

GOD'S FAVOR FOR YOUR FAMILY // Psalm 127

Mother's Day Message

A healthy church is the goal of the Christian life, and a healthy church is made up of healthy families. We want to hear from God, do life in community, and live out his Great Commission: to make and multiply disciples (Matt 28: 19-20). Psalm 127 demonstrates how God works to build healthy families, and therefore churches, who are living on mission for him.

1. He Builds (v. 1a)

There are two builders mentioned in this verse: you and the Lord. Moms and dads have a responsibility to build their homes, but if the Lord doesn't build it, it's all in vain. The Bible points to the building blocks of a Christian home: a sure salvation (the gospel is shared); an intentional instruction (learning to live a quiet, godly life); and a fervent forgiveness (springing from a love that permeates the home).

2. He Protects (v. 1b)

The Lord not only builds the house, he also protects it and "watches over" it. What are we inviting into our home? Are we inviting the protection of the Lord? Or are we inviting immorality? There are consequences for what we bring into our homes.

3. He Provides (v. 2)

We are often tempted to burn the candle at both ends, "to rise up early and go late to rest." We believe that we must work and build by our own effort. But there are consequences for our families when we do not rest—our emotional state "splashes" on our family members. Do we trust God to do more in six days than we can do in seven? Do we trust him by having more margin than print on the page of our day? The Lord "gives to his beloved sleep." We can rest in him because he provides for our needs.

4. He Blesses (v. 3-5)

Children are a prize from the Lord. Although there is a wide spectrum in any church, from those who are single to the grandmother of multiple generations, everyone can invest in and encourage children. An archer must give time and attention to the shape of the arrow in order for it to fly accurately. Likewise, parents are called to shape children like arrows. They are also called to aim carefully. Children will be launched into the world—at what target are they aimed? Christian parents intentionally direct their children towards Christ, his kingdom and mission.

One day, it will be time for your children to serve you; you will be glad that you were a Psalm 127 kind of family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you seen the Lord build, protect, provide, and bless your family and your life? How has he used his favor to promote his kingdom through you?
2. What aspect of home-building most needs your attention? Family discipleship and intentional instruction? Guarding against immoral influences in your home? Resting in God's provision? Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your focus for your family.
3. There are a range of experiences in the church. Some Christians did not grow up in ideal family environments. Some Christians are single or childless for a variety of reasons. How is God redeeming your story and how can you use your experience to advance his kingdom?