



Lesson Three: Who's Children are they?

Read Exodus 12:14-28. What does God command the people to do regarding their children? God gives the same command each time He speaks with His people in Deuteronomy Chapters 4, 6, 11, 31, 32, Joshua Chapter 4, Psalm chapter 78, and Joel Chapter 1.

Read Psalm 127:3-5. How are children viewed in this passage?

All throughout Proverbs, warnings are given to children. (Keep in mind, Proverbs is a book of wisdom, not of promises.) Implicit in these warnings is the responsibility of the parent. For example, read Proverbs 13:1. Implicit in this passage is the fact that a father is to instruct his son. Read Proverbs 22:6. What are parents to do for a child? Read Proverbs 22:15. What is implied in this verse that parents should be doing? Read Proverbs 23:22. What is implied that fathers will be doing with their children? Read Proverbs 29:15-17. What is implied for parents to do here? What will be the “reward”?

Read Proverbs 13:24. What should parents be diligent in?

Read Psalm 103:13. What are parents to show to their children?

Read Proverbs 13:22. What does a good man leave for his children and grandchildren? Which is better, an eternal or temporal inheritance?

Read Matthew 7:7-11. What does this passage imply parents should be giving their children?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12. What is implied here that parents should do for their children?

Read Colossians 3:21 and Ephesians 6:4. What is the caution given to fathers here?

Hannah prepares to let go of her son from the moment of his birth. All parents must do this, must realize that “their” children are actually HIS children, not our own. But there is more that Hannah is giving up here. She is submitting herself to God; she is dying to herself here. We see that Hannah could easily have made Samuel her idol, and placed all her attention on him, but instead, she spends those three years getting ready to give the object of her heart’s desire back to her Creator. We see that Hannah kept God as her God, and did not create an idol out of the son she longed for.



Hanna asked God to come into her life, and He did. She didn't make "pie crust" promises (easily made and easily broken); she did what she had told God she would do.

Read Ephesians 5:22-33, and Colossians 3:18-19. What direction does God give to Christian families in these verses?

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7. How did Elkanah demonstrate his understanding of his wife in 1 Samuel?

Elkanah didn't fight Hannah when she said she would remain at home until the boy was weaned and then would go up and consecrate the boy to God. Husband and wife working together here; she shows respect to her husband in her request to remain behind, and he shows love in allowing her this time with their child.

Re-read Ephesians 5:22-33 and Colossians 3:18-19. Consider your own role in the family God has placed you in. If you are a wife, your first priority is to God then to your spouse, THEN to your children. If you are single, your first priority is to God and, from there, it can get a little tricky to determine where your role is. Still, we are all called to honor our parents (this may look differently in each family, too; if you are the child of abusive parents, honoring them is going to look far different from the child of grace-filled, Christ minded parents) and to consider the needs to the body of Christ for His glory. Still, spend some time today and consider where you are at. Are you a wife who needs to confess to God (and possibly your husband) that you have not been submitting in a godly manner? Are you an adult child who needs to confess that you have been avoiding dealing with a cantankerous parent who irritates you? Ask God what role He is calling you to examine today and where *you* need to be more proactive in doing His will. As we will see very soon, not making a decision is still making a decision; and the consequences can be disastrous.