

FATHER OF THE YEAR

By

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Cast

First Judge
Second Judge
Third Judge
Scribe
Cain
Isaac
Joseph
Judah
Solomon
Jesus

Props

Podium
Small table
Large table
9 chairs
Balloons
Streamers
God Crown -- marked "Father of the Year"
Small blackboard
Chalk
Multi-colored coat
3 "Judge" name tags
***Large cake**
****Applause meter**

*Large cake is optional. If used solely for decoration, a small cake will do.
However, it is nice to have a large cake that can be shared with the audience after the skit is concluded.

**One can design a simple applause meter that can be held in one hand with a dial that, when turned with the other hand, moves an arrow indicating the amount of applause.

Father of the Year

Setting: **On left:** Chairman of nominating committee is standing at podium—scribe with chalk and blackboard is standing next to Chairman. **On right:** Three judges are seated at small table. **In center:** Cain, Isaac, Joseph, Judah, and Solomon are seated at large table. A cake is on the table and there is one empty chair—to be used by Jesus later. The entire area is festively decorated with balloons and streamers.

Chairman: Welcome to our Father's Day celebration! Several people have indicated their desire to nominate their father as a candidate for the *Father of the Year*. In a few moments we will give each of them an opportunity to convince our three judges that their dad is the most worthy candidate. Of course, the judges will try to find out if there are any dark secrets or family skeletons that would disqualify them for the title. The winner, in addition to the honor of being selected as *Father of the Year*, will receive a gold crown. The competition is going to be tough and I'm glad I'm not one of the judges. Enough said—let's get started!

Cain: (*Stands*) My name is Cain. I want to nominate my dad.

First Judge: I don't believe I know you. Are you from around here?

Cain: Not any more! I used to live just down the road, but I've moved around a lot. In fact, this is the first time I've been home in years. My father is Adam!

Second Judge: Oh, you're Adam's boy. Why have you been moving around so much? Are you in trouble with law? On the run?

Cain: Look, my past shouldn't have anything to do with it! My father's the one who is being nominated—not me! I think he's the perfect choice for *Father of the Year*.

(*Scribe writes "Adam" on blackboard*)

Third Judge: Hey, I remember you! (*Slight pause*) You're the boy who murdered his brother! If my memory is correct his name was Abel! After what you did to your brother, you sure have a lot of nerve to show your face around here. No wonder you haven't been around! Why did you come back?

Cain: (*Defensively*) Look, you three may be judges—but you're not criminal judges. I'm not on trial! I came back home to see my family. Like I said, I'm not the candidate for this award, my father is! He's the one we should be talking about, not me! He's a good man! They don't come any better!

Second Judge: How can you call him good? He's responsible for the death of all mankind. Because of what he did, I now have to make monthly payments for a burial plot! I say, like father—like son!

Cain: Maybe he made a few mistakes, but he's an honest, dependable man—above temptation.

First Judge: Yeah . . . until someone offers him an apple!

Cain: Hey, that wasn't his fault—it was mom's! When she wants to be, she can be very persuasive. Don't try to tell me that you've never been tempted by a woman!

*(First Judge and Second Judge nervously look at one another.
First Judge looks down as if guilty. Second Judge clears throat)*

Third Judge: Cain, is your father a good provider?

Cain: The best! He works from morning to night to make sure his family has what they need.

First Judge: Ever since they ate the apple, we all have to work hard! In the Garden of Eden man never had to worry about food and clothing—God provided everything! Now, it's blood, sweat, and tears for all of us.

Cain: True, but you're forgetting something!

Second Judge: Oh, what's that?

Cain: My dad was the first father. Without him, none of us would be here. (*Sits down*)

Chairman: Who else is being nominated?

Isaac: (*Stands*) I'd like to nominate my father—Abraham!

(Scribe writes "Abraham" on blackboard)

Chairman: Isaac has nominated his father. Tell us Isaac, why you think he should be Father of the Year?

Isaac: I can truly say that he is the greatest dad in the world! He's God-fearing, loving, courageous—a real leader in every way. He always sets a perfect example for me to learn from and follow.

(Judges whisper among themselves)

First Judge: Isaac, I hate to bring this up but, *(Slight pause)* well . . . a few years ago there were rumors about your dad's mind—that he was acting very strange.

