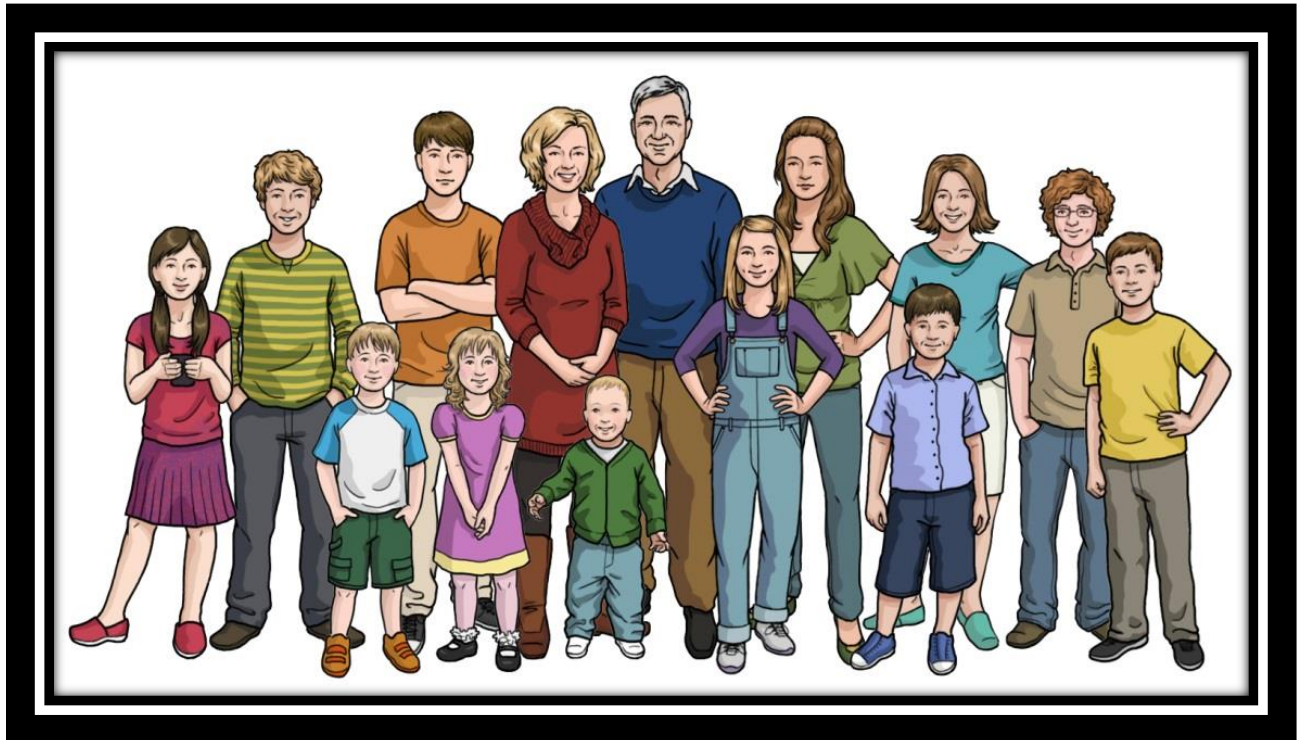


Cheaper by the Dozen

By Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr.



Adapted Text

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Vocabulary: proud, Dad, job, family

Chapter 1

¹Dad was a proud man. He was tall and weighed more than 200 pounds. Dad dressed nicely. He wore shirts with a Herbert Hoover collar. Dad was proud of his business. He was an adviser. He told other businesses how to do their job faster and better and speed up production. This is called job efficiency. Dad and mom had 12 children. They knew that they could take good care of their children.

Dad was proud of his family.

²Dad practiced job efficiency in our home. We knew the best way to wash dishes, brush our teeth, and clean our rooms. Dad would time us doing our jobs. He would watch every move we made. He would count the minutes it took to do the job. Then, he told us the best way to do our jobs. We had to fill out a chart everyday when we finished our jobs. Then, dad checked the charts and gave us his approval. He knew how to keep us on our toes.

Dad was proud of his family.

³Dad had a special way of calling all of us together quickly. It was called the assembly call. Assemble means to get together. Dad would blow a whistle. When we heard the call, we didn't know if it was good news or bad, rags or riches. We just knew we had to hurry. Then, we would all line up in the front of the house. One time, there was a small fire in the driveway. Dad called us together and we put out the fire with buckets of water while spectators watched.

Dad was proud of his family.

⁴Sometimes, dad would use the assembly call to yell at us when we did something bad. But, most of the time dad would give us surprises. He would shake our hand and put a chocolate bar or new pencil in it! We told Dad thank you. Then, he would hug us and ruffle our hair.

