

***Are You Doing God's Will Part 8
A Family Doing God's Will Pause 4
Learning From the Childhood of Jesus***

“41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. 43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. 44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. 45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. 46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. 47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. 48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. 49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? 50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. 51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” (Luke 2:41-52 KJV)

The mind and the understanding of people dictate that children should be placed with other children to play, to race, and to talk to one another. There is a notion in most cultures that the children are good for children. That is why you find everywhere children with children in the street, schools, church, gardens, parks, etc.

People assume that in order for children to learn is to spend a fair amount of time with those of their own age. But is this idea scriptural? Does the Bible anywhere warn parents to provide adequate social interaction for their children? No! In fact all the warnings I am aware of focus on the opposite danger. Paul warned about friendships saying ***“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” (1 Corinthians 15:33 KJV)*** It is not that carnal friendships "might" be a bad. There is no "maybe" or "possibly" here. Ungodly companionships are inevitably a bad influence in all cases.

Solomon warned his son in saying to him, ***“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” (Proverbs 13:20 KJV)*** How can you tell if your children are experiencing companionship with fools? Fools are those who are foolish! The Bible tells us where we are most likely to find foolishness. ***Proverbs 22:15 KJV*** states, ***“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”*** This verse definitely tells us an inevitable focus of foolishness--children. Is it the plan of God for children to be nurtured by adults rather than by peers?

Ultimately the Bible has completely different concept and stand; the Bible does not appreciate children mixed with other children. Children by nature are foolish and should not

be allowed to be mixed with one another without the supervision of mature responsible adult.

Jesus criticized those who despised John the Baptist and he compared them with the following: ***“16 But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows, 17 And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.” (Matthew 11:16-17 KJV)*** Jesus compared their foolishness with the foolishness of the children playing in the street.

In ***Matthew 19:13-15 KJV*** ***“13 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. 15 And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.”*** The children did not come to Jesus alone but they were brought to Him by people who were responsible on them.

We know that Jesus is God our Saviour, and he came to save the world, therefore all what he did in his childhood was not only correct and sound but was directed toward the success of His mission. God will give us success in our lives if we focus on Him and do what is right in His sight. From ***Luke 2:41-52*** and that event from Jesus' life we can get good conclusion for raising up godly children:

1. Children should be with their parents to learn from them: Children should be with their parents to learn from their parents the good manner, the good habits, and learn good skill for life. That is why parents should be good example to their children. Children should be happy to stay with their parents. It is also good to play with parents and enjoy the time with them. Parents giving food and caring for children, and it is good that children help them in the house and listen and obey them to make their lives easier. This we had read about Jesus, ***“And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them.” (Luke 2:51 KJV)***

2. Parents should bring their children to God's church: Jesus went with his parents to the temple at the feast of the Passover when He was twelve years old: ***“41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.” (Luke 2:41-42 KJV)*** Today, we are God's church, and we need to bring our children with us to hear the Word of God, and learn good things from God's Word and apply them in their lives. The parents of Jesus were going every year to the feast of the Passover; they needed to travel from the city of Nazareth to Jerusalem which is around 79 miles distance (25 hours walking). Parents should teach and train their children to keep their commitment to God's church and be willing to give time, and whatever needed of effort to attend and take part of God's work.

3. Children should accompany parents who are directly responsible for their children: ***“And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in***

Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.” (Luke 2:43 KJV) Joseph and Mary were not aware to care for their child, Jesus. Many parents behave in such a way who do not mind with where is their child and with whom is going.

4. Children should not be glad that their parents are away from supervising them: Certain time parents would leave children alone, God may allow that, and that might be a test to the children how they will spend their time and how they will behave. Children should be aware that God is watching them.

5. Children should not be mixed with relatives or friends without the presence of the parents: **“44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.” (Luke 2:44 NIV)** **“44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.” (Luke 2:44 KJV)** When Joseph and Mary left Jesus alone, he was not found among friends or relatives. Jesus is God and would not do wrong and go alone to friends and relatives and spend time among them. Many parents let their children to go along their friends, neighbours or their relatives just for the reason that they can get some socialization and fun time. That would not be a healthy reason or a healthy atmosphere for them to grow up. Some other parents they leave their children in front of TV, computers, U tube, video games and that has more harmful effects on their lives.

