

# Fathers' Studies: Father/Child Relationships

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 27 OF 52

## CHILDREN - A GIFT FROM GOD

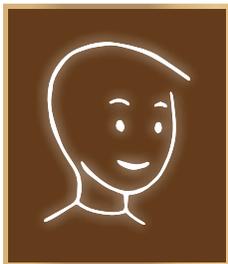
**LESSON AIM:** To accept children and treat them as a gift from God.

### KEY VERSE:

1. **PSALM 127:3** This verse says that children are \_\_\_\_\_.
2. **GENESIS 33:5** When Esau asked Jacob who the people were with him, Jacob replied, "The children which \_\_\_\_\_".
3. **1 SAMUEL 1:27-28** God gave Hannah a son, Samuel. In return, \_\_\_\_\_.
4. **JOHN 3:16** Jesus, God's Son, was a special gift to us. God loved the world so much that He \_\_\_\_\_.
5. **GENESIS 25:21, 24** When Rebekah was unable to have children, Isaac, her husband prayed, and God gave them \_\_\_\_\_.

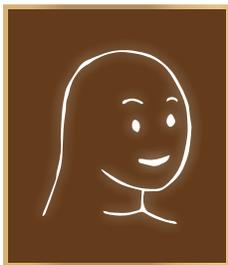
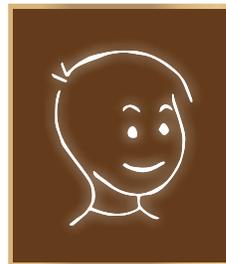
### PERSONAL NOTES:

## For You To Do



### By Yourself

God has made and gift-wrapped each of your children as a special gift to you. Take time today to thank him for each of these gifts by name.



### With Your Wife

Read together the story of Elkanah, Hannah, and Samuel from 1 Samuel chapter 1.

### With Your Children

If you have never done so, have a dedication ceremony for them at your church. Be sure to tell them that you thank God for them.

# CHILDREN - A GIFT FROM GOD

LESSON 27 OF 52

God has given His people many gifts; but to all fathers he has given a very special gift, the gift of a child. God made each child and gave him to parents as a special gift for which he has a special plan. Jesus is an example of this. As a baby, he was God's gift to his parents and to all men. He grew up and completed the work that God planned for Him to do.

**A CHILD, GOD'S GIFT** The Bible teaches often about children. Psalm 127:2-5 calls children "a gift from the Lord" and compares them to arrows. Arrows have great value when they are properly used. Like arrows, children will go in the direction in which their parents guide them. They can fly a long way from their parents. They can carry to others and to the next generation the truths from God's Word which their parents have taught them. As children grow up, they can do things for the Lord which their parents were never able to do.

**RETURNING THE GIFT TO GOD** God has a plan for the life of each child. No child is an accident. God wants parents to care for the child and train him as well as they can. They should teach the child to make good use of his life. In this way, by preparing the child to serve God, the parents give their child back to God as a gift to Him.

**THE WORTH OF A CHILD** As a gift from God, a child is priceless. God knows this. But the child does not know it unless his parents teach him and show him how precious he is. Each child must learn that he has an important place in the family. By the age of five the child already has strong feelings about his self-worth. Therefore, the love and acceptance of both parents is important early in the child's life.

When parents teach their children that they are gifts from God, the children feel good about themselves.

**GENESIS 48:9, JOSHUA 24:3-4, PSALM 113:9, 1 SAMUEL 1**

**SEE, CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM THE LORD. (PSALM 127:3)**

**Children...a special gift with a special plan.**

**Children go in the direction their parents guide them and carry God's truth to others.**

**God wants parents to give their children back to Him.**

**Children feel good about themselves when they are needed and accepted.**

## WINDOW TO LIFE

In the Old Testament there is the story of Hannah and Samuel. Hannah prayed for a son for many years. Finally God gave her a son, Samuel. No one could have been happier than Hannah. Samuel was a gift from God.

After a few years, Hannah gave Samuel back to God. He went to work in the temple, helping Eli the high priest. He helped Eli for many years. After Eli died, Samuel took over Eli's work as high priest.

