

Summary

In this Father's Day sermon drawn from Psalm 127, Pastor Chris presents a powerful message about the God-given role of fathers using the imagery of archers and arrows. He reminds the congregation that children are like arrows entrusted to fathers who serve as archers, and that the family is God's design. The culture may mock and undermine fatherhood, but God has not changed His mind about the family. Fathers are called to be spiritually strong, to lead their homes with prayer and the Word of God, and to aim their children toward a life that honors Jesus Christ. The sermon is organized around three key truths: the archer must be strong, the arrows must be straight, and the aim must be sure. Fathers are challenged to stop being passive and to rise up as the spiritual leaders God has called them to be. Practical guidance is offered on shaping children through early instruction, building godly character, setting boundaries, assigning responsibilities, creating a joyful home, and covering the family in consistent prayer. The ultimate goal is not to raise successful professionals but to raise men and women who love Jesus and walk in truth.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for the time You have given us to gather together and study Your Word. Lord, we ask that You open our hearts and minds as we discuss what it means to be the parents, the leaders, and the people You have called us to be. Remove any distractions, any pride, and any hardness of heart that might keep us from hearing what You want to say to us today. Let Your Holy Spirit guide every word spoken in this room, and may we leave this time changed and challenged to walk more faithfully with You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing your Father or a Father figure in your life did that you still remember and appreciate to this day?

Key Verses

- Psalm 127:1
- Psalm 127:3-5

- Proverbs 22:6
- Ephesians 6:4
- 3 John 1:4
- Deuteronomy 6:6-7
- Psalm 27:10

Questions

- Pastor Chris described fathers as archers and children as arrows. What does this imagery mean to you personally, and how does it change the way you think about your role in your family or in the lives of young people around you?
- The sermon emphasized that the archer must be strong, saying that fathers cannot afford to be spiritually weak. What are some practical ways a man can build and maintain spiritual strength in today's culture?
- Pastor Chris was transparent about his own shortcomings as a Father, admitting that it is often the little things that cause Him to fall short. Why do you think it is the small, everyday moments rather than the big crises that tend to reveal our character most clearly?
- Deuteronomy 6:6-7 instructs parents to talk about God's commands at home, on the road, at bedtime, and when rising up. What does it look like practically to make faith a part of daily life rather than something reserved only for Sunday mornings?
- Pastor Chris said that the real crisis in America is not juvenile delinquency but parental delinquency. Do you agree with that statement? What responsibilities do parents carry that cannot be outsourced to schools, churches, or technology?
- The sermon mentioned that arrows must be straight, and that shaping a child involves cutting away, applying heat, and bending toward truth, much like the Word of God works in our lives. Can you share a time when God used His Word or a difficult season to straighten something crooked in your own life?
- Pastor Chris said that prayer is the bow that launches the arrow, and that without prayer, a Father is an archer with an unstrung bow. How consistent is your prayer life for the people God has placed in your care, and what might need to change?
- The final point was that the aim must be sure, and that our greatest goal should be raising children who love Jesus and walk in truth. How do you evaluate whether you are aiming at the right targets in your family life, and what adjustments might God be calling you to make?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific and practical step you can take to be a stronger spiritual leader or influence in your home or in the life of a young person God has placed near you. It might be starting a daily prayer over your children or family members, opening the Bible together at the dinner table, setting a boundary around technology use, or simply having an honest conversation about faith. Write it down, commit it to God in prayer, and follow through before the week is over. Remember, faithful fathers and faithful believers do not always make headlines, but they leave footprints that others walk in for the rest of their lives.

Key Takeaways

- Fathers are called by God to be the spiritual archers of the home, and children are the arrows entrusted to their care. The strength, aim, and faithfulness of the archer directly shapes where the arrow lands.
- Children must be shaped by the Word of God, trained early, given godly character, and surrounded by boundaries and prayer. Spiritual formation is an ongoing and intentional process that cannot be left to culture or technology.
- The greatest goal of parenting is not raising successful or popular children but raising men and women who love Jesus Christ and walk in truth, as expressed in 3 John 1:4.
- Prayer is the bow that launches the arrow. Without a consistent and fervent prayer life, fathers and parents are spiritually unequipped to guide their children through the crosswinds of today's culture.
- Even those who did not have a godly Father are not without hope. Psalm 27:10 reminds us that when earthly fathers fail, the Lord Himself takes us up, and He is the perfect Father who never forsakes His children.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the time we have spent together in Your Word today. We confess that we do not always get it right as parents, as leaders, or as followers of You. But we are grateful that You are the perfect Father, and that Your mercies are new every morning. We ask that You strengthen every person in this group to go home and be the archer You have called them to be. Help us to shape straight arrows through Your Word, to cover our families in prayer, and to aim every effort toward the goal of raising up men and women who love You. For those who carry the weight of a broken home or an absent Father,

remind them today that You will never leave them nor forsake them. May everything we discussed today take root in our hearts and bear fruit in our homes. We give You all the glory. In Jesus' name, amen.