

YOUNG PEOPLE WITH HEARTS FOR GOD

Children are great helpers, and throughout the Bible, we learn of times when God used them in special ways. Consider young Samuel serving God in the temple (1 Samuel 3), Naaman's servant girl who directed him to Elisha for healing from leprosy (2 Kings 5:2-3), the boy who shared his lunch with Jesus to feed five thousand (John 6:9), and little Rhoda who told the other believers that Peter was knocking at the door after his angelic escape from prison (Acts 12:13-16). Although they may seem small and insignificant, each act was great in the eyes of God.

Do you ever underestimate the value of your child's obedience and faithfulness to the Lord? Every time he speaks with kindness to a sibling, remembers Grandma with a special hello when she comes to visit, or invites a friend to Sunday school, he is doing God's work on a grand scale. Like the disciples who thought the little children were wasting Jesus' time, don't become a stumbling block to your child's small acts of love.

(Matthew 18:6)

CHILDREN: ARROWS IN YOUR QUIVER

Psalm 127:3-5.

Although many parents love and enjoy their children, there are also parents who view children as an inconvenience. Wanting to "get ahead in the world," they only have time to enjoy their children in small doses and pass off the major responsibility for their children's care, education, and entertainment to others. However, the Lord's view on children is differ-

ent. God calls children blessings and rewards. And they are! Through the eyes of children, you appreciate the wonder of God's world and maintain a heart that is soft and compassionate. Children also teach you to forgive easily, love unselfishly, and enjoy the blessings of the moment.

Father, Forgive us when we take the world's view toward our children. Just as You treasure us as Your precious children, humble our hearts and teach us to treasure our own children, too. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

MOTHERS' RECEPTION MAY 9TH

On **Sunday, May 9th**, please join _____ for a Mother's Day Reception in the children's sanctuary following the 10:30 service and help us to shower our mothers and mothers-to-be with love and encouragement. A rejuvenation of the heart and hands is promised. (Are you unsure what we mean? Come and find out!) Refreshments will be served.

Psalm 113:9.

READY, SET, NEW!

begin our New Testament studies this month and continue through the summer and new school year. Parents, please try to make a personal commitment to bring your children to _____ as many Sundays as possible so they can learn about Jesus, our Lord and Savior, to help them cultivate a personal relationship with Him.

John

14:6.

Proverbs 10:5. Praying that we all gather this summer the richness of the Lord.