Dad was proud of his family.

Vocabulary: house, car, sister, brother, joke, loved

Chapter 2

¹One day, dad took our entire household to see our new house. First, he told us that it was an old, broken house. He took us to a house that was falling apart. Our sister, Ernestine, started to cry. She said she didn't want to live in a slum. Dad asked her to be quiet. She knew she was on thin ice. Lill also started to sob. Mother said that it would be all right. She asked dad if this was really the house.

Dad loved to play jokes on us.

²Dad looked in his pocket. "By jingo", he said, "This is not our house. I made a mistake." Then, Dad took us to a Taj Mahal of a house with 14 rooms and a great big yard. We thought that it was another joke. But it was really our new house.

Dad loved to play jokes on us.

³Dad bought a new automobile before we moved. It was our first new car. Dad had a lot of affection for that car, even though he didn't drive it very well. Sometimes he collided with other cars because he drove so fast. Dad tricked us with the car. He told each of us to look at the engine and "find the birdie". When we were close to the engine, dad blew the horn. It was so loud in our ears! Then, he would say, "Did you find the birdie?"

Dad loved to play jokes on us.

⁴One day, the car broke down. It was a hot day. Dad was tired and hot. All of us were tired and upset. Dad looked at the engine. Our little brother, Bill, snuck over to the driver's seat. He honked the horn in Dad's ear! He said, "Did you find the birdie, daddy?" At first, Dad was mad. Then he laughed with us. This became dad's favorite story.

Dad loved to play jokes on us.

Vocabulary: children, cheaper, dozen, clothes

Chapter 3

¹When our house was in disorganized confusion, Dad liked to take us for rides in the car. All of us had to put on big robes called dusters so that our clothes would not get dirty. We lived in a time when the roads were still made of dirt instead of asphalt. Dust would cover our clothes after a long ride. People would stare at our big family in the car. They asked dad how he took care of so many children. Dad joked that the actual cost to feed a big family was less than the cost to feed a small family.

Dad said we were "cheaper by the dozen."

²Sometimes, dad asked if we could pay less money for tickets. The ticket man would look at all 12 of us and let us in for free. He felt sorry for dad, so we were exempt from paying.

Dad said we were "cheaper by the dozen."

³One day, a man saw that we were wearing the same kind of dusters to cover our clothes. He asked dad if we were from an orphanage. An orphanage is a home for children that do not have parents. Children in the orphanage wear the same kind of clothes. Dad almost said yes to play a joke on the man, but mom was mad. Then, dad told the man that we were one big family.

Dad said we were "cheaper by the dozen."

Vocabulary: directions, opposite, fun, lunch

Chapter 4

¹Dad loved to drive, but he did not pay attention to directions from the Automobile Blue Book. The Automobile Blue Book was a book of directions for drivers. Mother would read the directions and dad would go the opposite way. Then we would get lost. Finally, mother would give the baby a bottle. This was Dad's cue to stop for lunch. It was also mother's way of telling dad to read the directions! She had a point. Dad always agreed. There were no arguments.

We had fun with mother and dad.

²On our picnic lunch, dad would find something to teach us. Sometimes, he found an anthill. We would watch the ants. Then, dad would tell us how well the ants worked together.

³Mother would make up a story about the queen of the ants. We all loved to hear her make up stories, it was unanimous. Dad loved her stories, too.

We had fun with mother and dad.

⁴ There were no bathrooms when we went on picnics. We went into the woods when we had to go to the bathroom. Dad took the boys and mom took the girls. Dad called this visiting Mrs. Murphy. So, when dad asked, "Who needs to visit Mrs. Murphy?" we knew what he meant.

We had fun with mother and dad.

⁵On our way home at night, we sang songs. We sang, "She'll be coming 'round the mountain" and "Row, row, row your boat". When we sang, mother would say "Right now is the happiest time in the world." She was as happy as a clam.

We had fun with mother and dad.

Vocabulary: teachers, taught, learn, team, cleaning, cooking, grocery shopping

Chapter 5-6-7

¹Dad started out as a bricklayer. A bricklayer builds walls using bricks. Dad loved to watch how bricklayers did their job. Next, he figured out the best way to do the job. Soon, he was the fastest bricklayer. His bosses gave him better jobs with more money. Then, he became an employer with his own building business. He built factories. He taught people in the factories the best way to do their job.

Mother and dad were good teachers.

²Mother went to college to learn about people. She studied psychology. Mother knew how to help children behave. She knew ways to help workers want to do their jobs well. Mother and dad were a good team. They knew about helping people do their jobs.

Mother and dad were good teachers.

