

ALL IN THE FAMILY



WEEK 2 - GOD'S INVITATION TO THE PARENTS OVERVIEW

: It is a very difficult time to be a parent. From the deeply powerful technologies monopolizing our kids' attention to the vile and horrific content they are being exposed to at earlier and earlier ages to the growing isolation brought on by the breakdown of healthy community, the role of a parent has never been harder. Sometimes it seems that no matter how hard a parent works, they are always falling short. Because of this, it is appropriate to consider what God might be saying to the parents of Grace today. Psalm 127 is a passage which famously refers to children as "gifts from the Lord" and compares them to "arrows" in a warrior's quiver. However, it also makes a provocative claim that "unless the Lord builds a house" (by extension, a *family* or *household*), the labor of the builders is in vain. Thus, the question is raised: are we attempting to build our families under our own power? Or are our families being built by God? What might it look like to surrender control and allow God to be the driving force behind the raising of our children?

*Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted...
It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night,
anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his loved ones.*

Psalm 127:1-2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you learn the song Maron mentioned, "The Wise Man and the Foolish Man", based on [Matthew 7:24-27](#)? Do you remember learning any other children's songs based on scripture?
2. If you are a parent of any stage, did you relate to the list of challenges that millennial parents said they face (stress, finances, raising children in a digital age, parental guilt, balancing work and family life)? Would you agree with Maron that the heart of challenges parents face are the same from generation to generation? Why or why not?
3. Read [Psalm 127:1-5 \(ESV\)](#). What is the lesson that this Psalm/song is teaching, for families or anyone?
4. Why is it important for parents to build their family ("house") on the foundation of Christ? ([Matthew 7:24-27](#))
5. Read [Ephesians 2:20-22](#). In addition to building on a foundation of Christ, what is another important part of God's blueprints for building a "house"? Give some examples of what this could mean.
6. Answer the question asked in the overview above: what might it look like to surrender control and allow God to be the driving force behind the raising of our children?
7. What is God's invitation to the parents of Grace Church?

PRAY

Pray for the parents in your group. Pray for the parents at Grace Church. Pray for the parents in your family, your neighborhood, your place of work.