

Not Yours Week 3

If *every good and perfect gift comes from above* (James 1:17), then our children are one of those gifts — not possessions, but gifts entrusted to us by God.

1. Children Are a Heritage and a Gift - *Psalm 127:3* – “Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from Him.”

- Heritage means *property passed down* — an inheritance → Something you didn’t work for but were gifted.
- Our children remind us of the love of our Heavenly Father. “Offspring” = fruit. → Fruit must be cultivated, watered, pruned, and protected.

If children are fruit, then they should become a source of spiritual life-giving nourishment to others.

2. The Seed Within the Fruit - *Luke 8:11* – “The seed is the Word of God.”

- Every fruit carries seeds—potential for new life and reproduction.
- When we plant God’s Word in our children’s hearts, they carry it with them into the world.
- God’s plan is for the Word to multiply through generation

Am I planting God’s Word deeply enough in my child’s heart that it will grow and reproduce faith?

3. Children Are a Reward

- God allows us to be part of His plan of multiplication — it’s a reward, not something we earn.
- We receive this gift as part of God’s design, not our own effort or merit.

Even those who didn’t grow up following Christ can still align their lives with God’s design today.

4. Pitfalls for Parents

When we forget that our children belong to God, we can fall into these traps:

- A. Finding Our Identity in Our Children
 - Defining worth by their achievements or behavior.
Treating them as trophies instead of image-bearers of God → Our job is to help them see who they are in Christ, not who we want them to be.
- A. Controlling vs. Shepherding
 - Control manages every detail; shepherding trusts God’s plan.
We guide, correct, and protect — but God is the author of their story.
- B. Making Their Happiness the Ultimate Goal
 - Happiness is not the same as holiness.
 - Don’t prioritize comfort over character.
 - “I love you, but I love God more.” → Parents for eternity, not just for today.

5. How to Steward the Gift of Children - If children are fruit, then parents are gardeners.

- A. Cultivate the Soil - *Ephesians 6:4 (NIRV)* – “Fathers, don’t make your children angry. Instead, instruct them and teach them the ways of the Lord as you raise them.”

How to cultivate:

Model humility and repentance – Let your kids see you apologize.
Read God’s Word together.
Show unconditional love – softens the heart.
Create an atmosphere of worship in your home.
Surround them with godly influences beyond you.

- B. Prune and Remove Weeds - *John 15:2* – “Every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

Weeds = sin and lies that choke out truth.

How to prune:

Protect their influences (media, friends, activities).
Address sin early, often, and softly.
Teach boundaries – limits are protection, not punishment.

- C. Water and Provide Light

- Model personal devotion – let them see you read, pray, and serve.
- Talk openly about God’s blessings and His activity in daily life.

6. For Parents of Adult Children - It's not too late

- Model repentance, not regret.
- Be honest about what you've learned.
- Let your changed life speak louder than your words.
- God can still use you to plant seeds and nurture faith in your grown children.

NOVEMBER 2025

CUMBERLAND FELLOWSHIP

CFLife.Church

Help Needed
Thanksgiving

LUNCH AT THE STOREHOUSE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH

*Volunteers Needed

*Turkeys and Hams Needed

*Side Dishes and Desserts Needed

*Register on the App

CF Storehouse

SPECIAL NEEDS CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

WE ARE COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STOCKINGS:

BODY WASH * SOCKS * CANDY BARS * CHAP STICK

COLORING BOOKS * COLORING PENCILS

FLASH LIGHTS * FIDGET TOYS * \$20 FOOD GIFT CARDS

ITEMS NEEDED BY DECEMBER 7TH

LOVE CROSSVILLE

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS
*Cumberland County
Teacher Appreciation*

DECEMBER 2ND-17TH



We need your help to love on
teachers in Cumberland County!

🎁 Daily Ideas 🎁

Partner with multiple
small groups to sponsor
all 12 days at one school
OR pick an item to
donate toward a school

Treat Bags
School Supplies
Popcorn
Candy
Hot Cocoa Bar
Chips
Cookie Decorating
Lunch
Gift Cards

Coming up:

- Alaska Mission Trip
11/13-11/22
- Partners Business Mtg
11/17 @ 5pm
(Sanctuary)
- Baptism Sunday 11/30

Sign up on the CFLife App

- To Serve
- Submit prayer
requests
- Join a small group

TAKE A CLASS

- New Believer's Class
- Next Steps Class
- My Story Training



LOVE GROW GO