Series: God's help for the modern family

**How to put your child in God’s hands**

1 Samuel 1:20-28 September 18, 2016

1. By recognizing your child is from God.

a. Children are a reminder that God hears our prayers.

* V.20 *And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked for him from the Lord.”*
* V.27 *For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him.*

b. Children are a gift from God

* Psalm 127:3 *Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.*

c. Children are created by God with a purpose.

* Psalm 139:13 *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*
* Jeremiah 1:5 *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you;”*
* Isaiah 44:2 *Thus says the Lord who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen.*

Q. What are some of the alternatives to dedicating a child to God? Who or what else might we be tempted to dedicate them to?

Q. How can recognizing that a child is created by God be a comfort to a parent?

Q. How does recognizing that you were created by God with a purpose change the way you live your life?

2. By training your child to serve God not this world.

a. We and our children will appear before God to give an account.

* v.22 Hannah prepared Samuel to *“appear in the presence of the LORD”* and it was her desire that he would *“dwell there forever.”*
* Bob Talbert: Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best.

b. Our words are not enough to train our children for God – they also need God’s Word.

* Deuteronomy 6:6-7 *And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

c. God’s word is not enough to train our children for God – they also need discipline.

* Ephesians 6:4 *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*
* Proverbs 29:17 *Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.*

Q. How would the knowledge that Hannah was preparing her child to serve in the presence of God uniquely shape how she interacted with her child?

Q. What are some of the ways that you’ve seen God’s Word used effectively to train children?

Q. Why aren’t words, even God’s words, enough to train children?

3. By praying that your child might shape a generation not just be protected from it.

a. Hannah put her child in God’s hands, despite the failings of the priesthood.

* vv.25-26 The last time Hannah had met Eli, he couldn’t even tell the difference between prayer and drunkenness.
* 1 Samuel 2:12 *Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord.*

b. Hannah put her child in God’s hands, despite the sinfulness of her culture.

* Judges 17:6 *In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

c. Hannah saw Samuel transform the nation.

* 1 Samuel 3:1 *Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.*
* 1 Samuel 7:3-4 *And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” 4 So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the Lord only.*
* Give your child to God not to fear!

Conclusion: You can give your child to God because He gave His child for you.

* John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Q. How could Hannah overcome the doubts and fears she must have had about the faith and character of Eli and his sons?

Q. Why is parenting out of fear so dangerous for our children?

Q. How is an understanding of God’s dedication of Jesus to us a help to us in dedicating our children to God?

**Notes:**