

Parenting with Promise # 1

Psalm 121¹⁻²

Why don't children come with an instruction manual?

Lord's day evening: 27 May 2007

Preacher: Geoff Findlay

Introduction

Two reasons – one altruistic, one selfish

Ante-natal classes?

What if you're nowhere near this?

What if you're past it?

1. They don't come with an instruction manual

What do you want to know?

Why no instruction manual?

Formula or Faith?

2. They do come from One who knows everything

And He reveals Himself

The fundamental premise underlying this whole series

3. They do come with a promise

The promise that God will be their God

The promise that God's kingdom belongs to them

The promise that God will be our Guide

The promise that God will be our Helper

The promise that God will be gracious

The promise that God's grace will be sufficient

Gen 17⁷

Matt 19¹⁴

Isa 58¹¹

Isa 41¹⁰

Joel 2¹³

2 Cor 12⁹

Conclusion

Thank God they don't come with an instruction manual!

Discussion



Questions answered

- Why don't children come with an instruction manual?
- Is child training primarily a matter of the right formula or of faith?
- What is better than an instruction manual concerning our children?
- What is the fundamental premise underlying this series of sermons?
- What is our model for training our children?
- What does God give us instead of a detailed instruction manual concerning what to do in every conceivable situation?
- What promises does God give us that encourage and enable us as parents?
- What is the relationship between our children and the kingdom of God?
- What does it mean for God to uphold us with his righteous right hand?
- Does God deal with us according to our parenting performance?
- What would be the awful consequences of our children coming with an instruction manual?



Things to pray about

- The wonder of God entrusting little people into our care.
- The sufficiency of God to reveal and help us in all He calls us to do.
- The poor plight of those who have children but do not know God – and how we can reach out to them.