³Mother and dad taught us how to work together. We formed a family committee. A committee is a team of people that helps make good choices. Our committee made choices about domestic chores. Chores are jobs that children do in the house. All of mother and dad's children had chores. We helped with cleaning, cooking, grocery shopping and watching the babies.

Mother and dad were good teachers.

⁴ Mother and dad taught us many academic skills at home. First, dad taught us how to type. Then, he gave us records to learn how to speak French and German. Finally, he taught us how to multiply big numbers without using a calculator. Dad wanted to make films to show off our skills, because we were the apples of his eye. Mother said that showing off would not be good for us, and she had a point.

Mother and dad were good teachers.

⁵Sometimes, dad would visit our schools. The principal and the teachers smiled at him. The other children thought that dad was a great guy. It made us feel embarrassed when dad came to school. He wanted everyone to know that we were smart cookies. The teachers already knew. We had good grades in school.

Mother and dad were good teachers.

Vocabulary: grandparents, aunt, uncle, train, visit

Chapter 8-9

¹Dad joined the army in World War I. He helped workers make guns for the army. The army sent dad to Oklahoma. Mother decided to take us to California to visit her family. We were excited about the trip.

It was fun to visit mother's family.

²We took the train to California. It was a long trip. Mother, Anne and Frank did not feel well. Mother had to cook for us in our cabin. We could not take baths. Finally, mother's brother, Uncle Fred, joined us on the train. He was happy to see us. He knew all of our names and gave us treats.

It was fun to visit mother's family.

³Our grandparents, Grosie and Papa, worried about us. They said we were as quiet as a mouse. One day, we decided not to be quiet. We ran in the sprinkler wearing our new clothes. We went crazy! After that, Grosie and Papa did not worry about us. It was fun to visit mother's family.

⁴Our aunts and uncles loved to take us places. They gave us treats. They played with us. Sometimes, they scolded us. Scolding means to tell us that we did something bad. But after the scolding, they would smile. It was hard to leave California.

It was fun to visit mother's family.

Vocabulary: sick, doctor, operation, measles, tonsils

Chapter 10

¹Dad did not want his children to get sick. He thought that the best way to handle sickness was to pretend not to be sick. He thought being sick was a waste of time.

Dad did not like sickness.

²One time, all of us except our sister, Martha, had the measles. Mother put all of the boys in one bedroom. She put all of the girls in another bedroom. Dad did not like the quiet in the house. He pretended to have the measles to make us laugh. The doctor told dad that it made the town look bad when so many children were sick in one day!

Dad did not like sickness.

³The doctor said that we must get our tonsils out. Dad decided to have the doctor operate in the house. Dad wanted to make a film about our operations. He wanted to study how doctors work. The doctor said that dad should have his tonsils out, too. Dad agreed to have his tonsils out. He wanted to make the film about the operation.

Dad did not like sickness.

⁴Dad had his tonsils out after our operations. He was sick for 2 weeks. Then, the cameraman wrote him a letter. The letter said that the films of the operations did not work. He made a mistake with the camera. He said that he quit dad's business. Dad was mad. The only reason he had his tonsils out was to make the films!

Dad did not like sickness.

Vocabulary: vacation, laugh, lighthouse, cottage, shoe, summer

Chapter 11-12

¹We went to Nantucket, Massachusetts in the summer. Dad bought a cottage and 2 old lighthouse for us to stay in. Dad called it the shoe. He said that it reminded him of the nursery rhyme of the old woman in the shoe with all of her children.

Dad loved to take us on vacation.

²Dad taught all of us how to swim in the ocean. The only person who did not swim was mother. When she went into the water, she sank. Dad did not understand why she could not swim. He said it was against the laws of science to sink in the water. Mother enjoyed watching us in the water.

Dad loved to take us on vacation.

³ One summer, dad wanted to teach us the Morse code. The Morse code is a way to send messages using dots and lines. He wrote the code all over the cottage to help us learn. Other vacationers wanted to see the code and our big family. Dad sold tickets to take them through the cottage as a joke. This made mother angry. Dad said that he was sorry. Then, mother laughed too.

Dad loved to take us on vacation.

⁴ Another summer, dad bought an old sailboat for us to use. He taught us to sail. First, we pretended to sail with the boat still on land. Then, we took it on the water. Dad was the captain and we were his sailors. He loved to yell orders at us. One time, he yelled at us so much that we all jumped into the water and left him alone. Dad pretended to be mad. But he laughed with us.

Dad loved to take us on vacation.

Vocabulary: pretend, big, baby, babies, soda, ice cream

Chapter 13-14-15-16

¹Dad loved to show his family to people. He would whistle for us to line up. Then, he would introduce us to our visitors. Before they left, he would tell mother to bring out the newest baby. He would say, "Here is our latest model."

