



Child
Develop-
ment

RAISING OUR CHILDREN

PAUL MEIER

(Deuteronomy 4:9, 10)

One of the most important responsibilities and privileges that the Lord entrusts to people is to love and nurture children, teaching them about Him (Deut. 4:9, 10; 11:19). In the Old Testament, children are called “a heritage” and “a reward” (Ps. 127:3). Whether or not people have children of their own, they still have a shared responsibility for the nurture and care of the children in their lives.

God cares about children. He is “the helper of the fatherless” (Ps. 10:14) and the One who takes care of those children who have been forsaken by parents (Ps. 27:10). Our own responsibility for child rearing extends beyond that of the children in our own families. There is a great need for the healthy involvement of Christian adults in the lives of our children as mentors, teachers, and coaches, as well as a need to support and encourage other parents.

THREE FACTORS IN DEVELOPMENT

As we consider the growth and development of children, there are three factors that affect the kind of adults they will become: (1) who God created them to be, (2) the environment in which they grow, and (3) the choices that they make.

God's Unique Creations

God created each child to be unique, with different personality traits, levels of intelligence, physical characteristics, and even differing energy and activity levels. Children in the same family differ remarkably from each other from the moment they're born. King David was amazed at these God-designed differences when he exclaimed, “You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Ps. 139:13, 14).

A Nurturing Environment

The environment in which children are

nurtured is as vital to their development as are their God-given genetic gifts. In Proverbs 22:6, Solomon encourages parents to “train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Parents are wisely instructed by Solomon to bring up their children in an environment shaped by and infused with biblical principles. God, the heavenly Father, models His love in people's lives, and they in turn have the privilege and responsibility of loving their children just as He continually loves them!

Moses told the people of Israel to remember what they had seen and known of the Lord's goodness and to pass that knowledge on to their children (Deut. 4:9). God's desire was that parents would teach their children and grandchildren to hear His word and to reverence Him. Moses' words assume that the parents themselves have a first-hand knowledge of God's love and goodness. Perhaps one of the primary tasks of child rearing is to remember what God has done and is doing in our own lives and to share that with our children. In addition, children who grow up in a relationship with parents and other adults who live their faith will have not only the knowledge of God, but also a strong example of the truth of God's word in action.

Paul provided a wonderful model when he described himself as a father to the believers at Thessalonica (1 Thess. 2:11). He loved the believers deeply, so he

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encouraged, comforted, and urged them to live worthy of God, who had called them into His kingdom and glory. Paul's example extends to us as we seek to encourage, comfort, and communicate the love of Christ to the children in our families and communities.

Ability to Choose

However, God has also created every person with the ability to make choices. As children grow, parents have increasingly less control over their choices. Our children make their own choices every day, and some of those choices are life-changing. Even though children can have wonderful God-given gifts and abilities, and have grown up in a loving, Christ-centered environment, they can still make poor choices. Part of child rearing is to help children learn to make good choices and to encourage them with love and forgiveness when they must work through the consequences of poor choices. As we decrease, the rules increase, and children must take on more responsibility.

Psychiatric research has shown that children who grow up with the following five factors will have a better chance of making choices that will positively affect their own lives as well as those of the generations to come:

1. Lots of unconditional love.
2. Reasonable boundaries and discipline.
3. Consistency in parenting principles and family values.
4. Expectation that the children will follow their parents' example, not just their words.
5. Bonding with healthy male and female authority figures (either Mom and Dad, or healthy grandparents, aunts, uncles, Sunday school teachers, school teachers, coaches, or other mentors).

All of these factors are consistent with what Scripture teaches and can be put into prac-

tice in our families as well as in our Christian communities.

PREPARED FOR LIFE

As parents and those concerned for the development of children, we know that **God has created our children in the way that He has chosen** and that our children will make their own choices. We can love them, create safe, consistent environments for them to grow in, and model Christlike lives, and we can teach them the truth of the Scriptures. As they emerge from the dependence of childhood to the interdependence of adulthood, we can continue to pray for them and to thank the Lord for the role that He has allowed us to play in their lives.

FURTHER MEDITATION:

Other passages to study about the issue of child development include:

- Genesis 18:19
- Proverbs 20:7, 11; 22:15; 23:13, 24; 29:15
- Ecclesiastes 11:9, 10
- Matthew 19:13, 14
- Mark 9:36, 37
- Ephesians 6:1-4
- 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

To Learn More: Turn to the key passage note on child development at Deuteronomy 4:9, 10 on page 226. See also the personality profile of Jesus on page 1317.

with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan. ²⁸But command Joshua, and encourage him and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see.

²⁹“So we stayed in the valley opposite Beth Peor.

MOSES COMMANDS OBEDIENCE

4 “Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you. ²You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. ³Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal Peor; for the LORD your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor. ⁴But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you.

