

GOD, THE ONE WHO MAKES IT ALL WORTHWHILE

Psalm 127

A song of ascents. Of Solomon.

- ¹Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.
- ²It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives to his beloved sleep.
- ³Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,
the fruit of the womb a reward.
- ⁴Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.
- ⁵Blessed is the man
who fills his quiver with them!
He shall not be put to shame
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

WELCOME: *Fixing Our Focus*

Ask each member to write in a small sheet of paper what or who on earth is most special to them? Note that there should only be one answer. After all had answered, ask them to form two concentric circles standing up. The people in the inner circle will face outward, while those on the outer circle will face inward. Each one should have a person to whom they are face to face with. For one minute, the pair will show their answers and share the reason behind their answer. Every minute, the group will rotate clockwise (change partner), until they return to their 1st partner.

After the activity, and everyone has settled into their seats, the leader will tell the group that what is most special to them becomes truly special only when God is behind it.

WORSHIP: *Adoring Our God*

Suggested songs:

Firm Foundation (Don Moen) by Nancy Gordon & Jamie Harvill

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less by Edward Mote

Cornerstone by Reuben Morgan, Jonas Myrin and Eric Liljero

WORD: *Understanding the Word*

Lesson Aim: Members will be intentional in dedicating their everyday routines and their dreams to God.

Introduction

“Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.” (*Ecclesiastes 1:2*) Or is it? As we delve into Psalm 127, let us allow the author of this Psalm and the book of Ecclesiastes (yes they are one and the same) to teach us how to make this life that God has given us—sensible, that we may live in tune with God until Christ returns.

Leader: Lead in reading Psalm 127 aloud together. Then read the paragraph on the “Key Verse.”

Key Verse: In a world that extols self-sufficiency, the psalmist teaches humility and dependence on God: “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”

Psalm 127:1-2. Theme: _____

1. What does the phrase “unless the Lord” convey? What do we learn about God from this (*v. 1*)?

2. What kind of life experiences did Solomon relate this “unless the Lord” concept with (*vv. 1-2*)?

3. Was Solomon devaluing hard work in diligence when he said, “It is vain that you rise up early...”? Relate your answer to the truth taught in verse 1 (v. 2).

4. According to Ephesians 3:20-21, God works through us and the results are abundant. In fact, far more abundantly than all that we ask or think. Compare the phrase “far more abundantly than all that we ask or think” and “eating the bread of anxious toil” (*Psalm 127:2*). How are they similar or different from one another?

5. How does the blessing of sleep relate to what Solomon has been saying so far?

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 1-2.

Psalm 127:3-5. Theme: _____

6. Respond to this quote from Charles Spurgeon: “He gives children, not as a penalty nor as a burden, but as a favour.”

7. Underline the two adjectives that Solomon used to describe children in verse 3. What do you think these mean?

8. List the different ways that children may be “like arrows in the hand of a warrior” (v. 4).

9. Why did Solomon say that “Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!”? Does he mean that a person who has more children is more blessed? Explain your answer (v. 5).

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 3-5.

WALK: *Applying the Word*

Questions for Adults

1. What areas, relationships or things in your life do you consider very special? How would these look like if God is the foundation of each of these?
2. The passage showed three elements that society expects from people today: a pleasant house; a dream job and a good family. How can we make sure that our desire to have these will be God-honoring rather than people-pleasing?
3. Resting shows our dependency on God and not on self. What are the common indicators that we are self-sufficient rather than God-reliant in a) building or maintaining our dream house or family b) tackling our workloads and c) raising children?
4. In your group, how could you help one another battle self-sufficiency?
5. How can parents fulfill their part in raising children who will become a blessing?
6. Pray for your families.

Questions for the Youth

1. Are you undertaking something important right now, whether it's a project in school or a personal hobby? Is God at the foundation of what you are doing? If not, how can you change so that he becomes the foundation?
2. In what ways can you be a blessing to your parents? How can you help out in the house, build up the reputation of your parents, etc.?

Questions for Children

1. According to the psalmist, everything that we do is useless unless God is involved in it. How can you involve God when it comes to your studies?
2. According to the psalmist, children are blessings from the Lord. How can you be a blessing to your parents?