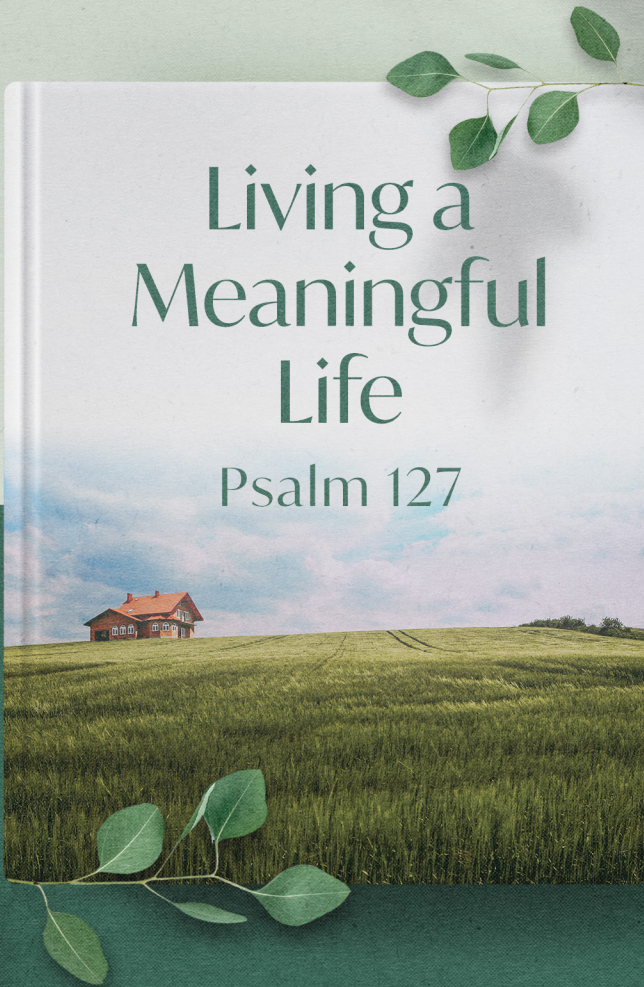


*The*  
***Psalms***  
Songs to Keep Your Life in Tune



Message Guide | November 22, 2020

# Living a Meaningful Life

Today's Message (22 November 2020) / Psalm 127

*Because God is superior to all other sources of trust, we dare not plan and do anything without turning to Him first in our hearts, through prayer and total dependence. And then we work with passion and excellence with His blessings and guidance.*

This wisdom psalm is a beautiful song of faith, which at first glance, seems mainly about family. It is that, and more. It really teaches the child of God about the nature of God, and its wonderful and assuring implications for our lives.

If the wisest man who ever lived gave you advice, you'd listen. So here are just two life-changing realities about God's character we must know, from a song that he wrote:

## 1. THE SUPREMACY OF GOD OVER OTHER BASES OF TRUST [vv. 1-2]

- Solomon used as illustrations three common activities we often do without God. The implications are then laid out:
  - a) A house built in vain – things requiring our skill and investments.
  - b) A city guarded in vain – things requiring our care and vigilance.
  - c) Work and worry in vain – things requiring hard work and emotional commitment.
- God's purpose is that His beloved child rest. The wordings in the original can even mean "for He gives to His beloved even in his sleep"! What robs you of rest? Remember this: Whatever else we trust in becomes meaningless, if God is not the priority of our trust.

## 2. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD OVER ALL OF LIFE [vv. 3-5]

- To illustrate how completely God rules the realities of life, Solomon used something completely outside human control: the gift of life. We see that children are:
  - a) A heritage – this means God has a plan for them from eternity, beyond our comprehension. Children are far more than the incidental offshoots of marriage.
  - b) A reward – a reflection of God's delight and pleasure.

# Living a Meaningful Life

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- c) "Arrows" – indicates how God wants them developed, and how God wants them to be blessings to their family.
- Our sovereign and infinitely wise God designed the family to be a support system where the members uphold and build up each other. So, when family members choose to tear each other down than build each other up, only conflict and crisis can follow. This is true not only for our homes, but especially in God's very own family, the local church.
- Because God is sovereign, we should entrust not just our family to Him, but our entire lives. Let's pray that we can see all our efforts and concerns from God's perspective, the One who both knows and controls all things – from beginning to end.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Because God is superior to all other sources of trust, we dare not plan and do anything without turning to Him first in our hearts, through prayer and total dependence. And then we work with passion and excellence with His blessings and guidance.

Because God is sovereign over all of life, we learn to balance trust and effort in a way that pleases Him and blesses us. As we do, we discover that this is God's loving way of giving us rest in the stresses of life, and the only way to live life with meaning.

## GROUP/FAMILY Discussion Questions

1. Why does it matter that God becomes the only basis for our trust? Can you share one time in your life when you learned the hard way it is better to trust in God than in anything else?
2. What could be the reason the Bible refers to children as "arrows"? What does it reveal about how they should be developed?
3. If God is sovereign and infinitely wise, how should a genuine Christian regard his/her unknown future?
4. Pray together and ask God to help you all know Him better, because as we do, we find life a meaningful journey rather than a frustrating reality we should hurry to get out of.

