



the coming kingdom

a prophetic message for our universe

APRIL - MAY 2010

This Book Belongs to _____

The Coming Kingdom Reading

Jesus said, “.... **The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.... for the kingdom of heaven is near.**”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

“I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

.... Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. And this *good news* of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations... The time has come.... The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

**“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Thine is the Kingdom and the glory
forever and ever,
Amen.”**

*Matthew 4:23 Luke 17:21 Matthew 4:16-17 Matthew 13:44-46 Mark 10:15
Matthew 7:21 Matthew 5:19 Matthew 24:14 Mark 1:15 Matthew 6:9-13*



APRIL 11

Parent/Child Dedication

Topical Lesson: Giving Them to God

1 Samuel 1, Luke 1:13-17, Luke 1:30-33, Proverbs 22:6

Sermon Notes

Hannah's _____ was the same as the
_____ in Mark 12. She was giving to God from her
_____ not from her _____.

Eli's gift to God was from _____ not from
_____.

You cannot give a _____ to the Lord: They still have to
make _____. You can _____ your efforts and
_____ to be for God rather than for yourself.

If you make an _____ with God, keep your
_____ of the _____.

What we know:

Dedicating your child to the Lord doesn't guarantee _____
life—it only ensures _____ life and _____ life...if
they _____.

The _____ wasn't a _____, but an
_____ of reality.

The end of the matter:

Help them find _____.

Let them experience _____.

_____ yourself and _____ your efforts.

Introduction

Baby dedications are interesting to officiate. Most parents who want to dedicate their children to the Lord are following in the footsteps of many Bible characters or people of faith. I believe this is a noble thought. But can I dedicate someone else's life? Not really. Baby dedications are a statement of personal dedication, "I am dedicating my life to raising this child in paths of faith." It's more of a parent dedication than a baby dedication.

As parents, dedication is difficult to quantify. We never feel like we're giving 100% and often underestimate our efforts. We feel like we're giving 10% when we're probably hitting a higher mark. But, how do you know? How can you measure the effectiveness of your efforts?

I've listened to parents I highly respect and have picked up a few things worth passing on. First, if your child is better behaved and more respectful when you're not around, you're doing something right. When people give you positive reports and you're thinking, "You are talking about my child...right?" that's when you know you're headed in a good direction.

Second, if your child is willing to speak with you about their failures and mistakes, you are cultivating a healthy, redemptive atmosphere. All children will tend to keep some things to themselves; we all do. But if you are able to speak about weaknesses of your own and share with each other failures and successes, you are modeling a healthy prayer life to your children.

Third, be real and be consistent. Don't pretend you're perfect or demand a belief that parents are always right. Parents are people and make mistakes. While respect should always be cultivated in our children, they will never respect a parent who demands one standard but lives by another. If you don't keep your room clean, good luck forcing them to keep theirs in order. If you don't keep your language clean, don't complain when they cuss. If you don't value God, faith and family, they probably won't either. In other words, set an example before you expect them to follow your lead.

Fourth, open your home to people you believe can positively shape their lives. Too many parents want their children to look up to them as their mentors. Parents mentor their children whether they like it or not. But mentors are chosen, not appointed. Cultivate relationships with younger people whom your children can follow in the faith and invite them into your world. Let them be close and don't be jealous if your children love and adore them.

Good advice is a blessing. Give it. Take it. Use it.

Reflection

When you review the sermon notes, your readings and thoughts, what reflections do you have about dedicating children to the Lord or dedicating your efforts to strengthen their faith?

Heart

Every parent discovers an unknown world when they embrace their child (children). As a parent you learn things you can't be taught because children expand the experience of love in unique ways. Begin this conversation by sharing the aspects of love you believe are unique to the parent-child relationship.

Soul

Consider the core of your faith. Who has helped you grow in your relationship to God more than anyone else? You might view this person as a spiritual father or mother. How have they helped your spiritual formation and growth?

Mind

When you read 1 Samuel 1, Luke 1:13–17, Luke 1:30–33, Proverbs 22:6...what do you believe are the keys to helping children grow in their faith from the moment they are conceived? What commitments could parents make from the beginning that would strengthen the faith of their children?

Strength

Think of someone younger than yourself who would be encouraged by an intentional word of faith from you. Before you leave this lesson, write a “faith-encouragement” note to lift them up this week.

Parent/Child Dedication 2010

Please pray for these parents and children.

Roland Onyango Haddow born to Violet and Nick Haddow on July 13, 2008

Hayley Jo Lee born to Laura and John Lee on March 27, 2009

Josey Pearl Whitaker born to Rebekah and Corey Whitaker on May 29, 2009

Levi Graham Sampson born to Geneva and Gene Sampson on June 15, 2009

Bennett James Lugibihl born to Ruth and Chris Lugibihl on July 23, 2009

Marin Louise Lugibihl born to Ruth and Chris Lugibihl on July 23, 2009

Kylie Beth Thoman born to Jenni and Brian Thoman on October 12, 2009

Lilyanna Grace Carreon born to Kate and Michel Carreon on October 14, 2009

Carmela Luciana Mitchell born to Sarah and Kari Mitchell on October 26, 2009

Whitney Ophelia Mulenga born to Denise and Sam Mulenga on December 2, 2009

Gabriel Oscar Joerres born to H. Jung Song and Joshua Joerres on December 21, 2009

Parent's Pledge

Realizing that this child
is a gift from the Lord/
I dedicate this child to Him/
I now give this child to the Lord/
For as long as he/she lives.

Congregation's Pledge

As your spiritual family/
We dedicate ourselves to
helping you/
In the training of this child/
For the glory of our Lord.

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