



*The Rock is a Youth  
Ministry of Ascension  
Lutheran Church*

## **American Father**

***Based on Psalms 34:7; 50:15; 119:11***

*Announcer 1: David*  
*Announcer 2: David*  
*Jan Brady: Nicole*  
*Opie Taylor: Michael*  
*Buffy Davis: Allee (Doll)*  
*Ricky Ricardo: Austin (Conga, Blazer)*  
*Howard Cunningham: Toby(Sweater)*  
*Ben Cartwright: Eric (Hat, Vest)*  
*Ward Cleaver: Matt (Coat)*

*Setting: The stage is set in a game show format similar to "The Dating Game" with a couple announcers. The object is to crown the greatest American Father from a bunch of contestants.*

**Announcer 1:** Welcome to the pilot episode of the latest game show to sweep the country: American Father. We've combined the format of The Dating Game and American Idol, and enlisted a panel of expert kids to help us select the best father in the country.

**Announcer 2:** Before we bring out our Fathers, let's introduce our panel of expert judges. Joining us from Los Angeles is Jan Brady. (*Jan enters.*) Jan is a middle child who specializes in never being quite as good as her older sister in anything. Welcome to American Father, Jan! Tell us why you're here.

**Jan:** Marsha, Marsha, Marsha. It's always Marsha!

***June 18, 2006***

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Announcer 1: Next, we have little Opie Taylor from Mayberry, North Carolina. (*Opie enters.*) What brings you here, Opie?

Opie: Well, I was gonna ride my bike, but Barney offered to give me a ride in the squad car.

Announcer 2: Finally, we have Buffy Davis from New York. (*Buffy enters.*) A twin, Buffy lives with her brother Jody and sister Sissy with Uncle Bill and Mr. French. Welcome to American Father, Buffy.

Buffy: I'd like you to meet Mrs. Beasley. She always helps me make my decisions.

Announcer 1: And now, our Fathers. Father Number One is a drummer and bandleader who hails from Havana, Cuba, but resides in New York City. He has one little guy at home. Say hello to Ricky Ricardo.

Ricky: (*Hits conga. Singing.*) "Babaloo". Lucy...I'm home! Hey there, Little Ricky, it's Daddy on the T.V. Hey Fred and Ethyl!

Announcer 2: Father Number Two runs a hardware store in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He has three children: Chuck the basketball player, Richie the Journalist, and Joanie the little Chipmunk.

Announcer 2: Please say hello to Howard Cunningham.

Howard: Hi Marion, Chuck, Richie, and Joanie. Remember folks, it's not too late to buy that special man in the family a Father's Day gift at Cunningham Hardware.

Announcer 1: Father Number Three comes to us from Carson City, Nevada, and has three sons: Adam, Hoss, and Little Joe. Let's give a big 'ol howdy to Ben Cartwright.

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- Ben: Adam, make sure you let the cattle out. Oh, and tell Hop Sing I won't make it home for dinner tonight.
- Announcer 2: Finally, we have Father Number Four, a Father of two boys, Wallace and Theodore. Let's give a big welcome to Ward Cleaver.
- Ward: June, Wally, Beaver, I'll be home just as soon as I can. Oh, and call Fred Rutherford and tell him I'll be late to work Monday.
- Announcer 1: Let's start with panelist Jan Brady.
- Jan: Father Number One. I wanted to try out for the cheer squad, you know, because Marsha always made the cheer squad, you know, and everyone likes Marsha, you know, and I have to be just like Marsha, only better, because...
- Ricky: Do you have a question for me?
- Jan: Like if you were my Dad, what would you, like, have me do?
- Ricky: That reminds me of the time Lucy wanted to be a part of the act down at the club.
- Jan: And you encouraged her to audition and gave her lots of moral support?
- Ricky: Yeah, something like that.
- Announcer 2: Times up. Opie, your turn.
- Opie: Father Number 3, I have an allowance of 25 cents a week, and I'd like my Dad to raise my allowance to 50 cents. What do you think?
- Ben: Well, do you promise to brand twice as many cattle this week as you did last week?