6. Parents should search carefully for their children: **“And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.” (Luke 2:45 KJV)** When your child is missing from around you, then you need to move quickly to find him. God made you accountable for your child/children and you need to give an account on them before God. When your child is hiding and no voice coming from him, then he might be doing some mischief.

7. It is the parents fault if the child is lost: **“And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.” (Luke 2:48 KJV)** It was not Jesus fault but the fault of his parent. In the same way it is your responsibility as parents to look after your children.

8. God gave the parents authority over the children and bestow on them respect and honour: **“And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.” (Luke 2:51 KJV)** Jesus was obedient to His earthly parents. Your children will obey you as you exercise your authority over them and discipline them.

9. Children can be entrusted or be under the care of God's Word teachers: **“And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.” (Luke 2:46 KJV)** If Jesus His parents had left him, the only place that He needs to keep Himself with is the teachers of God's Word. For certain particular reason that you cannot keep your child/children with you, therefore you need to entrust them to be with God's people who can handle them and lead them in righteousness. Godly people who are disciplinarian can take care and look after your

children but for a short period of time till you are available back to be with your child/children.

10. Parents should take the direct responsibility to teach their children the Word of God: **“And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.” (Luke 2:46 KJV)** Jesus was not only listening but he was fully oriented of what the teachers are saying and even he was asking them questions. The scriptural directives to **“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6 KJV)** and **“6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7 KJV)** teach us that children are given to parents, not to some other institution to teach them.

Leaders in the church are to **“Equip the saints for the work.” (Ephesians 4:12)** not to "do the work for the saints." The church needs to train parents to take responsibility for discipline and discipling their own children. The church should stand beside the parents and help them and encourage them and build them up in the way that God wants them to raise up their children in godly manner. In **Matthew 19:13-15** **“13 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. 15 And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.”** The children were brought to Jesus by people who were responsible on them. Therefore, children when they are brought to the Lord/church, should be accompanied by their parents.

11. Paul endorsed the responsibility of the children to the parents: **“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4 KJV)** Nurture in this verse is the Word used for Paideia which mean: The whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals). For this purpose employ commands, admonitions, reproof and punishment. It also includes the training and care of the body as in controlling body weight, eating habit, sleeping time and hours. These all aspects are to be done by the parents. Many they misunderstand this verse and they will say that parents should not apply discipline on their children. But when discipline is absent, or when one of the parents is non disciplinary then the children are prone and provoked to do evil. When such discipline is absent, the children are under no control and once you correct them, they will be annoyed and flare up with anger to do wrong. Nurturing children means to discipline them so they will be moving and growing in the way that God wants them to go, **“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6 KJV)**

During the fasting that Jehoshaphat did to face the three invading armies we can read how families came together to face the situation, **“And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.” (2 Chronicles 20:13)** Here the families are kept intact, the men came with their wives, children and little one as intact unit. We cannot

recognize children, youth or women group separately, as we see today in God's churches, but families in order, father with the mother and the children and little ones.

My Dear and Beloved: Your children are God's children, and He gave them to you in order to raise them up in the prescribed way that they would finally serve Him and take the lead to do the will of God and the work of God and to be His instrument to deliver mankind from the peril of sin and devil. If you are careful to do these things then sure God will be pleased with you and they will be growing with the favor of God and man, as Jesus, "**And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.**" (Luke 2:52 KJV) To this you are called as parents and God wants you to desire to work hand in hand with Him and do properly your part as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that clearly declare to me your will and your good plan for me and my family. Lord I accept your calling and commission to me to lead my family and to raise up godly children, who will be servants of yours to lead others in righteousness. Lord equip me more and provide for me to continue to do your work and your will, this is my prayer in Jesus name. Amen.

For more spiritual enrichment please visit our website at:
www.churchofgoduae.com

Jesus christ



The Bread Of Life

"And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children."

(2 Chronicles 20:13)

Share the message to a friend