

MESSAGE GUIDE

CHILD DEDICATION SUNDAY



February 18, 2018

CONNECT

- What are some of your best memories from childhood?

STUDY

This Sunday we took part of our service for child/parent dedications. The concept of family is important to God, and in God's Word we find a lot of input about the value of children and the roles and responsibilities of parents. Spend some time in the following scripture passages and deepen your understanding of what the Bible has to say about the well-being of the home:

- Take a look at Psalm 127:3-5. How are children described? Why are children considered such a blessing from God's perspective?
- In Jesus' time, children were not highly esteemed. How does Matthew 19:13-14 reveal Jesus' attitude towards kids? How might His attitude inform us?
- How does the teaching of Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (known to the Jews as *The Shema*) describe the types of interactions parents must intentionally make happen with their children? Reading through verses 10-19, what types of specific lessons are parents supposed to communicate to the children? Why are these lessons so important?
- How does Ephesians 6:1-4 talk about the responsibilities of children within the family structure? What counsel is given to fathers? What are some ways parents might exasperate their children?

- Finally, read Proverbs 22:6. What is the point of this verse? Is this verse a promise or advice? (*This verse deserves a bit of study as there are a few different viewpoints on its meaning!*)

APPLY

- What is the job of a parent? Give a few bullet point thoughts on what God wants moms and dads to be doing in their role as parents.
- How can the people of the church be a help to parents as they seek to raise their kids in the ways of the Lord?
- What makes parenting such a challenging job? What must we do to not only survive parenting, but find success?
- What would you say are the key ingredients to helping create a family environment where children can develop as God intends?
- Why does overly legalistic parenting tend not to work? Why does overly lax parenting tend not to work? What is a better parenting pathway than legalism or laxity?