

Psalm 127

A song of ascents.
Of Solomon. (NIV)

- 1 Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.
- 2 In vain you rise early and stay up late toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves.
- 3 Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.
- 4 Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth.
- 5 Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

BUILDING LEGACY

Introductions—God is in the Home Building Business

- He offers us a secure heavenly home—John 14
- He desires for us to experience caring community in a church home—Matthew 16: 18
- He longs for us to experience a God blessed earthly home—Psalms 127: 1-5

...and it's to this calling that God is pleased to honor Courageous Dads!

Courageous Dads Build Legacy—as They Give Priority to People—Sons and Daughters, Wives and Grandkids

It is vain to rise up early and retire late. —Psalms 127:2

Courage involves choosing people above activities, choosing to give time rather than things, choosing eternal investments rather than temporal.

Courageous Dads might lead their families in a *Things Dedication Day* based on 2 Peter 3:10-11...maybe mom's favorite ring, dad's golf clubs, sister's iPod, brother's baseball glove...then gather around as a Courageous Dad reads 2 Peter 3:10-11.

Since all these things may be done away with—what sort of people ought we be?

Courageous Dads Build Legacy as They Cherish Their Children as Gifts

Behold children are gifts from the Lord.—Psalms 127:3

Children sense They are being cherished not only by the priority we make them, but by the protection we give them!

Think again about your most cherished possessions and how you might protect them:

- The autographed football is behind plexiglas.
- Heirloom jewelry is in a safe.
- Breakable antique plates are on the top shelf.



Click this image to hear Family Life's President Dennis Rainey as he shares how Dads can protect their kids from the "bear traps" of life.

Courageous Dads cherish their children as they protect them, not by isolating, insulating, or over-protecting, but by mentoring in word and deeds.

Courageous Dads mentor their kids in the life skills of:

- Relating intimately with God in prayer and through scripture. (Psalms 100:1-5, Psalms 103:2-3, I John 1:9, Joshua 1:8)
- Relating biblically with family and friends. (James 5:16, Ephesians 4:15, Ephesians 4:29, Ephesians 4:31-32)
- Living with conviction in a compromising world. (Proverbs 3:5, Micah 6:8, 2 Tim 2:22)
- Sharing Christ's life and love. (I Thessalonians 2:7-8, Matthew 25:31-36)



Click this image to hear Stephen Kendrick, co-producer of the Courageous movie, share four ways to pray for your kids.

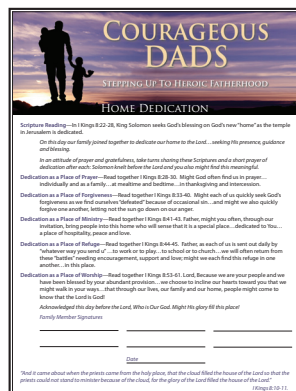
Courageous Dads Build Legacy as They Pray for Their Children

Like arrows in the hands of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth.
—Psalms 127:4

Children, like arrows released, can be redirected by the winds of prayer! Courageous Dads pray *for* and *with* their children.

Courageous Dads dedicate the "Home the Lord is building" (Psalms 127:1) as a place of prayer.

Listen to my prayer and my request, oh Lord My God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is making today. May you watch over this home both day and night, this place where you have said you would put your name.—I Kings 8:27-29



Courageous Dads:

Download the Home Dedication certificate, lead your family in this special time, sign and frame in a prominent place.