## #WhyChildrenAreCentraltoGod

Would you leave a newborn to die in a fierce cold?

That's cruel, right? Yet, not so long ago, this was how children were treated. In fact, in ancient Rome, children were not considered human beings until they were toddlers. Abuse and marginalization—these happen to children.

Children are central to Jesus, and it's the kind of attitude churches should exhibit. Once, Jesus rebuked the disciples, saying, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs [to them]." In Jesus, children can find belonging and are never insignificant.

Jesus is saying that children are BLESSINGS and GIFTS--never a distraction. Jesus welcomed them, so should we. Psalm 127:3 says they're a "heritage from the Lord,...a reward..." As gifts, they must be nurtured by the home, church, and school.

Christ wants us to VALUE children. One day, there was this 8-year-old who attends our kids' small groups. She messaged me through her mom whom I disciple. She wanted to talk to me. I will never forget what she said: "Teacher Angel, I praise God for you, thank you for loving me; I still remember teacher when you used to take care of me".

Those words meant the world to me. A year ago, her mom was working overseas and she was sad; she would cry and I would hug and comfort her, and pray with her.

Now, she continues to grow in faith and regularly prays with her mom for the pandemic victims.

Children know when they are loved, and they reciprocate. When they have belonging, they extend the same to others. This is how we can impact them.

At Children's Ministry, our small group leaders and kids' parents gather monthly online to pray. It's such a blessing to hear kids and their parents pray like that 12-year-old boy who genuinely prayed for the pastors, that you would definitely have been blessed if you heard him.

We praise God for kids who have become prayerful and who share God's Word, growing in faith as we lead/mentor them.

Kids are the next leaders in church and society. Instead of viewing them as weak and noisy, let's see them from the lens of the Father as BLESSINGS, GIFTS, and being VALUABLE.

At GCF, we celebrate children and the adventures we have with them. Happy Children's Day to GCF children and kids out there. To our Sunday School Teachers and Parents, let's continue faithfully the work entrusted to us.

Let's value children, instruct them in the way of the Lord, for we are called to love them, provide that space and avenue for them to be what God intends them to be.

# CHURCH UPDATES

## GCF RELIEF OPERATIONS FOR #UlyssesPH VICTIMS

We are accepting CASH donations for the typhoon victims. Email a copy of your transaction slip to [finance@gcf.org.ph](mailto:finance@gcf.org.ph) with the subject "Typhoon Ulysses"

## EMMANUEL — GCF CHRISTMAS MUSICALE 2020

Celebrate Christ with us on December 20, 2020. Invite your friends and family as we proclaim the good news, God with us!

## ELECTION OF CHURCH LEADERS

Church members can visit [election.gcf.org.ph](http://election.gcf.org.ph) to see the list of candidates for the Board of Elders and Council of Deacons.

## PRE-REGISTER FOR THE IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE

To know more about the safety guidelines and restrictions, and to reserve a seat, visit <https://tinyurl.com/GCFreservation>. Pre-registration is open every week from Wednesday (5:00pm) to Saturday (11:59pm) or upon full booking, whichever comes first.

## BELONGING (Midweek Series): FOSTERING COMMUNITY THROUGH SPORTS

November 25 (Wed), 8:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

## REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS

Mondays and Fridays, 8:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

## LIVestream (Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m. on [youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive](https://www.youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive)

## KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 1:00 p.m. on Facebook at @GCFKidsLIFE

## THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays, 8:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. via Zoom

## TITUS 2 WOMEN GROWTH GROUP

Tuesdays, 8:00 p.m., via Zoom, with Susan Sosmena

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

For offerings during this time, please consider the following options:

### BANK DEPOSIT OR TRANSFER

Account Name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

- **BDO** (BDO Corporate Center Branch) • **Metrobank** (Ortigas Sapphire Branch)  
Savings Account 000661590216 Savings Account 629-3-62919733-9
- **China Bank** (Ortigas ADB Branch) • **GCash (L) and PayMaya (R)**  
Savings Account 1112-02006218 (Scan QR code below)
- **UnionBank** (UB Plaza Branch)  
Checking Account 0005-9001-0426
- **Robinsons Bank** (Main Office Branch)  
Savings Account 1000-3010-0017-355
- **Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)**  
(Ortigas Emerald Branch)  
Peso Savings Account  
Account name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.  
Account No.: 9823 0217 01



### CREDIT/DEBIT CARD THROUGH PAYPAL

Please visit [www.gcf.org.ph/give](http://www.gcf.org.ph/give) for instructions.

Please email a copy of your transaction document to [finance@gcf.org.ph](mailto:finance@gcf.org.ph) so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

### COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also designate your giving to our church's efforts to help frontliners and the vulnerable. Just indicate "For COVID-19 fund" when you email your transaction document ■



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☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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