



### Part 3: Let Them Fly

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#### Psalm 127

*A song of ascents. Of Solomon.*

<sup>1</sup>Unless the Lord builds the house,  
the builders labor in vain.  
Unless the Lord watches over the city,  
the guards stand watch in vain.

<sup>2</sup>In vain you rise early  
and stay up late,  
toiling for food to eat—  
for he grants sleep to those he loves.

The Lord must be the center of every “family”

The Lord must be the center of our security and work

The human hand without the hand of God is in vain

The human eye without the eyes of God is in vain

<sup>3</sup>Children are a heritage from the Lord,  
offspring a reward from him.

<sup>4</sup>Like arrows in the hands of a warrior  
are children born in one’s youth.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed is the man  
whose quiver is full of them.

They will not be put to shame  
when they contend with their  
opponents in court.

#### According to the Bible, children are a...

Gift (*heritage*) – the Hebrew word for gift is “an assigned possession”

Reward – the Hebrew word for reward conveys a pleasurable sign of appreciation – children are not a burden or punishment

Arrows – Prepared (*Proverbs 22:6*) , Directed (*Psalm 51:5, Psalm 58:3, Proverbs 22:15*), Released (*Matthew 19:5*)

You will break the bow if you keep it always bent.  
—Ancient Greek Proverb

## **The 4 Phases of Biblical Parenting**

Caregiver (your children rely on you for everything)

Cop (your children rely on you for boundaries)

Coach (your children rely on you for instruction)

Consultant (your children rely on you for requested advice)

## **A Biblical Word to "Parents"**

Embrace the assignment

Enjoy the pleasure of legacy

Release towards the cross of Jesus

## **As the Perfect Parent**

God desires to release you to his family, his purpose, his protection

They will not be put to shame when they contend  
with the opponents in court. – *Psalm 127:5b*

## **Next Steps**

**Connect Weekends.** We are encouraging everyone to engage this fall in their relationship with God. A great way to get started is to browse the booths at one of our Connect Weekends, September 27/28 or October 4/5 after each service. See details on today's program insert.

## **Small Group Questions**

- 1) What is your favorite childhood memory?
- 2) Where are you in your family's birth order (the baby, the oldest child, middle child, only child)? How did your position affect how your parents treated you?
- 3) Did your parents get stuck in one of the four phases of parenting? How did you respond?
- 4) If you are a parent, in what ways are you preparing, directing or releasing your children? If you are not a parent, answer the question hypothetically.
- 5) As a child of God, what does Psalm 127 teach you about God?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?