

Dear Son,

As you finish school, I seem to be revisiting all of my great times with you when you were a child. It was truly awesome that I got to be your dad and watch you grow up- to see you stand on your own two feet for the first time and look around like you were frozen with a surprise smile and then move on to take your first steps. I loved hearing you play your music. I love that you are so close to your mother and brother.

I loved seeing you have success, and I felt your pain when you were hurting. I will remember that it wasn't always easy for you.

I know I could have done a better job as your father, but I did my best as an imperfect person. My love for you was always unconditional. It was the lesson of how trust is different, that it was earned and easily lost, that made for a few rough patches over the years. No worries- forgiveness is the greatest lesson in life, and I hope you saw me forgive along the way. I know I've asked for forgiveness.

I won't forget how great it was to be your dad when you were young. Sadly for me, you grew up. Things are going to change a bit between us, but I know it's even for the better.

Do you remember how we prayed together each night when you were little? That we worshipped as a family every Sunday? I hope you continue to go to church and remember that Jesus will always be there for you, no matter how things go for you and the ones you love.

I hope I raised you to be a man out there in the real world. I hope you live a life with gratitude, understanding, and generosity and that you love others.

I hope you choose to live your life below your salary and are a saver for the future and that you set priorities with your spending on giving first, and then spend only on the things you really care about, and not on all the stuff our world tells us to buy.

Your grandmother did something special with me when I left home. From that day forward, she treated me not just as an adult but as a man. I made some poor decisions, and she would hear my story and let me walk the path I chose. Now that I'm a father to a fantastic son like you, I learned her secret.

Son, you are now an adult, a man, and I release you. Please know that throughout your adult life, I will always love you unconditionally, and I will pray for you. I will always be there to encourage you and hear your story as you find your own way through life's ups and downs.

I so look forward to watching you not only take your first steps in adulthood but also how you will walk a mighty path in your life.

Love,

Dad