daughter who she truly is: a beautiful child of a God who created her intentionally, has plans for her, and loves her with all his heart. This message is conveyed through time spent together, where affirmation, fun experiences, meaningful conversations, and prayers happen.

I don't know about you, but no guy is good enough for any of my daughters. The boy that comes along who is interested in my little girl had better be a respectful, trustworthy, kind, and godly man if he even thinks he's going to have a shot at dating her. That's how I feel, but I had better parent my daughters in a way that models how they deserve to be loved. Then they won't want to settle for less—they'll wait for the young man who is worthy of holding their hearts. By developing a pattern of loving, intentional fathering, you will shape her standard for relationships for a lifetime.

There are two primary challenges when it comes to spending time with our daughters: first, making it happen. Second, making the time meaningful.

2. Chap Clark and Dee Clark, *Daughters and Dads* (Colorado Springs: Nav Press, 1998), 88.

We all struggle with making it happen as we fall victim to the “I’ll do it next week” syndrome. Be intentional with your plans. Choose specific times to spend with your daughter, write them on your calendar, and stick to the plan as best you can. If you need to reschedule due to an unexpected conflict, put a new date on the calendar right away. This will assure your daughter of your commitment to spend time with her.

Dates with your daughter need to be not just entertaining but significant as well. You want to create an environment where you can hear how she’s doing and listen to her as she opens up.

This book is designed to help you with both of those elements. The “Grab” and “Go” sections listed for each date will help you plan your time and make it happen. You’ll get lists of supplies, find out if spending money is needed, and see if it’s an at-home activity or an outing. The “Grow” section of each date helps you connect on a deeper level with each other and with God. You’ll find questions to talk about, thoughts to share, Scriptures to read, and prayers to wrap up your time together. The last eight date ideas are “extreme dates,” which are special activities that require more planning or expense than a typical date. They also allow for a more significant amount of time together.

Another important element to your daddy-daughter dates actually involves your marriage: make sure you commit to dating your wife first. Not only does this keep your marriage relationship in first place, it sets an example for your daughter of what a loving, committed relationship looks like. Her trust in you will grow as she sees you love her mom. As she sees you treat your wife like a queen, she’ll thrive in her role of “princess” even more!

My wife is a key element in the success of my relationships with my girls. That’s one of the reasons I asked if she would write this book with me. (Aside from the fact that she’s a better writer than me too!) She has been supportive as I block out time in our busy schedules to spend with our girls. She has expressed that

my relationship with both her and our children are entwined. She feels loved when I invest in our family, and our daughters feel valued as girls when I honor their mom. Include your wife in setting up a date schedule and planning your outings. She will have creative input and suggestions that can make your time with your daughter even more wonderful.

The dates in this book include a variety of indoor and outdoor, quiet and active, and seasonal and holiday-oriented activities. Some of the suggestions might not be your “thing,” but be brave and try a few anyway. If a date is just not flowing well or you run into obstacles like thunderstorms or car trouble, just drop everything and get some ice cream. (Ice cream is an integral part of both the Teigen family and this book. If you’re lactose intolerant, this may not be the book for you!) Stay flexible and remember that the dates are just tools, not rules. Your daughter won’t care if you are following the date to the letter—she just wants time with you.

I pray for God’s blessing on each dad who uses this book to connect with his daughter. May you find joy in winning her heart!

Rob

Like Rob mentioned in his introduction, I do find that his dates with our girls benefit our whole family. When Rob dates me or any of our kids, he is saying, “You are important. You deserve my time and attention. I’m crazy about you!” We come home from time with him feeling valued and heard as he gives us his undivided attention. My girls carry those feelings into the rest of their lives, where I see them growing in confidence and self-respect.

Rob has made a deep impact on our daughters’ relationships with God as well. They assume their heavenly Father is as gentle and attentive as their earthly father. They expect to be heard when they pray. They believe God is on their side and loves

them as daughters. Rob's love for them is their first taste of the love of God himself, and of course they want to know him more!