Isaac: What are you talking about?

Third Judge: We know that it's a delicate issue and that he was under a great deal of pressure because of his responsibilities. We're not blaming him. After all, anyone can break under a lot of pressure and stress.

Isaac: So . . . quit beating around the bush—get to the point!

Second Judge: I believe my fellow judge is referring to the time your dad took you off into the wilderness—and well, *(Slight pause)* you know—tried to kill you!

Isaac: Are you talking about Moriah?

Second Judge: Yes, I believe that was the name of the place.

Isaac: You're wrong! He didn't try to kill me! He wasn't crazy when he put me on the altar. And, he didn't do it because he didn't love me—he did love me—very much! But, he loved God more! He put me on the altar because God was testing him—and he passed the test!

First Judge: Why didn't he sacrifice you if that is what God wanted?

Isaac: He would have, but God stopped him and gave him a ram to sacrifice instead.

Third Judge: Does he still honor God more than his family?

Isaac: Yes sir, he does, but he doesn't neglect us either.

First Judge: Oh! Is that so? I heard that he neglected your stepbrother! I understand that he doesn't even acknowledge Ishmael as being his firstborn son! Is that right?

Second Judge: (Looks at First Judge) I think I know why! (*Slight pause*) Ishmael is the son of his wife's handmaid.

Isaac: Wrong! Dad loves Ishmael very much. Whenever you see them together, their love for one another is obvious. God made a covenant with dad and told him that he would have a son. At the time, Sarah, my mom, was ninety and had some doubts; however, God, as always, was true to His word, and I was born. That makes me, not Ishmael, the firstborn of the promised seed.

Third Judge: It sounds to me like you're trying to justify your father's bizarre behavior and putting the blame on God by saying it was His plan. What justification do you give for the time he saved himself by telling the Egyptians that your mom was his sister?

Isaac: It's true, he did do that! But he's only human! He feared the Pharaoh! Surely, that shouldn't cancel out his faithfulness to God! Remember, the Lord, Himself, called my dad "The Father of Nations." How can you possibly go against the Lord's recommendation? (*Isaac sits down*)

Chairman: Are there any other nominations?

Joseph: (*Stands*) Yes! I'd like to nominate my father!

Chairman: Okay Joseph, we'll enter his name. (*Turns to scribe*) Write Jacob's name on the board.

(Scribe writes "Jacob" on blackboard)

Joseph: Hold on, sir! His name is Israel—not Jacob—that's the name God gave him after he fought and won an all-night battle with an angel.

Chairman: Well, you might call him Israel, but he'll always be Jacob to me!

*(Scribe writes "Israel" in front of "Jacob" on blackboard
so name reads "Israel-Jacob")*

Joseph: I'm sure he won't mind if you call him Jacob—he has an excellent reputation!

First Judge: (*Interrupts*) We know all about his reputation—tell us what you have to say about him as a father.

Joseph: With all due respect to those who have already been nominated—none of them even comes close to my dad! He's truly unique—one of a kind—there has never been another like him in the history of mankind—nor will there ever be!

Second Judge: Why do you say that?

Joseph: Well . . . he's very generous—almost to a fault! Just look at this beautiful coat I'm wearing—he gave it to me—and it wasn't even my birthday! I bet you could travel all over the world and not find another jacket like this one.

Second Judge: (*Smiles and nods head in agreement*) I certainly can believe that! I see that your brother, Judah, is also here today. Judah, will you share something about your dad with us?

Judah: (*Stands*) I . . . I really don't know what to say. (*Slight pause*) Dad—well, he's okay—but, when it comes to Benjamin and Joseph, he does have a blind spot.

Third Judge: I don't understand!

Judah: I'll try and explain. Rachel was dad's favorite wife—he loved her with all his heart. After her death, her children—Benjamin and Joseph—became dad's life—his pets!

Joseph: (*Upset*) Judah! How can you say that? You're just jealous! If you didn't spend so much time goofing off, dad wouldn't get upset with you and lose his temper.

Judah: (*Upset*) Jealous! Who's jealous! Not me! (*Slight pause*) Joseph, you're just a dreamer who will never amount to anything. If I could I'd get rid of you—sell you to the Egyptians.

Joseph: You'd have to catch me first!

