

Job 1:1-5 | There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. ² There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. ³ He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. ⁴ His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually.

Job 1:1-5 | Parents as Priests

In our series on the Christian Home this summer we’re looking at the roles parents are given in shaping their children’s lives. And in order to understand these we are looking at the offices which Christ executes as our redeemer. These are the offices of a prophet of a priest and of a king.

Recap: As Prophets in the home, we are meant to tell our children their story. And this most importantly means sharing with our children the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is their story, and to send them out into the world without this story is to send them into the cold without a cloak to cover them. Today we are looking at the priestly function of parents.

Q. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

A. Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

You can’t offer yourself up as a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and reconcile your children to God. But the good news is Jesus already did that. Your function with regards to reconciling your children to God is a prophetic one. You are to teach them the hopelessness of sin and then lead them to the one who can save them and restore them to fellowship with God. Tell them to believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, to confess their sins to God, and embrace his promise of righteousness by faith.

But there is a part of this which Christ does that you can also do. You can intercede on behalf of your children. Here is the summary of this whole sermon. **Pray for your kids.** For our model we are looking at Job. Job is described for us by God as a man “blameless and upright who fears God and turns away from evil.” This incredible praise is marked by one character introduction showing the pattern of Job’s life, the one action shown was his continual intercession for his children. It is as if the scripture is saying, he led his children into worship, what else do you need to know?

1. Job's example

Job 1:4 | His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

We should model our parenting off of the glimpse that we see in Job's example because of the testimony of his blamelessness from God. But likewise we have this beautiful picture of what life for those in his household was like. He had seven sons and three daughters and they all loved to hang out together. How exactly these feasts would go we aren't given much information about. But we see that they loved to show hospitality to one another. Each of the sons would take turns hosting the other siblings. And they would eat and drink together.

This means that each of the houses of Job's sons were producing an abundance which they were able to share, and they desired to share this abundance with their siblings. They made a habit of being together and enjoying one another's company. We are being shown something of incredible glory and wonder, and you ought to know this type of family culture does not just happen. It is a gift of God and evidence of great blessing of the Lord. Jacob's sons didn't do this.

It is a lone detail but it is sufficient to relay how blessed a position it was to grow up in Job's household. If you heard someone say, "I have ten siblings and we all like to get together to summer at each others lake-houses." You'd have a lot of information about what it was like to be in that family. In fact you would probably assume their dad was a senator or something and try to account for how such blessings flowed from him to his children. From this detail we should be wondering how such blessings flowed from Job to his children. Here is Job's example.

Job 1:5 | And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them...

1. Initiates worship: Job would send and consecrate. This means that he would reach out to his children after their time of feasting together and call them to set themselves apart for the upcoming worship of God by offering sacrifices on their behalf. Job initiated the worship of his children. To consecrate means that his children were set apart for worship or for a special work. This is what we ought to desire for our children, that they would be set apart for the worship and work of God.

Job would have sent messengers to each of his children saying their father tells them to prepare their hearts to come and worship with him. Here at the end of your feasts together let your hearts be prepared to be set apart to the service of the Lord the most high. This is what your father cares about the most.

This is especially a word for fathers. You must initiate the worship of your home. This can feel so vulnerable at first because it can feel strange or out of character, especially when you haven't seen this modeled. Or if your children are older and this has never been part of their lives. But your children want direction from you and they want your initiative in the most important things. They want to be told, now we're going to gather together and worship God. I'm going to read, and then we'll pray together and sing this song on Spotify.

Fathers you are the ones to do this. You are commissioned to do this by God for your families. Take this sermon as all the permission you need. God is with you and will bless your labors in this. You will be bad at first, and God will bless you and your family through your efforts.

Job 1:5 | and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all.

2. Job interceded for his children. Look at Job. I was laughing this week about Job because he is literally just a guy in a field. He does not have the scriptures, he does not have the Abrahamic covenant. He just has what you can tell about God when your a dude in a field and he honors God with that. Ancient worshipers like Job had certain ceremonies which were permissible according to the rawness of the time. This would be given particular shape so that the priests would offer sacrifices rightly according to the word of God. Finally it is fulfilled in the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf.

So what does this look like for us? It is the offering of prayers of intercession on behalf of our children. We ought to pray for each of our children. We should intercede for them before God.

Parenting can easily become technique oriented. And all sorts of techniques can be helpful. We should consider our tone, their toys, the shows they are exposed to, the amount of unstructured play they have. We should pay attention to their food, and how much sleep they get. But oftentimes we consider prayer for our children as a last resort. Prayer? Has it really come to that?

It should be the opposite, we should not be praying merely on the back end to seek to recover things that have gotten out of hand. We should pray in the morning! Before it has even gotten out of hand. The foundation of our ministry to our children should be prayer for them.

Job offers sacrifices for his children according to the number of them all. He does not think of his kids as some collective, "the kids." Instead he thinks of each of them before God. He knows them and this shapes his intercession for them.

What should you pray? We get a picture of this in Isaac's prayer for Jacob.

Genesis 28:3-4 | God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. 4 May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!"

Pray that the blessings which God has promised for them might be realized in their lives. Pray for their blessing from the Lord. Pray that they might be fruitful for the Lord in their lives. Pray down the generations for your children. You should look at your children and see generations for the Lord. When Isaac saw his son on the run, he saw generations of promise from the Lord. You should see that when you look at your children.

You should also pray for the details of their lives. Pray in front of them about the things they care about, so that they will know that God cares about all the details of their life. Likewise you should give thanks with them when God answers your prayers for them so that they might learn that God is trustworthy. Remember why you have confidence to pray.

1 Peter 5:7 | casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
Romans 8:26 | Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.
John 16:23-24 | Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Job 1:5 | ...For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus Job did continually."

3. Job cared for his children's hearts. Above all his concern was for the hearts of his children before the Lord. He is not leveling an accusation of sin against his children, but he simply understands what it means to have a fallen nature and how prone we are to sin. Job's posture and his highest concern is that his children might have pure hearts before God and receive the blessing of God's forgiveness. Job is a great priest for his children because he understands them and he knows the promises of God. Nobody is more suited to pray for and intercede for your children than you are. Consider your high priest.

Hebrews 4:15-16 | For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.