

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 danger of that. Paul warned about friendships saying **“33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” (1 Corinthians 15:33 KJV)** **Other children, media, TV and games will corrupt our children. 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, **“20 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, **“15 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, and the way to take foolishness out of them is by using a rod to spank them. Is it the plan of God for children to be nurtured by adults (in particular parents) rather than by children.

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. Mixing children with other children will teach them foolishness, and that is why I don’t allow children speaking to other children even in our church school, and I instruct**

parents not to allow their children to mix with other children, because they will only exchange foolishness between each other.

I usually said to the parents who cannot accept that their children should not be allowed to go along with other children because they say then how they will grow and how they will learn and how they can speak with adult people when they are big? I answer them in this way: Since your children when they will grow old they will speak and deal with adult, then from now let them and allow them only to speak with a worthy adult (Godly parents and Godly church leaders and teachers) whom they can learn much things from them.

Jesus criticized those who despised John the Baptist and he compared them with children as in 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)** Obviously Jesus here compared their foolishness with the foolishness of the children playing in the street. Our children will really become fools when they are allowed to go along with other children. Children in the street are foolish people.

In **Matthew 19:13-15 KJV** we can read, **“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. So we received children brought to the Church of God, brought to Jesus by their parents.

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 Jesus and do what is right in His sight. From **Luke 2:41-52** and that event from Jesus’ life while he was child 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, the good attitude, and learn good skills for life. **That is why parents should be good example to their children. Bad parents are bad examples and are harmful to their children.** Children should be happy to stay with their good 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 and more joyful. . This we had read about Jesus and is good example to the children: **“51 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 and resources to attend and take part of God's work.**

3. Children should accompany parents who are directly responsible for their children: *"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."* (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 where is their child and with whom he 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 and they should not do wrong.**

5. Children should not be mixed with relatives or friends without the presence of the parents: *"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 went alone to friends and relatives and spent time among them. Jesus did not go to friends or relatives and did not go along with other children when his parents left Him in Jerusalem. **Many parents let their children to go along their friends, neighbors or their relatives just for the reason that they can get some socialization and fun time, or they leave them so they will take care of them and baby sit them. 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, YOU Tube, video games as a way to baby sit them so they will not disturb them, but that has more harmful effects on their lives.**

6. Parents should search carefully for their children: *"45 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 of 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: *"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."* (Luke 2:48 KJV) It was not Jesus fault but the fault of his parents. **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: *"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."* (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: *"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."* (Luke 2:46 KJV) If Jesus His parents had left Him, the only place that He needed to keep Himself with was the teachers of God's Word. *** If for certain particular reason that you cannot keep your child or 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 or children. * God does not want you to leave your child with other children, with friends, relative or public school teachers, or in front of TV, laptop, computer, games or mobiles. * People hated me because of this teaching; people they left the church because this what I implement, but that is the truth and all of us we need to follow.**

10. Parents should take the direct responsibility to teach their children the Word of God: *"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."* (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 *"6 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 and train them. **That is why parents should read and know what is in the Bible to teach their children the Word of God, and teach them the practice of daily reading their Bible, meditating on God's Word and obey what is said. Parents are you reading your Bibles? Children are you reading your Bible? Are you meditating on God's Word? Are you obeying God's Word?**

Leaders in the church are to equip the parents for the work of God, not to do the work for the saints, so that every parent will be responsible to discipline his children. *"12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"* (Ephesians 4:12 KJV) The church needs to train parents to take responsibility to discipline and disciple their children. The church should not be the one to discipline the children; that is the work of their parents, but 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 their children in a Godly disciplined 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's church, should be accompanied by their parents. **But when fathers or mothers fail God and went to live their lives in sin, we found ourselves, as Church of God, became parents and baby sitters for destitute and troubled children.**

11. Paul endorsed the responsibility of the children to the fathers: “4 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 Greek Word used for ‘**Paideia**’ which means the following: The whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, attitudes and behaviors). For this purpose, it includes employing commands, admonitions, reproof, and punishment. It also includes the training and care of the body as in controlling body weight, eating habits, sleeping time, and hours. All these aspects are to be done by the parents to their children. Parents should teach their children to keep body weight, to keep sleeping time and waking time. 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 not disciplinary then the children are prone to be wild and provoked to do evil. When such discipline is absent, or one of the parents is not disciplinary 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, even with a rod, so they will be moving and growing in the way that God wants them to go, **“6 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, **“13 And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.” (2 Chronicles 20:13 KJV)** 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 groups separately, as we see today in God’s churches, but families in order, father with the mother and the children and little ones.

In the book of Acts, we can read about the same example of how families came together intact. This when Paul and the brethren with him landed in Tyre, they met disciples and stayed with them seven days, and upon their departure, we can read how they were farewell by the families of the disciples, **“3 Now when we had discovered Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, and sailed into Syria, and landed at Tyre: for there the ship was to unlade her burden. 4 And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem. 5 And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed. 6 And when we had taken our leave one of another, we took ship; and they returned home again.” (Acts 21:3-6 KJV)**

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 your children will be growing with the favor of God and man, as Jesus, **“52 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 in raising Godly children prepared to have Godly families. **Let us 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.

Repent and renounce all your sins; being bad example to your children, careless, non disciplinarian, and allowing your children to go with others, and other children without your presence, and be on TV, mobile and the Media. Lord I repent and I renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I accept your calling and commission to me to lead my family and to raise up my children in a Godly way, 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.

Lord bless my brethren and my sisters who committed their lives to do this task that you entrusted to them to raise up their children in a Godly way. Lord provide for them time and maintain good resources to them so they can do this task well.

Lord help us as a church to go on and do the work of yours, to equip parents and train them to raise up their children in a Godly way. Lord open the hearts of the people to receive and obey Your Word that we are teaching them. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and lead us to evangelize reaching new people with the gospel and to make new disciples and to plant new congregation for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Learning From the Childhood of Jesus. Luke 2:41-52. 1 Corinthians 15:33. Proverbs 13:20. Proverbs 22:15. Matthew 11:16-17. Matthew 19:13-15. Proverbs 22:6. Deuteronomy 6:6-7. Ephesians 4:12. Matthew 19:13-15. Ephesians 6:4. 2 Chronicles 20:13.

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