

Psalm 127 *(msg)*

¹⁻² If God doesn't build the house,
the builders only build shacks.
If God doesn't guard the city,
the night watchman might as well nap.
It's useless to rise early and go to bed late,
and work your worried fingers to the bone.
Don't you know he enjoys
giving rest to those he loves?
³⁻⁵ Don't you see that children are God's best gift?
the fruit of the womb his generous legacy?
Like a warrior's fistful of arrows
are the children of a vigorous youth.
Oh, how blessed are you parents,
with your quivers full of children!
Your enemies don't stand a chance against you;
you'll sweep them right off your doorstep.

This Week's *Verses*

Psalm 127
Ephesians 6
Colossians 3:23
Proverbs 10:5
1 Corinthians 15:10
Genesis 1:31

John 5:16-17
Genesis 2
Deuteronomy 6
Matthew 11:28

Work
Psalm 127

Week 8

Songs of Ascent

Daily Reading

Work Psalm 127

The beauty of how we speak of the Gospel is that our salvation isn't by our work, it is by Jesus' work for us. Because He died we find rest in Him. We live, we work, we raise families and when it all feels overwhelming Jesus says (in Matthew 11:28) "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Jesus will also tell us, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me..." Jesus is not saying, "Don't work." He's saying, "Work with me and for me." When we see what He did for us out of love, by working with and for Him we will be liberated. This is why the New Testament says that *all* we do is for the glory of God. We are to ultimately love of our work because we love Jesus and we do it all in a redeemed way. Our work first honors God and then others because Jesus did the ultimate work for us on the cross.

Read the Psalm each day as you answer the daily questions.

Day 1 Reflect: Why does our work lack meaning and significance without God at the center?

Pray: Ask God to show you how your work can be a better expression of worship of Him.

Day 2 Reflect: How is God calling you to surrender anxiety or worry about your work?

Pray: Cry out honestly to God about your work stresses, challenges, and frustrations. Ask Him to give you His peace and encouragement.

Day 3 Reflect: Do you often think of God as one that loves to give you rest?

Pray: Thank God that He loves you and is strong enough to allow you to rest—He is in control.

Day 4 Reflect: How can you show the children around you that they are a blessing?

Pray: Thank God for the blessing of children—whether your own or others—and ask Him to show you how you can bless children around you.

Day 5 Reflect: How can your community benefit from your work to create a healthier community/family?

Pray: Pray that your neighborhood and city would flourish as families surrender to Jesus. Ask God to show you what your role is in your own family.

Community Discussion

As you gather as a community, discuss what you learned through the daily readings.

What do you love about your work?

What aspects do you not enjoy?

How can you practically engage in your work as if you are working for Jesus?

How does a Biblical view of work challenge our culture's attitudes toward work?

How does a Biblical view of family challenge our culture's attitudes toward family?

What are your gifts and how can you use those to bless your community?

How can your GC come alongside each other (and nonbelievers) to help work toward stronger, healthier families?

What is it about children that brings joy to others?

What is the hardest part of raising kids as a community?

How is your work ethic a witness to kids about the way that God works in the world?

How does your GC share life together?

Songs of Ascent