

Family Seasons: Lesson #8 “Season of Parenting”

Memory Verse

Psalm 127:3 (NKJV) “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.”

Gen 18:11, Jer 31:25, Matt 11:28, Psalm 127, Prov. 22:6, 1 Sam 3:10–14, Phil. 3:13.

Childless Parenting Genesis 18:11, 30:1,

Genesis 18:11–12 (NKJV) Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?”

Genesis 25:21 (NKJV) Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Genesis 30:1 (NKJV) Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, “Give me children, or else I die!” Rebekah

1 Samuel 1:1–8 (NKJV) Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. ² And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. ³ This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there. ⁴ And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the Lord had closed her womb. ⁶ And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb. ⁷ So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat. Then Elkanah her husband said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?”

Luke 1:7 (NKJV) But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

1 Samuel 1:1–8, and Luke 1:7. What do these people have in common? How did God answer their longings?

Matthew 24:19 (NKJV) *But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!*

Luke 23:29 (NKJV) *For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!’*

Single Parenting

Genesis 16:3–4 (NKJV) Then Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. ⁴ So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.

“Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has heard your affliction. ¹² He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man’s hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.”

Genesis 16:9–12 (NKJV) ⁹ The Angel of the LORD said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand.” ¹⁰ Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, “I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.” ¹¹ And the Angel of the LORD said to her:

1 Kings 17:9–12 (NKJV) “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” ¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink.” ¹¹ And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.”

¹² So she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”

Jeremiah 31:25 (NKJV) For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.”

God must be a priority, Example, Example, example, Consistency Loving Discipline, Fun Time together, Must Schedule it.

Promises for The Single Parent

Matthew 11:28 (NKJV) *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV) *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Jeremiah 32:27 (NKJV) *“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?”*

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Matthew 19:26 (NKJV) *But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV) *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*

Isaiah 43:1–2 (NKJV) *But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.*

“Death had separated her from Joseph, who had shared her knowledge of the mystery of the birth of Jesus. Now there was no one to whom she could confide her hopes and fears. The past two months had been very sorrowful.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 145.

The Joy and Responsibility of Parenting

Psalms 127:3–5 (NKJV) *Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth. ⁵ Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.*

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) *Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

1 Samuel 3:11–13 (NKJV) *Then the Lord said to Samuel: “Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. ¹² In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³ For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.*

Parenting as Disciple-Making

Genesis 18:18–19 (NKJV) *since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹ For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”*

Deuteronomy 6:6–9 (NKJV) *“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

Psalms 78:5–7 (NKJV) *For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; ⁶ That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, ⁷ That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;*

Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV) *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

Fighting for Your Prodigal Child

Philippians 3:13–14 (NKJV) *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Joel 2:25 (NKJV) *“So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,*

“Parents, you should commence your first lesson of discipline when your children are babes in your arms. Teach them to yield their will to yours. This can be done by bearing an even hand, and manifesting firmness. Parents should have perfect control over their own spirits, and with mildness and yet firmness bend the will of the child until it shall expect nothing else but to yield to their wishes. Parents do not commence in season. The first manifestation of temper is not subdued, and the children grow stubborn, which increases with their growth and strengthens with their strength.”— *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 218.