

## Precious Treasures: What about The Children?

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### STUDY GUIDE

#### Disclaimer!!

*If you are experiencing physical or emotional abuse, or are in a severely dysfunctional relationship, SEEK professional help, find a safe space, tell a trusted friend, talk to your pastor, or report it to the authorities!*

#### Key Text

Psalm 127 (NKJV)

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
They labor in vain who build it;  
Unless the Lord guards the city,  
The watchman stays awake in vain.

<sup>2</sup> *It is* vain for you to rise up early,  
To sit up late,  
To eat the bread of sorrows;  
*For* so He gives His beloved sleep.

<sup>3</sup> Behold, children *are* a heritage from the Lord,  
The fruit of the womb *is* a reward.

<sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
So *are* the children of one's youth.

<sup>5</sup> Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of them;  
They shall not be ashamed,  
But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

#### Keep in mind...

1. While we cannot change or undo our past, we can use our past to help us create a better future
2. While we cannot control life's stimuli, we can learn how to more intentional about our responses
3. At the heart of the plan of salvation is God's desire to make us whole

**Do you remember the PSA from the early 1960s to the late 1980s?**

**“It’s 10 PM (or 11 PM), Do you know where you children are?”**

### **Framework**

- Genesis 1:27—

“So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

“The greatest evidence of the power of Christianity that can be presented to the world is a well-ordered, well-disciplined family. This will recommend the truth as nothing else can, for it is a living witness of its practical power upon the heart.” (*Adventist Home*, 32)

### **Why Family? Why Now?**

- Family is a crucial aspect of “End Time” message of God’s Church (Malachi 4:5-6; Luke 1:17)
- Family is one of the greatest avenues for manifesting God to the world, e.g., Abraham (Genesis 12:2-3)
- Family has the power to shape our destiny (e.g., Noah and Achan)
- Family is under attack by the Enemy of our Souls (Revelation 12:17)

### **Into the Text**

*Psalm 127*

*Key Features of the Psalm*

- Superscription: *A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon*
- A pilgrimage Psalm attributed to Solomon
- Type: Wisdom Psalm—concerns for practical wisdom
- Type: Royal Psalm—concerns for the king’s reign

### **Points to Ponder**

*THE LORD MUST BUILD THE HOUSE (Bayith)*

1. The Lord must guide in the selection of a spouse

2. The Lord must guide in the building of a family
3. The Lord must guide our family values
4. If the Lord were in charge of the building of my home, how would my hope be different?

#### *THE LORD MUST GUARD THE CITY*

1. The Lord is the only security for our homes
2. The Lord must set the boundaries of our homes
3. The Lord is the only the shield and protection from our homes
4. The Lord's altar must be at the center of every home

#### *OUR THE BEST EFFORTS VOID OF DIVINE GUIDANCE ARE UTTERLY FUTILE (in vain)*

1. Short-sighted investments—*here and now*
2. Chasing after the wind—*twisted values*
3. Hypocritical perspective—*do as a say and not as I do*
4. The reality of the Great Controversy—*souls are at stake*

#### *“CHILDREN ARE A HERITAGE FROM THE LORD”*

1. Hebrew word *nachalah* means “inalienable, hereditary possession, inheritance, patrimony, or property”
2. The Lord entrusts parents with His *nachalah*
3. Parents and guardians are stewards of Yahweh's precious, priceless treasures

#### **Lessons from ‘Lost’ Children in the Bible**

- Eli's sons (1 Samuel 2:12, 17)
  - Samuel's sons (1 Samuel 8:1-3)
  - Two of Aaron's lost sons (Leviticus 10:1-2)
1. The nurture and teaching of Yahweh's *nachalah* cannot be left to chance or taken for granted
  2. Destinies are at stake

## Lessons from ‘Missing’ Children in the Bible

- Moses’ children (Exodus 4:20; 18:1-6)
  1. The plight and perils being gifted
  2. The super-hero syndrome
  3. Ignoring Yahweh’s *nachalah* to do the Lord’s work or to pursue our “calling” can lead to far reaching consequences

## Priceless Treasures

- Samuel (1 Samuel 3)—Balancing Nurture with Devotion
- *Nurturing the next generation of priests/priestesses and prophets/prophetesses*
- Josiah (2 Kings 22:1-2)—Balancing Instruction With Honor
- *Nurturing the next generation of rulers*
- Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14)—Balancing Teaching with Modeling
- *Nurturing the next generation of spiritual leaders*
- Jesus (Luke 2:41-52)—Balancing Discipline With Affirmation
- *Nurturing the next generation of sons and daughters of God*

## The Charge

- Priceless treasures must be given back to God. They must be nurtured to hear and respond to God’s voice (Samuel)
- Priceless treasures must be intentionally nurtured in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Godliness must be taught and modeled (Josiah, Timothy)
- Priceless treasures must receive a well-rounded education and must be prepared to be about their “Father’s Business”