⁵“Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. ⁶Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these

statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’

⁷“For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? ⁸And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? ⁹Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, ¹⁰especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, ‘Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.’

¹¹“Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness. ¹²And the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice. ¹³So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. ¹⁴And

KEY PASSAGE

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

(4:9, 10)



Child
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Parents are responsible for raising and guiding their children from infancy to adulthood. Parents influence their children in all areas of development—social, physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. Moses advised parents to “take heed” and “diligently keep” themselves, not forgetting what God had done for them. These parents had seen God’s mighty miracles on their behalf as He had rescued them, had revealed Himself to them, and had given them His Word—especially the Ten Commandments. “Teach them to your children and your grandchildren,” said Moses.

That is true soul care from one generation to the next. Christian parents can help their children develop spiritually by:

- > sharing the story of how God rescued them from sin,
- > telling what God has done in their lives,
- > modeling the Christian life, and
- > teaching God’s Word and how it applies in everyday life.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about child development on pages 228, 229. See also the personality profile of Jesus on page 1317.

Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."

⁴⁹And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

JESUS ADVANCES IN WISDOM AND FAVOR

⁵¹Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY

3 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea. Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, ⁴the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for

3:2 ^aNU-Text and M-Text read *in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas.*

PERSONALITY PROFILE



Child Development

JESUS, GOD'S SON

(LUKE 2:52)

Parents and teenagers often share similar frustrations about the Gospels as biographies of Jesus. These often appear as questions: (1) Why didn't God tell us more about the childhood of Jesus? (2) Why such silence about His teen years? (3) Couldn't young people gain help from knowing more of Jesus' experiences during His adolescence? The answers to these questions are (1) God told us enough; (2) God had a reason; and (3) probably not. Added details about Jesus' childhood would have likely been used more often as excuses than as lessons. Jesus had a childhood—not everyone's childhood. God told us enough about Jesus to give us all the help we need.

When Luke summarized Jesus' teenage years, he listed a growth pattern that ought to be the goal of every young person and the prayer of every parent: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." The description offers few details but an abundance of direction. The gaps and the known facts of Jesus' early years combine to tell us that we can't expect to see ideal childhoods, but there are desired results.

Jesus developed in four specific areas:

- > Mentally (wisdom)
- > Physically (stature)
- > Spiritually (favor with God)
- > Socially (favor with people)

What greater summary of a young person's formative years could be given than that they developed significantly in each of these areas? Yet how often do children grow up with one or more of these areas neglected completely?

Luke's summary offers parents an effective and flexible outline rather than a detailed program. Putting it into practice with children becomes, first, a matter of prayer. Children should hear their parents praying for them about these growth areas. Wisdom, stature, and favor with God and people can certainly generate numerous conversations in which children and young people are encouraged to set goals for themselves in these areas. Parents can help their kids make these character development goals part of their own prayers. Young people who have discussed these areas have a better idea of what it means to be like Jesus.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about child development on pages 228, 229. See also the key passage note at Deuteronomy 4:9, 10 on page 226.

"Suppose there should be forty found there?"

So He said, "I will not do *it* for the sake of forty."

³⁰Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?"

So He said, "I will not do *it* if I find thirty there."

³¹And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?"

So He said, "I will not destroy *it* for the sake of twenty."

³²Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?"

And He said, "I will not destroy *it* for the

sake of ten." ³³So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

SODOM'S DEPRAVITY

19 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw *them*, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. ²And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way."

And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square."

³But he insisted strongly; so they turned in

SOUL NOTE



Being There (18:19) God chose Abraham, desiring that he "command his children" regarding the way of the Lord, righteousness, and justice. This implies that Abraham would be involved in his children's lives in order to teach them.

A parent's caring involvement in his or her children's lives is a crucial factor in the children's development. Being a great parent starts with knowing God and is fulfilled in consistent teaching, fair discipline, and loving actions toward one's children. Clearly God expects parents to be present in their children's lives to teach them the way of the Lord.

Topic: Child Development

KEY PASSAGE



Abuse

TRAGIC CHAIN OF EVENTS

(19:4-9)

Lot's terrible actions reveal the tragic chain of events that often occurs in sexual abuse cases. When he shockingly suggested that the evil men rape his daughters instead of his guests, Lot was trying to substitute one sexual sin for another. He jeopardized his own daughters and violated his responsibility as a parent. Despite the angels' miraculous intervention (Gen. 19:11), the spiritual and psychological damage had been done. The daughters' later incestuous relationships with their father was another link in the chain reaction of sexual abuse (Gen. 19:30-38).

