

Raising children in the church

Discuss together:

What comes into your mind when you think about "children and family"?

The Bible's big picture about "children"

1. Marriage & fruitfulness: it's a command for all people, everywhere

Genesis 1:28, "And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth"."

2. God covenants with Abraham... and his seed

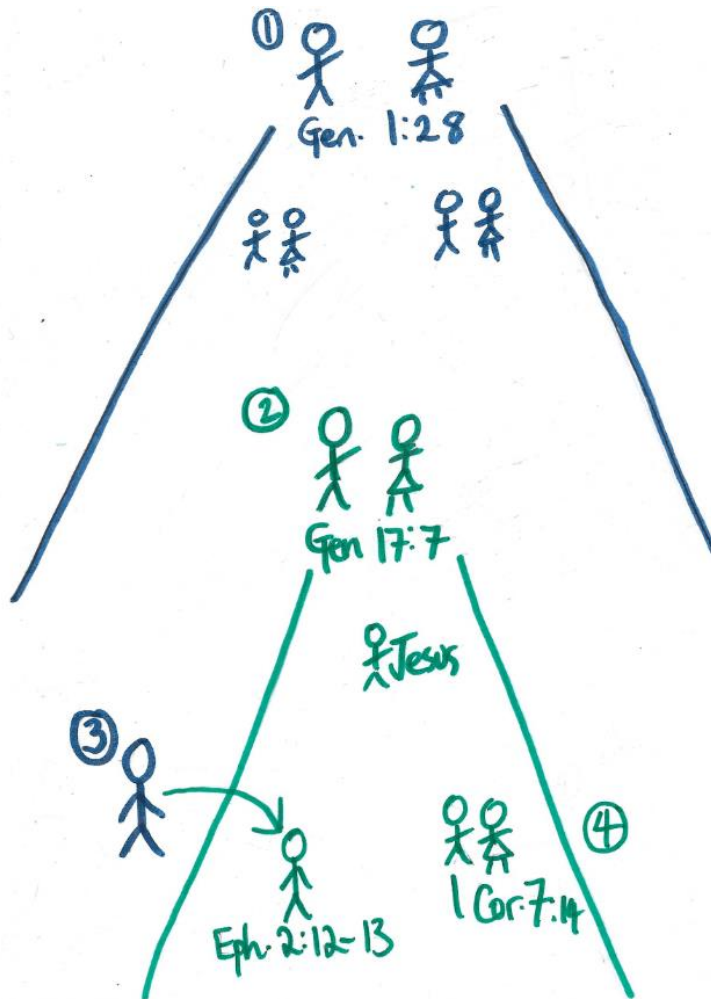
Genesis 17:7, "And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

3. Gentile converts are brought *into* the covenant people = the church

Ephesians 2:12-13, "remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

4. Believers' children are born *within* this covenant

1 Corinthians 7:14, "...Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy."



Discuss this together

1. What do you think most applies to YOU
2. How can you most help SOMEONE ELSE

NEXT WEEK = Questions! At Brentwood County High School

“Marriage was ordained

1. for the mutual help of husband and wife,
2. for the increase of mankind with legitimate offspring
3. and of the church with godly children,
4. and for the prevention of sexual immorality”

(Westminster Confession, 24.2, Modern English, OPC)

Psalm 78:4-8. How many generations are here?

We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.

⁵ He established a testimony in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers
to teach to their children,

⁶ that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,

⁷ so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;

⁸ and that they should not be like their fathers,
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,
whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Applications:

1. Christians should welcome children! – by birth, and by adoption

2. Think carefully about our aspirations for our children

3. Church members *without* children are to embrace the children of the church (Matthew 19:29, Psalm 68:6)