

Opening Illustration: Making Ginger Bread Houses as a church with international students. You could forget the instructions altogether or follow a few simple principles: (1) You need a good base to set the house on... you need a binding agent (frosting or glue)... you need creativity.

Inside the Text:

Bible as a whole: OT / NT

OT: Pentateuch; Historical Books; **Wisdom Literature**; and Prophetic Books

Psalms: Divided into 5 books

- Book 1: 1-41 (about man or the Genesis Package)
- Book 2: 42-72 (about deliverance or the Exodus Book)
- Book 3: 73-89 (about the sanctuary or the Leviticus Book)
- Book 4: 90-106 (about unrest and wandering or the Book of Numbers)
- **Book 5: 107-150 (focus on the Word of the Lord or Deuteronomy Section)**

Book 5: Psalms of Ascent (15 in all starting with 120; 4 written by David and one by Solomon; 10 unknown authorship (Hezekiah in 2 Kings 20:8-11); song by the children of Israel as they ascended to the temple to worship;

G. Campbell Morgan suggests the following outline:

Psalm 120-121 – In the far country

Psalm 122-123 – The Start of the Journey

Psalm 124-125 – The Journey

Psalm 126-131 – Approaching the City

- 126 – Joy and Repentance
- **127 – Family Strength**
- 128 – Family Responsibility
- 129 – A Backward Look
- 130 – Humility and Confidence
- 131 – Rest in God's Will

Psalm 132-The Entrance

Psalm 133-134 – The City and Worship

Topic to Consider:

- Construction (1a)
- Protection (1a)
- Restoration (2)

Psalm 127 is classified as a wisdom psalm, its purpose being to teach people rather than to praise God or ask for his help. In the first part (vs. 1-2) the psalmist stresses the fact that all

human labor is useless unless Yahweh is involved; and in the second part (vs. 3-5) he speaks of the blessing of having many children.

Some view these two parts as independent poems placed together by the author. This is possible but hard to prove. Our Bibles have the subscript written: "Song of Ascents of Solomon." Psalm 127 is one of 15 Psalms beginning with Psalm 120 and going until Psalm 134. All of which start with the subtitle: "Song of Ascents or Degrees."

Some believe that Solomon is named as author because this is a wisdom psalm, or because it was thought that the house in verse 1 was the Temple that Solomon built. The Hebrew preposition attached to Solomon can be taken to mean this psalm is written in honor of Solomon or is dedicated to Solomon. The end of verse 2 confirms in my mind that Solomon is somehow connected as the author or dedicatee of this song...

- **His beloved** (Literally: "Ya-Did" which sounds very similar to the name given to Solomon by God as delivered by Nathan the prophet in 2 Samuel 12:25 "Jedidiah" or "Ye-did-diah" ... **beloved of the Lord**)
- If Solomon indeed is the author of Psalm 127, the **sleep** mentioned in verse 2 could refer to the dream Solomon had in I Kings 3:5 after realizing that he would lead the nation of Israel which resulted in his reception of divine wisdom (THEOCRATIC ANNOINTING)!

Topic to Consider:

- *Construction (1a)*
- *Protection (1a)*
- *Restoration (2)*
- *Multiplication (3-5)*

Whatever position you hold, this psalm teaches us much about the sovereignty of God and the free will of man! It emphasizes the gifts of protection, sleep, and children. It's message runs contrary to current culture which calls you to arm yourself and expect the worst, take sleeping pills or you will never achieve a good night's rest, and do yourself a favor and limit the number of kids you have if you want to have some semblance of a life!

This morning, I want you to encourage you to view this psalm as a united whole with a focus on how God's Blueprints for a Godly Home. Truly the principles from verses 1-2 have direct application to the effort and oversight of a family! Therefore, I want you to see two essential components to a Godly Home:

- **God's presence must saturate your family. (1-2)**
- **God's plan will clarify your parenting. (3-5)**

I. God's presence must saturate your family. (1-2)

A. Your family is vulnerable without Him.

- Your family needs shelter (a house)
- Your family needs protection (a watchman to look out for enemies)
- Your family needs oversight (constant care and supervision)

Statistics on the modern family:

- The definition of family is under attack
- Divorce rate is on the rise
- Single-parent homes

Traditional nuclear family irretrievably breaking down, says Government-funded parenting group (“Your Child. Your Divorce.com”)

The traditional nuclear family is irretrievably breaking down as children are increasingly raised by relations other than their parents, the head of a Government-funded parenting group says.

The Family and Parenting Institute says grandparents, aunts and uncles are helping out more in childcare responsibilities in a form of ‘communal parenting’ as parents struggle to cope with marital breakdown and work. One in four children is now brought up in a one-parent household, the vast majority of which are led by mothers.