Judah: If I did catch you, no one would ever see you again! I'd throw you into a pit so deep you'd never get out!

Third Judge: Okay you two, cut out the sibling rivalry! That's enough! No more fighting! (*Slight pause*) Judah, is there anything else you want to say?

Judah: Just one more thing! I do love my father; however, he thinks he's so perfect—acts that way too. But he isn't! Someone who is perfect wouldn't have done what he did to Uncle Isaac!

Second Judge: What did he do?

Judah: He stole his brother's birthright! (*Judah sits down*)

(*The judges gasp and look at each other in shock and disbelief*)

Joseph: (Angry) Judah! That's enough! Stop it right now! That happened before dad knew the Lord. God has forgiven him and so has Uncle Isaac. You should too! With a son like you—dad doesn't need any enemies!

First Judge: Joseph, we're giving you the last word. Do you have anything else to say?

Joseph: Yes! I do! Before you vote, I want you to consider that, because of my father, the entire earth has been blessed. If you search your hearts—you will choose my dad as the *Father of the Year*. (*Joseph sits down*)

Chairman: Are there any more nominations?

Solomon: (Stands) Hi! My name is Solomon! I'd like to enter my father's name as a candidate for *Father of the Year*. (*Points to blackboard*) All the names submitted so far are good men; however, none of them is a perfect father. Only my dad is perfect enough to deserve the title.

First Judge: You're Solomon, King David's son, right?

Solomon: Yes! Of course I am! Everyone knows that my dad captured the stronghold of Zion and is responsible for Israel's independence! He's a great leader—all of us owe a great deal to him for his leadership.

(*Scribe writes "David" on blackboard*)

Third Judge: Solomon, this isn't a political election—we're not here to elect a king! All we want to know is why you think he should be the *Father of the Year*!

Solomon: Well, to start with, he's the kind of father that every child should have.

Second Judge: Wasn't your mother married once before?

Solomon: (*Frowns*) Yes, she was married to Uriah, a brave soldier who died in battle.

Second Judge: We know! Your father wanted him dead so he sent him to the front lines to be killed. With Uriah dead, he could marry your mother who was pregnant with his child. As it turned out, the baby died.

Solomon: My parents told me all about it. They also told me how God forgave them for it. The Lord has always had a special place in his heart—a special love—for my dad. Just look at how He has blessed him with success and many children.

Second Judge: Yeah! Children that have given him a lot of trouble!

Solomon: True! However, our family is not alone—every family has its problems. When you make your decision, I want you to remember that God has so much faith in my father that He has told him that one of his descendents will always rule. (*With emphasis*) A fantastic king has to be a fantastic father! (*Sits down*)

Chairman: Are there any other nominations? (*Pause*) Are there any other nominations? (*Pause*) If there are no further nominations, the judges will now vote for the candidates.

*(Jesus, who is seated in the audience,
stands and walks slowly toward Chairman)*

Jesus: Hold on a minute!

Chairman: Who are you? What do you want?

Jesus: I am Jesus! I have come so that all people may know how much My Father loves them. I want to nominate Him for *Father of the Year*!

Scribe: What is His name?

Jesus: *I Am who I Am!*

Chairman: Sir! I don't think you understand. The scribe was asking for Your Father's name, not Yours.

Jesus: Some call Him, *Jehovah*—others call Him *Yahweh* or *Lord-God*. *I Am who I Am* is the name He used when Moses asked Him who He was. I call Him *Abbah . . . Father!*

*(Scribe writes Jehovah, Yahweh, Lord-God,
I Am who I Am, Abbah, and Father on the blackboard)*

First Judge: I don't recognize You! Are we supposed to know who Your Father is?

Jesus: Many fail to recognize Me! *(Slight pause)* If you don't know who I am, then you don't know My Father either, for He and I are one!

Chairman: I . . . I don't understand! You're talking in riddles!

Jesus: I've been accused of that before!

Chairman: *(Impatient)* Let's get on with this! Why do You think Your Father should be the *Father of the Year*?

Jesus: Because He is perfection and cannot tolerate sin. *(Walks over and stands in front of Cain)* Cain, My Father is a Spiritual Being, and, unlike your father, Adam, He will never die. He is the *Alpha and the Omega*—the *Beginning and the End*.