We had fun in our big family.

² Dad loved to take pictures of the family. He thought he knew how to take pictures with the camera. But, he put too much powder in the camera to make the flash. Usually, it would make such a large noise and big flash that all of the babies would cry. Our family pictures did not look happy. Then, a real photographer would come to the house. He would ask why the babies cried when they saw the flash!

We had fun in our big family.

³ Dad tried to teach us good table manners. Table manners are the manners you use when you are eating. Sometimes, dad would burp at the table. Then, he would say to one of us, "I am not in the mood for an organ recital." This was dad's way of making a joke about the burp. Dad tried to make it look like one of us burped instead of him! Mother would give dad a funny look.

We had fun in our big family.

⁴One time, a young man ate dinner with us. Our little brother, Jackie, burped very loud. Then, Jackie looked at our visitor and said, "I am not in the mood for an organ recital!" Mother was so embarrassed! First, dad was mad. He told Jackie to leave the table. Then, he felt bad. He told Jackie to come back to the table. He told our visitor that Jackie learned the words about the organ recital from him. He said, "I'm sorry." Then, we all laughed.

We had fun in our big family.

⁵Sometimes, dad took us to the movies. He pretended to be mad if we asked to stay for a second show. But, he loved to stay for the second show, too. One night, we did not ask to stay. We pretended to get up and leave the theater. Dad was surprised. He said that we must stay for a second show. Then, we went out for sodas and ice cream.

We had fun in our big family.

⁶On other nights, we put on shows for mother and dad. We acted like they did when they took their big family around town. We pretended to be dad going into a factory. The shows made them laugh. Then, dad pretended to be mad about staying up too late. He told us to go to bed so that he and mother could go out for ice cream and soda. But, he took all of us out for treats.

We had fun in our big family.

Vocabulary: hair, make-up, music, jazz, change

Chapter 17-18

¹Soon, hair styles and clothes began to change. It was hard to keep the rules for the oldest girls. They wanted to have short hair. They wanted to wear shorter skirts. They wanted to wear silk stockings. First, mother and dad said, "no." Then, they changed the rules.

Our family was changing.

² Our older sisters wanted to wear make-up. Dad and mother said that respectable girls did not wear make-up. Dad called wearing make-up "painting." He would not have any painted girls in his house! Dad said that he would send the girls to a convent if they tried to wear make-up, short skirts, or stockings. A convent is a place where girls went to become nuns in the Catholic Church. It was hard for mother and dad to see their girls grow up.

Our family was changing.

³Music was changing, too. Jazz was popular with young people. Dad and mother did not like jazz. But, we played jazz on our record players. Dad would shake his head.

Our family was changing.

⁴Then, our sister, Anne, wanted to go on a date with a boy. Dad said she could go, but he had to come along. Dad said they must ride in his car. Anne was not happy, but she wanted to go out. When dad tried to start his car, the engine would not work. Anne and her date went out without dad. They rode in her date's car. Later, dad went out on other dates with our sisters.

Our family was changing.

⁵ Sometimes, our little brothers played tricks on the boys who came to date their big sisters. They found a poem that one boy wrote to their sister. When the boy came to the house, our little brothers hid in a corner and sang the poem out loud to the boy. The boy was embarrassed and went home.

Our family was changing.

⁶One boy was caught spying on our older sister. He climbed the tree by the house. Then, the younger children formed a circle around the bottom of the tree. They acted as if they were going to burn it down! The boy was scared. They let him get down and go away. Dad was away on a business trip, but he would have been proud of his children!

Our family was changing.

Vocabulary: heart, son, stop, trips

Chapter 19

¹None of us children knew it, but dad had a bad heart. He was thinner. He joked that he could see his feet after 25 years. His hands would shake and his face was pale. Pale means it had no color. He could not play with his sons for very long. Dad tried to act the same, but he was getting older.

Our family changed forever.

²The doctor told dad that he should stop working. He told dad that he would have a heart attack. A heart attack is when the heart stops. Dad said that he would not stop. He said that he was too busy. Mother and dad had more business than they ever had before. Dad was still going on business trips.

Our family changed forever.

³One day, dad walked to the train station to go on a business trip. He called home to tell mother an idea that he had for the business. He had a heart attack when he was on the phone. Dad died that day.

Our family changed forever.

⁴ Mother said that we would have to work together to pay the bills. Her family wanted us to come to California. But mother wanted to carry on dad's business for him. She went on the business trips now. We helped with the chores at home. Mother was sad, but stronger now. We were sad, too. But we knew how to take care of ourselves. Dad had been a good teacher.

Our family changed forever.

The End