

Main Idea: Parents are primary because God deeply values children.

Series

This is the 7th in a series on relationships, marriage, and family. Today we turn our sights on families and specifically children. How does God view your child? Parents, you are the primary influence on your children. What are they learning from you during your time together? Life's most important lessons aren't learned in the classroom.

Your Kid in God's Eyes – Psalm 127

Perhaps the reason childrearing overwhelms so many parents is because we have no clear understanding from God's viewpoint as to the value He places upon our children. Because they are so valuable in His sight, He doesn't trust the job to just anyone. He's assigned the task to parents.

Children are a Heritage v.3a. "...heritage from the Lord." The word "heritage" = *property or possession*. **Reality check.....Your Kids are God's property.** He has entrusted them to you. They are truly a gift from God. Sit down with your child this week and write a "thank-you" note to God. Tell Him in writing how much you appreciate His gift. Put the note in your child's "secret place," or her Bible, or maybe in her nightstand.

Children are a Reward v.3b. "...children a reward from Him." Ideally, children are seen of God as the reward to Mom and Dad for their commitment to God as the "builder of their home." Is it any wonder our homes are suffering when so little regard is given to God's plan for our homes? Perhaps a departure from God's plan for marriage and the home is costing us more than we are willing to pay. Our commitment to co-habitation before marriage and divorce after marriage may be winning out over our commitment to God's authority in our lives.

Children are like Arrows vv.4-5. "...Like arrows in the hands of a warrior..." v.4. In this culture, "arrows" were the picture of strength and security. Children should provide strength and security to their parents. This is expected of God. Verses 4-5 paint a scene of support. In biblical times the arrow was a weapon of war and disputes were settled before a judge at the city gate. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior in battle; and character witnesses in a trial, children are supposed to be our allies.

Family Night Big Idea

This is an opportunity to let you children know how loved and appreciated they are to you. As you read the passage together, be sure to explain that God loves children so much He gave them to parents to care for them.

Discussion Starter – Read Psalm 127

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "Who is supposed to build our house?" Ask, "Who should be the foundation of our home?" Ask, "According to v.3, what are children?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "What does v.1 mean?" Ask, "Note v.2. What are some things we do 'in vain' that won't matter very much years from now?" Ask, "Read v.5 again. How does our family support one another?"

Prayer

"Father, thank You for our family. Our children are very special to us and we love them very much. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)
Velocity: Meet at the church this Wednesday, March 22.
Gravity: TODAY in the Community Room!

Today's Songs
God so Loved.....We the Kingdom
Gratitude.....Brandon Lake
Holy is the Lord.....Chris Tomlin

Building Update
Big News!! Praise God! All we owe is \$172,000 to be debt free. This is fantastic! Please prayerfully consider your gift to the Building Fund.

Foundations Golf Tournament
April 28th at Willow Lake in Metter. Need players and sponsors. Check out the flyer in the Lobby.

Kenya Mission Trip
Mission trip to Kenya is July 6-16. There is a meeting today after the 11:00 service in the Lobby for anyone who would like to know more.

Night of Worship
Our band will have a concert on April 7th at 6:30pm. All donations to benefit "Priceless", a nonprofit for the sanctity of all human life.