

The Family: Purpose Psalm 27

The family has been designed by God to reveal Jesus Christ to a hurting and dying world. “Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it” (Ps. 127:1)

Series Overview:

- Purpose
- Pillars
- Playbook

Is the family important?

“If you’ve ever been a part of a loving, healthy family you have smelled the sweet aroma of heaven. If you’ve ever lived in a troubled, broken home you have breathed the foul stench of hell.”

—Kurt Bruner in *It Starts at Home*, p. 17

“Life offers no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation.”

—C. Everett Koop, M.D. (*former U.S. Surgeon General*)

Theology of the family

- Genesis 1-2
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Psalm 127
- Psalm 139
- Proverbs
- Ephesians 5-6

Psalm 127

- Depend on the LORD to build our homes
- Working hard is not wrong, but if done with anxiety and stress apart from the LORD this is meaningless (vain, empty, futile, pointless)
- He uses us, but only God can cause the growth
- Give the LORD the honor He deserves

Our children are incredibly valuable

Children are a “gift”

Possible translations...

- Inheritance- 198 times
- Heritage- 16 times
- Possession- 7 times
- Gift- 1 time

Idea: We are the beneficiaries of a precious trust from the LORD. We have a stewardship responsibility and a very specific assignment to purposely ensure that *His* children grow to know and revere the LORD.

Children are a “reward/blessing”

“The Hebrew saw children as the greatest blessing and enrichment God could give to their lives – ever since the fall when death began to reign. No one would dare neglect or abuse the gifts of God.”

—Alan P. Ross

Question

Who has the primary God-given responsibility for our children’s spiritual development?

Answer: Parents (and grandparents)

Children are “arrows”

- Warrior terminology
- We are in a battle
- Arrows have a very specific purpose
- Arrows must be skillfully shaped over time
- Blessed = the enjoyment of righteousness

Are fathers important?

- When a child first attends church, 3.5% of families follow
- When a mom/wife first attends church, 17% of families follow
- **When a dad/husband is the first to attend church, 93% of families follow** (*Barna Research*)

Launching “Kingdom Arrows”

- Great Commission
- Great Commandment
- Leaving a spiritual legacy of discipleship
- We have a window of time
- We must let them fly

Applications

- Pray for our families
- Pray for YOUR family (or future family)
- Dedicate our homes to the LORD
- Raise up next generation leaders!
- Adopt an Aggie- we need families

John 17:20-21

“I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their message; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.”