It does take some juggling to fit in frequent one-on-one time with each child. I see my role as "date facilitator," making sure our schedules are in sync and the girls are ready to head out the door. Sometimes I'll help out with the prep for the dates—getting cash, tickets, or snacks prepared in advance. I'm happy to help out when I can, since the payoff is worth it!

I'm a wife who is loved very well. It is a thrill for me to see my daughters being cared for so deeply by my husband. When I look to the future, I know my girls will understand what real love looks like and not want to settle for less.

Have an amazing time dating your daughter. I praise God for all he has planned for each of you!

Joanna

10 Tips

for a Successful Daddy-Daughter Date

1. Have fun—leave your cares behind and just focus on your daughter.
2. As much as possible keep that smartphone put away. Don't try to talk to your daughter and text, answer email, or surf the web at the same time.
3. Really listen to your daughter. Don't be too quick to give your opinion or "fix" her issues. Seek to understand her more than to be understood.
4. Don't be afraid to redo or scrap a date that isn't working. As you know, with kids there are moods involved and different personalities. If you've had an awesome time, though, try that date again and again!
5. BE YOU! You don't have to pretend to love shopping at the mall. And she doesn't have to be thrilled about a football game. If the focus is on your time with each other rather than the "entertainment," it's all good.
6. Don't be overly task-oriented. The goal is to connect with your daughter, not get through every detail in the book.
7. You'll get more comfortable with all the material and dates the more you do them.
8. Set a goal to learn something new about your daughter every time you go out together.
9. Before you go out on your dates, pray that God will prepare both your hearts for the conversations you'll have and the memories you'll create.
10. Build anticipation. Let your daughter know ahead of time that you're excited about spending time with her. Let her know it's a big deal to you.



1 Flip a Coin



Grab

Coin

Your daughter's favorite "road music"

Digital timer or egg timer

Car keys

Money



Go

Buckle up in the car with your daughter and give her the coin. Pop in a CD or set your MP3 player to some favorite music. If she asks where you're going, well, you have no idea! Begin driving down your street and ask your daughter to flip the coin. If the coin lands on heads, take the next right turn. If the coin lands on tails, take the next left turn. Set your timer for three minutes. When the timer goes off, have your daughter flip the coin again. If it lands on heads, take another right turn; tails mean another left. Repeat this every three minutes for about half an hour.

During your drive time, don't worry if you find yourselves driving in circles—that's part of the fun. Use this time to talk

about her week at school, plans for your next family vacation, or any funny stories you have to share about school or work.

At the end of your half hour of driving, see where you have arrived! Find the nearest place around you to stop for a soda or ice cream.



Life is full of surprises! Sometimes we can't make heads or tails out of what is going on. The Lord is the only one who knows the future, and he usually only shows us a little bit of his plan at a time. Ask your daughter these questions:

- Did it make you feel stressed out when you didn't know where you were going?
- Did you feel relaxed because you knew your dad was in the driver's seat?
- Was it hard to sit back and enjoy the ride instead of just focusing on the destination?
- Have you ever felt worried because you didn't know how a situation would turn out?
- Was it ever hard to make a decision because you didn't know what the outcome would be?

The father of a daughter is nothing but a high-class hostage. A father turns a stony face to his sons, berates them, shakes his antlers, paws the ground, snorts, runs them off into the underbrush, but when his daughter puts her arm over his shoulder and says, "Daddy, I need to ask you something," he is a pat of butter in a hot frying pan.

Garrison Keillor

Share with your daughter about a time when you were worried about the future or had a tough choice to make. Describe how God took care of you in that situation or helped you with that decision. It can be a challenge to trust our heavenly Father with the future. Read and talk about these verses together:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths. (Prov. 3:5-6 ESV)

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long (Ps. 25:4-5 ESV).



Dear Father,

We thank you for being in the driver's seat of our lives. You are all-knowing and all-powerful, so we know you can handle anything that comes our way. Please teach us to trust you when hard things happen or we don't know what to do. Help us to be patient when we're anxious to know the future. Show us how to follow you every day. Amen!