



## Praying as families for childless couples and families of children with special needs

Day 37

The Bible says that Children are a heritage from the Lord in Psalms 127:3. But in God's word we see of many prominent couples who did not have a child for long years. Starting with the man of faith Abraham who was called by God to fill the earth with his descendants, did not have a child till he past the age of childbearing. His wife Sarah even laughed when God promised a child as it was physically an impossibility. Then the Lord gives a child Isaac whose name means "laughter" bringing joy to the couple and fulfilling God's plan. Interestingly the story repeats itself to Isaac and Rebecca and then for Jacob and Rachel. All of them did not have their children in the normal way. They had to pray, seek, wait for their child. These examples are repeated in the Old Testament for many other couples, and the first couple in the New Testament, Elizabeth and Zechariah, who also went through the same experience. This clearly shows that God is involved in every life that begets in one's womb and, so finding the purpose of God for every child in this universe is vital, irrespective of, to whom and how the child is born.

All biblical examples of couples who waited on the Lord for their children understood that their child was a gift from God and not an automatic outcome of their love making. While many have had the joy of having children through their love making, some have had the privilege to have children through love choosing. The latter chose to have children through adoption, and they have indeed been blessed to have their children as a heritage from the Lord. In a time when childlessness has become quite common due to various factors, many try various treatments to have a child of their own. While these efforts are good if they're successful, many have become frustrated in the process. Though God gives biological children for some, for some it does not happen and only the creator knows the answer to this mystery. In such a situation it's also a good time to consider giving an opportunity to a child who is longing to have a parent through the process of adoption.

In Isaiah 58:11, the Lord promises his people who keep his ways, that they will be like a well-watered garden. The garden of one's marriage blooms more when they have children to nurture and grow. Each of our gardens can be filled with lovely children either through having



your own biological children or through adoption. Although Jesus was divinely conceived by Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, in one way he could be paralleled to an adopted child for Mary and Joseph, as they were only given a responsibility to bring-up the child to the world and also nurture Him. They did their job in helping Jesus to grow in stature and in the favor of both God and man. But we know their responsibility was over when he grew up and he went on to fulfill the mission of God. So, every child is given to us is for a limited time and then we are called to release them, irrespective of them being our biological or adopted child.

Some special parents have been given very special children by the Lord. These children need special attention and care because of the various disabilities with which they were born. These children are more precious to God and they cannot be cared for by every one , but they need special parents, who are called to love and raise them with grace.

Though these days such children and parents are given much attention by various government and non-government agencies, many such families still struggle on their own. As a body of Christ, we also need to pay much needed attention to these children and their parents. Our church needs to have special services and also build facilities for parents and children and meet their needs for worship along with others. Many of the parents feel isolated and go through much pain, guilt and many are totally cut off from the rest of the fellowship. These parents need to be given the needed break from their routine and the church could take the step to include and prioritize their needs as part of its important ministry.

As we pray for those couples without children, let us pray for the Lord to either give them their hearts desire soon, either biologically or through adoption. Let us pray for those parents and families with special children, to accept them and to love them impartially. Also, we need to pray for their siblings to show love and care for their differently abled brother and sister.



The church should have more ministry centers and facilities to give the needed attention to these families who need all our love and care. Let's also pray for the ministries and special need schools that are taking care of these children, that they will genuinely care and not have any business motive behind their service.

## LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus, you care for every family, and you would like our homes to be like a well-watered garden, and like a spring of water which does not fail. Lord, we pray that you will enrich those who are longing for children to make their marriage a more joyful garden . We pray you will also help them to make use of this opportunity to look for children who are longing for a loving home. Some of the parents are struggling as you have given them a special task of caring for their special children. Will you not give the needed grace to care and love as you would do with each one of us who are so disabled in many ways. May we as a body of Christ become more sensitive to these needs of families and help us to be a channel of blessing to the world. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

