

SERMON *study* GUIDE

WHY IT IS GOOD TO BE A MOM EVEN WHEN IT IS HARD (PSALM 127)

*"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord,
the fruit of the womb is a reward."*

*"How blessed is the man
whose quiver is full of them."*

Psalm 127:3, 5

IS HARD REALLY BAD?

Parenting is hard. No doubt. But is that hard good or bad? The world trains us to think of the challenges that come with parenting as something undesirable. Psalm 127 retrains us – and shows us parenting is good, why it is good, and how to think of it that way.

This is a wisdom psalm – not saying how it always is, but how it *normally* is. The basic biblical instinct toward children is super positive. But we learn how to think and want from people around us. We need to go back to Scripture and learn from God.

THINK ABOUT IT

*When you hear "parenting is so hard" – does your gut treat that as something undesirable?
Or do you hear it differently?*

BUT WHY IS IT GOOD?

Two reasons children are a blessing – one about mission, one about protection:

THEY HELP YOU DO MORE, NOT LESS

"Like arrows in the hand of a warrior."

Parents aren't pictured as trapped victims – but as warriors with useful weapons. Children create long-range impact. They extend faithfulness and glory to God into the future.

FAMILY IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT EACH OTHER

"They shall not be ashamed...at the gate."

God designed family to face difficulty together – not alone. How painful it is when it doesn't work that way only shows what a blessing it is when it does.

If life is mainly about comfort or self-fulfillment, the hard parts of parenting feel like pure loss. But if life is about mission and bringing glory to God – those same difficulties look completely different.

THINK ABOUT IT

How does thinking of yourself as someone with a mission – rather than someone just trying to keep up – change how the hard parts look?

A LITTLE HOPE

GOOD NEWS

Even those whose physical families aren't working the way God designed can experience the blessing of a spiritual family – and that really is an even more significant gift. We really are brothers and sisters. God did that when He saved us. But that big gift doesn't make the gift of physical family something small.

SERMON NOTES:

HOW TO ACTUALLY THINK THIS WAY

We might know we should think of it as a blessing — but when it's difficult, we wonder how. Psalm 127:1-2 gives us two practical handles.

LISTEN TO HOW YOU SPEAK

Listen carefully to what you are saying to yourself during exhausting moments. The lie isn't only saying something untrue — it's also leaving out the true things God says. Eternal impact. Grace. Mission. Generational significance. Enjoying parenting starts with believing God and valuing what He values.

WATCH HOW YOU WORK

One thing that makes parenting especially tiring is trying to be God for your family. Psalm 127:1-2 says stop — not stop working, but stop working as if everything depended on you.

Labor faithfully, trust that the Lord does what you cannot, and look for peace in God's promises rather than your own control.

THINK AGAIN...

- Hard is hard — but not necessarily bad.
- Parenting is a noble task, not meaningless drudgery.
- Life is for mission, not comfort — and that changes everything about how you think about being a parent.
- Children are not making it harder for you to do what you were meant to do. They enable you to do it better.
- Family should be a safe place.
- Don't lie to yourself about being a parent.
- Let God be God — so you can focus on believing and being faithful.

You are beloved — not because you are a great mom or dad, but because He chose you, sent Jesus for you, and has forgiven all your sins. He is for you. He is with you. Parent from that.

FOR FURTHER READING

Genesis 1:28 · Genesis 9:1 · 1 Corinthians 7 · Ephesians 5 · Luke 20

SERMON NOTES: