

Sermon Notes – Sunday 8th July 18
'Children – the heritage of the Lord'

Parents are entrusted with the responsibility of developing their children's God given potential and so must raise their children 'in the training and instruction of the Lord' (Ephesians 6:4.)

- What has been your experience of this, either as a child or as a parent?

1.Children should be wanted and loved. Without love a home becomes a house where people eat, sleep and leave as quickly as possible.

- In what ways might parents misdirect their love by, for example, putting job before family, spoil their children, exercising little or no consistent discipline?

Read Psalm 127: 3-5. In what ways are children considered to be a blessing?

2. Children need to be taught. (Deut 6:5-9, Eph 6:4) 'The power of effective training lies not in that which a parent might say and teach but in who they are and what they do'.

- How important is Godly character in the adult for nurturing effective learning in the child? Give examples!

3. Children need to be protected. Whilst it is important to allow children to grow up and mature towards independence, how do we establish boundaries of protection to safeguard them?

- What are the challenges parents face particularly in the teenage years? How might you address a rebellious attitude?

4. Children need to be brought to Jesus. How can we encourage children to be worshippers of God (Matthew 21:16)?

In a time when the 'the word of the Lord was rare' the young boy, Samuel was able to hear God calling him although he had no idea it was the voice of God.

- How can we encourage children to have a sensitivity to the Lord's voice and learn to listen to His call?
- What children can we pray for (our own children, grandchildren, wider family members, children in our church family)?

Why not decide to ask one of the families in church if you could intentionally pray for them and let a relationship of prayer develop.

Pray together for our children, for the boys trapped in the cave in Thailand and for the children with whom we connect through our schools ministry that they might all come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

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