



# ARROWS

## **PSALM** 127:4 *Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands.*

In archery, wrong posture, mishandling of the arrow, wrong stretching of the bow string, distractions and many other things—affect the direction of your arrow! If you do not have the skill or the preparedness, it's easy mess it up! For arrows, the aim is equally important as the release. Arrows are meant to fly and our release can affect the aim and direction. The Bible powerfully uses the arrow as an image of the children God gives us. In the sermon, *Releasing Your Arrows*, Pastor Ta gave insights on what it means to prepare yourself and your arrows for their eventual release. In this study, we will learn seven major lessons about releasing our arrows.

- 1. PARENTING IS ABOUT PROPULSION, NOT A PRISON.** Your home is a Launchpad, not a prison. Proverbs 22:6 tells us, *Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it* (NLT). The home is designed as a place to train your arrows for releasing, not for keeping.
- 2. KEEP THE END IN MIND FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.** As parents, part of preparedness is making sure that you understand your role. You are not the owner of the arrows, they belong to God, and you are a steward. As stewards, your primary calling is to love, nurture and train your kids for their future. In the story of Hannah, you'll see how she "dedicated" her son to God (read 1 Samuel 1:27-28). She prophesied over her son's life by saying, "he will belong to the Lord his whole life."
- 3. BALANCE IS ESSENTIAL. TOO MUCH CLUTCH IS AS BAD AS TOO MUCH GAS.** In driving "stick," we understand that balance is essential. Too much gas (or too much freedom) can lead to a wreck, but so does too much clutch (little or no freedom at all). Parents must desire to create a Launchpad environment where there is enough of both freedom and discipline.
- 4. EMPOWER INSTEAD OF HOVER.** The archer's pull of the bowstring matters a lot. As God-honoring parents, your role is to empower and not to hover. Hovering breeds helplessness, and too much over-protection can lead to prolonged adolescence. Studies show that many Millennials (people born between 1980-2000) did not mature emotionally the way human beings should because of hovering.
- 5. EVERY DREAM MUST TAKE A BACK SEAT TO GOD'S CALL.** Some parents live vicariously through their children, but the role of God-honoring parents is to shoot the arrows and allow them to pursue God's call on their lives. It is important to release your children to God's direction and let them live for His glory and according to His plan (Proverbs 19:21). Teach your arrows that God's call is the most important role they must pursue. Instead of being goal-oriented you must desire to be call-oriented.
- 6. THE ONLY HOPE OF KEEPING THEM IS BY LETTING THEM GO.** Your children are their own person in God, so you must do everything to direct them towards God. The more you keep your arrows, the more they'll feel rebellious. Allow them experience the freedom of Christ for themselves. Even when they stray for a bit, if they have been trained in the way of Christ, with constant encouragement and prayer, they will always return to Christ.
- 7. YOU ONLY GET ONE SHOT, SO MAKE IT COUNT.** The time to train, teach, model and aim is now.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:**

- Arrows (Parenting Seminar in August)
- Prayer and Fasting Week (August 27-September 2)
- Fall Fest (September 10)

### **PRAY TOGETHER FOR**

- Your family, your kids, your parents.
- For the growth of our spiritual lives and our whole church family!

**GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:** As Pastor Jon mentioned at the opening of this series, we are arrows and this is war! The Bible says, we are in the middle of a great spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12). Lives are being snatched away by Enemy to his side, trying his best to prevent people from experiencing the marvelous grace of Christ's salvation. As warriors (parents/future parents), we (will) carry with us the arrows that God will use to change this world for His glory. The biggest question is, are we prepared (preparing) to shoot the arrows or are we holding on too tightly? We must release our arrows (including ourselves) toward seeking God and His kingdom first so more people may come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

## Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

### Question:

What do you think is God's purpose for the family?

### Question:

Why is it absolutely necessary to talk about God within your family?

### Question:

How did your own parents release you?

### Question:

How does the world measure a parent's success?

### Question:

How does the Bible measure a parent's success?

## Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.

### READ LUKE 6:43-45

#### Question:

What is meant by the "heart" as used in Luke 6?

#### Question:

The heart is the source of everything you say, desire and do. Lasting change will not happen when we threaten, manipulate, or use guilt. What will look, sound and feel different when we parent the hearts of our children and not just their behavior?

#### Questions:

We should train our children to live under our authority as a means of teaching them how to live under God's authority. What should it look like to live under God's authority?

What specific things can parents do to model to their children how to show respect?

How will children know whether their parents are submissive to God's authority?

### READ I SAMUEL 1:27-28

#### Question:

What values and virtues can we learn from Hannah's prayer?

#### Question:

How can you better let your children pursue who they can be in Christ?

#### Question:

How can you prepare your self to shoot the arrows God has given you?

## Growing in Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders.

### Question:

Why is it important to give your child room to make his/her own decisions during this time?

### Discuss:

Explain the difference between a preventative, corrective and protective relationship with a teenager.

### Question:

What do you think are the differences between call-oriented parenting from goal-oriented parenting?

### Question:

What kinds of decisions are good opportunities for your children to practice godly decision making?