



Giving and receiving a blessing can be life changing. In this lesson, we explore the power and beauty of offering a blessing to the next generation, celebrating our children and promising to raise them in the training and knowledge of the Lord.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

**Group Ice-Breaker:**

- (1) What is the best thing your father ever did for you?
- (2) What is the most important thing you want to pass on to the next generation?

**CHILDBIRTH OUGHT TO BE A CHURCH-WELCOMING EVENT.**

Name the things we usually celebrate at church, in a church building, or with church family (ex: wedding, funeral, baptism). Discuss why childbirth is or is not different.

**RELEASING CHILDREN TO GOD IS BIBLICAL.** Read Exodus 13:1-2, 1 Samuel 1:11-28 & Luke 2:22-23. Why did Hannah and Mary “dedicate” their children to the Lord? What is the principle taught here?

**OUR CHILDREN BELONG TO GOD.** Read Isaiah 44:24; Psalm 139:13-14; Jer 1:5. If everything belongs to God, God knew our children even before we did, and all we have are gifts from the Lord, it follows that our children belong to God and are on loan to us. Discuss how this means we are stewards not owners.

**THE POWER OF BLESSING.** Read Numbers 6:24-26. Why do fathers “bless” their children in the book of Genesis? Why is “blessing” important to pass on? Notice they are given with spoken affirmations and some shared expectation about a child’s future.

**CHILDREN ARE GOD INTENDED.** Read Psalm 137:3; Genesis 1:28; 2:24. How does our culture try to convince us that children are less than God-intended? How does this make a difference as a culture?

**CHILDREN ARE JESUS LOVED.** Read Mark 10:13-16. Why does it matter that Jesus loves children and desires to be around them? How are Jesus’ actions similar to offering a blessing?

**CHILDREN ARE TO BE SPIRIT RAISED.** Read Ephesians 6:1-4. Paul ends Ephesians discussing spiritual battles. How is parenting related? What does it mean to raise children in the nurture of the Lord?