(Scribe writes Alpha, Omega, Beginning, and End on blackboard)

Jesus: *(Walks over and stands in front of Isaac)* Isaac, your father is a great man who is obedient to God. He trusted God so much that he was willing to do the unthinkable—sacrifice you—his son. My Father, too, because of His great love for man, was willing to sacrifice His Son—Me! However, unlike with your father, He allowed My sacrifice to take place.

Jesus: *(Walks over and stands in front of Joseph and Judah)* Joseph and Judah, your father is indeed a loving and generous man who loves his children. All of My Father's children are also important to Him. He even knows the number of hairs they have on their heads. He is generous, patient, and forgives all who ask.

Jesus: *(Walks over and stands in front of Solomon)* Solomon, your father and My Father are very close. In fact, ever since My Father appointed him king, the kingdom has been flourishing. However, My Father's Kingdom—which is in Heaven—is far greater than the one given to your father. My Father's kingdom is everlasting—your father's

is only temporary. In My Father's Kingdom there is no sin, no pain, no sickness, no death—only love, peace, happiness, and total fulfillment.

Jesus: (*Walks over and stands in front of the three judges*) My Father is creative—He created the heavens and the earth. (*Slight pause*) He is powerful—He controls the universe. (*Slight pause*) He is loving—He found a way to make all creation totally acceptable and perfect to Him. (*Slight pause*) He is the perfect provider—He fills every need.

Jesus: (*Walks over to empty chair, turns and faces audience*) My brothers and sisters, I have wonderful news for you—(*Raises voice*)—My Father is also your Father! (*Sits down*)

Chairman: Are there any other nominations? (*Slight pause*) Are there any other nominations? (*Slight pause*) As there are no further nominations, the three judges will now vote to determine who will be elected *Father of the Year*.

*(Three judges put their heads together and whisper.
They then motion for the chairman to join them.
Chairman joins them and they have brief conference.
Chairman returns to podium)*

Chairman: (*Faces audience*) The judges have decided that they want you to join with them in voting for the *Father of the Year*. That means we will have to use our applause meter to determine the winner. As I read the names, please applaud for the candidate of your choice.

Chairman: (*Walks over and stands in front of Cain*) Let's hear it for candidate number one—ADAM! (*Hands on applause meter barely move*)

Chairman: (*Walks over and stands in front of Isaac*) How about candidate number two—ABRAHAM? (*Hands on applause meter barely move*)

Chairman: (*Walks over and stands in front of Joseph and Judah*) Who wants to vote for candidate number three—JACOB also known as ISRAEL? (*Hands on applause meter barely move*)

Chairman: (*Walks over and stands in front of Solomon*) Who thinks candidate four—King David—should be crowned? (*Hands on applause meter barely move*)

Chairman: (*Walks over and stands in front of Jesus*) Who believes that candidate number five—*Our Father, Abba Father*—also known

as—*Lord-God, Jehovah, Yahweh, I am who I Am*, the *Alpha* and the *Omega*, and the *Beginning* and the *End*— should be our winner?
(Hands on applause meter register at highest level)

Chairman: There's no doubt about it—the vote is overwhelming—candidate number five is our Father of the Year! In Him, we have found the perfect Father.

(The three judges stand and, carrying the crown, walk over to Jesus)

First Judge: Where is Your Father—how do we find Him?

Jesus: You can only go to My Father through Me!

Second Judge: I don't understand!

Jesus: As I told you—My Father and I are one. He who sees Me also sees My Father.

Third Judge: *(Falls to his knees and excitedly says)* I know You—I know who You are! You're the Messiah!

Jesus: Surely My Father has blessed you, for I have not told you this.

Second Judge: Now I understand! *(Places crown on Jesus' head—falls to his knees)*

*(All on stage except chairman kneel at Jesus' feet.
Put spotlight on Jesus and dim all other lights except light at podium)*

Chairman: *(Facing audience)* Won't you please join with the cast in honoring our Heavenly Father by standing and taking the hand of the person next to you. Reach across the aisles and take that person's hand.

(All (Audience and cast) stand and join hands)

Jesus: One of My disciples once asked Me how to pray to My Father. I am sure that you are all familiar with My reply to him. Will you now join with Me in praying the Lord's prayer.

(Jesus raises his hands and leads the audience in saying the Lord's Prayer!)