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Opie: Cattle? We don't have cattle. We fish.

Ben: Nonsense, you can't brand a fish.

Announcer 1: Times up. Buffy, your turn.

Buffy: Father Number Four, Mrs. Beasley wants to know if you'd like join us for a tea party after I get back from my Brownie meeting.

Ward: Well, a...you see I only have boys. While the Beaver did get stuck in a giant coffee cup in one episode, perhaps you'd be better off directing that question to Howard. He's a member of the Leopard lodge and had a little chipmunk that was a Brownie or something...

Howard: What are you talking about? You had a Beaver for a son. I had a daughter—Joanie--that was a Little Chipmunk. And yes, Muffy, I'm sure Mrs. Cunningham would be delighted to come to your tea party.

Buffy: That's Buffy, not Muffy, but Mrs. Beasley thinks that we need a man to come to the tea party & Mr. French is busy.

Announcer 2: Times up. Back to you, Jan.

Jan: Father Number 4, so you have two boys. Would one of them be available to attend the Fourth of July Jubilee dance with me? Marsha has had a date lined up since Christmas.

Ward: Well, Jan, that reminds of a story of when I was boy. You see I had an older brother, Ozzie, who always seemed to be a step or two ahead of me in everything. He was a star football player, I sat on the bench. He was admired by all the girls, and I always struggled to find a date. But then June came

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along, and well, here I am today, a successful executive.

Jan: And the point is?

Ward: Oh...the point...oh yeah, well, Wally's going to the dance with your sister, but I believe young Theodore is available. We'll make sure he takes a bath and shines his shoes.

Announcer 1: Your question, Opie.

Opie: Father Number 2, you have two sons, correct?

Howard: Yes, in fact you bear a remarkable resemblance to my younger son, Richie.

Opie: Well, if Richie, for instance, told you he wanted to grow up and be a big-time movie director, what advice would you give him?

Howard: Movies? What with the advent of television, there's no future in the big screen. No, take my advice and stay in the small mom and pop hardware business. That's where the money's gonna be.

Announcer 2: Looks like we have time for one more question. Buffy?

Buffy: Father Number 3, Mrs. Beasley is afraid of the dark. What do you do when you are afraid of something?

Ben: Hmm. That's a good question. You know a lot of people think I don't have any fears. I have a big ranch, lots of cattle, the respect of friends and neighbors, three boys who help me cope with cattle rustlers, bandits, or any other trials that come my way. But you know something. You know who I go turn to first when I feel afraid?

Buffy: Your son, Hoss? He's pretty big?

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- Ben: Yeah, Hoss is big, but I go to someone bigger when I'm afraid. I go to my father. God, my heavenly father. In Psalm 34:7, it says "The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them." You see, Buffy, God, our father protects us.
- Howard: You know, Buffy, Ben's right. When you're afraid...
- Buffy: That's Mrs. Beasley. She's the one that is afraid of the dark. Not me.
- Howard: Oh, excuse me, when Mrs. Beasley is afraid, you just remind her that we have a father in heaven. One of the things I like about being a hardware man is that people come to me when they need help. Like a local hardware man, God is right there to help you fix all the broken things in your life.
- Ricky: And when Lucy gets me in all kinds of crazy trouble every week, you know who I've learned I can go to in prayer? My heavenly father. In Psalm 50:15, God says "and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."
- Ward: Or when the Beaver gets into all kinds of trouble, and comes to me for advice, I try to give him the best advice I can. But the best advice always comes from God. That's why you and Mrs. Beasley should read God's word every day. In Psalm 119:11, the writer tells God "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
- Ricky: The man with the funny accent is right. God uses his word to give us the best fatherly advice.
- Announcer 1: *(Buzzer.)* Looks like time is up, so we'll call upon our panelists to vote for the best American Father. Cast your votes now. Do we have a winner?

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Announcer 2:       And the winner is...hmm...this is odd...but it's unanimous. The winner is...God the Father. Join us next week when we bring in Archie Bunker, Ozzie Nelson, Fred Flintstone, and Papa Smurf to pick the next Great American Father.