The Institute suggests that rising divorce rates, fewer marriages and the growth of civil partnerships mean that the traditional family model is no longer ‘the norm’ and Government efforts to rescue it are futile. Dr Katherine Rake, Chief Executive of the Institute, said:

‘[F]amilies were pulling society in multiple directions, between work and home life, singleness and cohabitation and marriage, between growing older and forming families across our many cultural divides.’

Dr Rake will use her first major speech in the post to warn against the ‘trap’ of attempting to preserve traditional family structures through Government initiatives. She will also forecast a dramatic change in the role of parents in the next decade.

She predicted that there will be no such thing as a ‘typical family’ in the next 10 to 20 years. She said:

‘People are constantly redefining what it means to be a family. What we are seeing is that family shape is changing all the time, the notion of a traditional nuclear family ... certainly isn’t the norm now.

‘Because people are having children later and because there is more divorce and separation, what is happening is that people draw on resources from right across the family and their families can be more involved,’ she added.

With mothers beginning to play a less dominant role in children’s lives because of greater work commitments, fathers will experience a change comparable in scale to that seen by women since the 1950s, she predicts.

An estimated two million families in Britain already rely on the older generation for help with childcare while about 200,000 grandparents are now sole carers, the Daily Telegraph reports.

Andrea Minichiello Williams, Director of CCFON, said: ‘The breakdown of the traditional family is the inevitable outcome of the departure of our society from biblical principles of love, truth and purity. The moral confusion brought about by the poisonous ideology of moral relativism knows no limits. Our desires and prayers are that this country does not turn its face from God but acknowledges Him as the Creator of the family where the unity of love between husband and wife create a reliable and trusted structure for the raising of children’.

Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.

- **Build** – to fortify; work on; build up
- **Labor** – to exert oneself or toil
- **Vain** – worthless; futile; inconsequential; without result (although not the same Hebrew word [SAY-WEH] as found in Ecclesiastes [Habel] the concept is very similar to the one mentioned by Solomon in that book!)

Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.

- **Stays awake** – be vigilant; watchful; lie in wait for

² **It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;**
for he gives to his beloved sleep.

- **Eating the bread of anxious toil** – part of the curse found in Genesis 3:17-19

Application: It takes a ton of energy to raise a godly family! As soon as you feel like you are getting ahead, something breaks, someone needs braces, and someone gets sick. As soon as you help one child through a crisis, another one has his or her own to deal with.

B. Your family is unbreakable with Him.

Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.

- This statement is true of a Christian home, the construction or reconstruction of the temple, and the building up of Palmetto Baptist Church!
 - We are perpetually tempted, and some are all too prone, to try other methods in this work than those the Lord employs. We are apt to rely on wealth, eloquence, learning, talent, and all other such things, and to forget that it is the Lord alone who can really make our church successful!

Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.

- If God means that the guilty city shall fall, the watchman will wake and the soldier will fight in vain. If God intends to humble a man whose pride needs to be brought down, his utmost exertions in his trade or in his profession will not bring success.

2 Corinthians 1:8-10

⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers,^[a] of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the

sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

² It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives to his beloved sleep.

- **What great things God does for our bodily well-being in sleep!** Every night he lays his restoring hand upon us, refreshes us, renews our muscular and mental powers, gives back to us the vitality and strength which had been exhausted. Every morning we owe to him a “new song” of praise.
- **What great things God does for us in the outside world during our unconsciousness!** He continues to work for us while we rest in the lives of others... in the terrestrial conditions. How this earth of ours swings itself round out of the light into the darkness (Psalm 104). The sounds and stir of the day are hushed, and the glare of light is gone for a while, and thus provision for sleep is made.
- **What great things God does for us in the human world in which we take no part!** His hand in the social conditions (allowing us the privilege of a government that provides protection and some semblance of order for her citizens). His hand is working in all the toil and strife of the nations of the earth, leading the world up to, and making it ready for the great advent of the Redeemer.
- **Ultimately, believers are blessed with the sleep of death.** To those who die in the Lord, death is described as a sleep prior to a glorious awakening. This glorious awakening is only possible when one accepts the forgiveness of sins offered by God through Christ, receives a new heart, and experiences the love of God in Christ!
- The teaching is similar to that of Exodus 14:14 – “The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”; Matthew 6:25ff – “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? (or your school bill?). God gives to men that which he knows they have need of, if they have only the faith to “sit still” and “wait.”

I. God’s presence must saturate your family. (1-2)

II. God’s plan will clarify your parenting. (3-5)

A. View children as assets not liabilities. (3, 5a)

³ Behold, children are a **heritage from the LORD**,

- Heritage = inheritance or eternal value
 - Job 42:10 – “And the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.”
 - [Compared to Job 1:2] Job received 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, 1,000 female donkeys... (vs. 12)
 - He had also seven sons and three daughters. (vs. 13)
 - The first seven were already in Heaven!!!

the fruit of the womb

- Genesis 29:31 – “he [God] opened her [Leah’s] womb”
- Genesis 30:22 – “Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.”

a reward.

