

ARROW

Aim (Week 1)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

When we specifically aim children at the target, they have the best chance of hitting the bullseye.

Key Scriptures

Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchmen keeps awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to retire late, to eat the bread of painful labors; for He grants sleep to those He loves. Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; they will not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate. Psalm 127

These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all His decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Deuteronomy 6:1-2

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

Two Timeless Truths:

1. Children are a blessing, not a burden.

All children are lovingly and specifically made so that we might specifically and lovingly care for them.

2. There are lots of different arrows; but only one target.

Though all children are different; it is on us as adults to aim them to the target of a personal belief and transforming relationship with Jesus.

Two application points:

- 1. They don't know what you haven't told them.**
- 2. They won't do what you haven't shown them.**

Start talking.

- Who were the adults that lovingly pointed you toward truth as a young person?
- How are all of us responsible for the faith of the next generation?

Start thinking.

- Read Psalm 127; Deuteronomy 6:1-2, 6-7. What are the links between these passages?
- What is the "promise" mentioned in Deuteronomy 6:2?
- How would you sum up the idea from Deuteronomy 6:6-7?
- Why is it important that we view children as a blessing and gift?
- Read Matthew 6:33; and John 14:6. How do those verses identify the target for the next generation?

Start sharing.

- How does culture, and maybe even yourself, communicated that children are a burden rather than a blessing?
- Rather than embracing the differences of our children, how do we try to conform them to our ideas of success?
- If the children in your circle of influence depended on you to clearly define the target, what would they say it is?

Start doing.

- How can you specifically identify the target of Jesus for the children in your circle of influence?
- How can you demonstrate this week a belief in the target of Jesus this week?

Closing prayer.

Dear Jesus, help me to see the children in my life as blessing and gifts. Help me to love them as you love them. Give me the courage, wisdom, and words to clearly identify a relationship with you as the target for their lives. Help me to model faithfully a life lived in pursuit of your Kingdom and righteousness. Grant me eyes to see the opportunities to help reproduce faith in the next generation.