- Literally a payment or wages earned
- The first (heritage) refers to eternal value
- The second (reward) refers to presents/temporal value
 - One of the many benefits is found in verse 5a – Blessed (fortunate or happy)

⁵ Blessed is the man

who fills his quiver with them!

- His quiver – refers to the pouch that contains the arrows
- Quick question... IS YOUR QUIVER FULL? HOW MUCH ROOM DO YOU HAVE LEFT? WHO SHOULD DETERMINE THE SIZE OF YOUR QUIVER? WHY ARE YOU AVOIDING THE HAPPINESS GOD INTENDS FOR YOU TO EXPERIENCE?
- Speak to those who are unable to have biological children (Gen 18 (Sarah); I Samuel 1 (Hannah); Ruth 1; Luke 1 (Elizabeth))
 - Foster parenting
 - Adoption
 - Working with children in our extended church family

B. Prepare children for reality not fiction. (4)

⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children^[a] of one's youth.

- Arrows do not grow of themselves: they must be wrought out with much thought and care. So do our children.
- The arrows need to be well aimed. The arrows will go where they are sent. How many parents there are who have no worthy aim for their children.
- If not pointed correctly, arrows can stab the very families they were intended to protect.

Illustration: The Ormiston Family Mission – “Striving to become spiritually mature, physically fit, emotionally stable adults with a desire to love God and serve others.”

- If you are not careful to aim these arrows, they will strike something or someone close to you. We must train them first to serve one another at home before expecting them to effectively serve others outside the home!
- **A WORD OF ADVICE REGARDING HOPE-FILLED COMMENTS:** Our words should edify our children and be full of hope! You have no idea how much your words can crush a child’s spirit.
- Don’t crush their dreams, encourage them. (Illustration given by Tom Zemple about their oldest son constantly changing his idea of “WHAT HE WANTED TO BE WHEN HE GREW UP.”)

I. God's presence must saturate your family. (1-2)

II. God's plan will clarify your parenting. (3-5)

A. View children as assets not liabilities. (3, 5a)

B. Prepare children for reality not fiction. (4)

C. Encourage children to know and defend God's Law. (5b)

He shall not be put to shame

when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

- **He** – refers to the father
- **Shall not be put to shame** – not simply blushing but made pale with terror over the actions or comments related to his children
- **His enemies in the gate** – note that a parent must be mindful against dangers from outside the city gates (verse 2 – the watchman) and inside the gates (the elders)
 - The gate is the location where civil cases were discussed and decided.
- How is this possible?
 - Because God is gracious!
 - Because you were diligent to follow Deut 6 and Eph 6

Apply the Text:

✓ **Practice personal and family worship.**

- Psalm 119:97-112 [Mem and Nun]
- Deut. 6:4-9

✓ **Faithfully and deliberately pray for your family.**

[The Joy of a Word-Filled Family by John S. Barnett]

Prayers for Vitality in Your Children's Lives –

Choosing a Life of Contentment –

Philippians 4:11-12

11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. **12** I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

Choosing a Life of Consecration –

Matthew 16:24

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Choosing a Life of Commitment –

Luke 9:62

62 Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Giving a Life Back to the Lord—

1 Chronicles 28:9

David's Charge to Solomon

9 “And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.

✓ **Make your home a haven not a dungeon.**

- Prov. 15:17 – “Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.”
- Prov. 17:1 – “Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife.”

✓ **Love your kids enough to discipline them.** (Prov. 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15, 17)

✓ **Eat at least two meals together this week as a family around your table at home.**

- **Good News of Great Joy** (<https://www.desiringgod.org/great-joy>)

Family Dedication:

Ryan and Ashlyn Humburg	Colton Ryan Humburg	June 22, 2020
Trevor and Candi Baker	Centurion Watson Baker	August 25, 2020
Dan and Jessica Zakes	Shepherd Edward Zakes	October 23, 2019
Glen and Tabitha Huff	Aiden James Huff	June 4, 2020
Josh and Ashley Shaffer	Camden James Shaffer	May 19, 2019
Brandon and Kristen Ironside	Tucker Paul Ironside	September 2, 2020
Darren and Julie Shaffer	Lara Elizabeth Shaffer	October 21, 2020
Richard and Isabelle Peterson	Ellison Jane Peterson	October 28, 2020
John and Hillary Yarusinsky	Felicity Jane Yarusinsky	October 10, 2020
Josh and Kilina Roach	Jeff David Roach	September 20, 2020
Michael and Elena McCart	Alexander Keith McCart	January 6, 2020
John and Leigh Anne Summerlin	Caleb Mark Summerlin	April 8, 2020
Wagner and Debbie Nogueira	Jonas Pierre Nogueira	February 21, 2020

Zach and Eunice Halleck	Greyson Davis Halleck	May 3, 2020
Brandt and Shelly Mills	Maverick Brandt Mills	August 27, 2020
Briley and Rebecca Hughes	Nora Ashlyn Hughes	July 7, 2020