Sexual abuse, in any form, results in low self-esteem, conflict over sexual identity, inability to trust, isolation, and feelings of guilt and shame. It can result in long-term physical and psychological damage. As in the case of all sinful actions, the abuser usually fabricates a rationale for his or her conduct. The morbid story of Lot's daughters illustrates this all too well.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about abuse on pages 328, 329. See also the personality profile of the Levite's concubine on page 327.

God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

⁶“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

CAUTION AGAINST DISOBEDIENCE

¹⁰“So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, ¹¹houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full—¹²then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. ¹³You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. ¹⁴You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you ¹⁵(for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.

¹⁶“You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah. ¹⁷You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. ¹⁸And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of

the LORD, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which the LORD swore to your fathers, ¹⁹to cast out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has spoken.

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

DEUTERONOMY 6:5

²⁰“When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God has

commanded you?’ ²¹then you shall say to your son: ‘We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand; ²²and the LORD showed signs and wonders before our eyes, great and severe, against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household. ²³Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers. ²⁴And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. ²⁵Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us.’

A CHOSEN PEOPLE

7 “When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, ²and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. ³Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their

SOUL NOTE



A Godly Heritage (6:4-9) God wants His people to teach His commandments to their children, by words and by example. To talk about God and His commands when sitting, walking, lying down, and getting up emphasizes the importance of making God's Word a part of every aspect of daily living. Such demonstrations make it clear to children that the Word of God has authority over every area of life. Parents give children much, but the greatest gift they can give is a godly heritage.

Topic: Child Development

Canaanites dwelt among them, and were put under tribute.

³¹Nor did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Acco or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphik, or Rehob. ³²So the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out.

³³Nor did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh or the inhabitants of Beth Anath; but they dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath were put under tribute to them.

³⁴And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley; ³⁵and the Amorites were determined to dwell in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim;^a yet when the strength of the house of Joseph became greater, they were put under tribute.

³⁶Now the boundary of the Amorites was from the Ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela, and upward.

ISRAEL'S DISOBEDIENCE

2 Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: "I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you. ²And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? ³Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be *thorns* in your side,^a and their gods shall be a snare to you.' " ⁴So it was, when the Angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept.

⁵Then they called the name of that place Bochim;^a and they sacrificed there to the LORD. ⁶And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.

DEATH OF JOSHUA

⁷So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel. ⁸Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died *when he was* one hundred and ten years old. ⁹And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. ¹⁰When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

ISRAEL'S UNFAITHFULNESS

¹¹Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; ¹²and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from *among* the gods of the people who *were* all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. ¹³They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.^a ¹⁴And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their ene-

1:35 ^aSpelled *Shaalabbin* in Joshua 19:42

2:3 ^aSeptuagint, Targum, and Vulgate read *enemies to you*. **2:5** ^aLiterally *Weeping* **2:13** ^aCanaanite goddesses

SOUL NOTE



Tell the Stories (2:10) Israel had flourished under Joshua's leadership. At some point, however, the older generation had stopped telling the stories of God and His faithfulness to their children. The sad result was that "another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel." A major part of children's development involves spiritual training—and parents are the main source of their information. Will our children know of God's mighty works throughout the Bible and in our lives? Or will they "not know the LORD nor the work" that He has done for us? **Topic: Child Development**

really burn the fat first; *then* you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "No, but you must give *it* now; and if not, I will take *it* by force."

¹⁷Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

SAMUEL'S CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

¹⁸But Samuel ministered before the LORD, *even as* a child, wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring *it* to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The LORD give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the LORD." Then they would go to their own home.

²¹And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

PROPHECY AGAINST ELI'S HOUSEHOLD

²²Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel,^a and how they lay with the women who assembled at the

door of the tabernacle of meeting. ²³So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people.

²⁴No, my sons! For *it* is not a good report that I hear. You make the LORD's people transgress. ²⁵If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, because the LORD desired to kill them.

²⁶And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men.

²⁷Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? ²⁸Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not give to the house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire? ²⁹Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more

2:22 ^aFollowing Masoretic Text, Targum, and Vulgate; Dead Sea Scrolls and Septuagint omit the rest of this verse.

SOUL NOTE



What a Contrast! (2:17, 18) Eli, the high priest of Israel, had "corrupt" sons who "did not know the LORD" (2:12). Their hearts were so hard that God decided to kill them. In their responsible position as priests, their corruption deserved extreme punishment. In vivid contrast, Samuel "ministered before the LORD, even as a child" (2:18). When God spoke to Israel, he spoke not to Eli, but to Samuel (3:10). God's guidance and blessing come to His obedient servants. But those who reject Him are left to their own ways—and will face judgment. **Topic: Obedience**

SOUL NOTE



Growing Up (2:21, 26) Young Samuel was growing "in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men." The Bible describes Jesus' growth in a similar manner: He "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52). Children grow physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Just as parents feed their children good food to help them grow strong physically, they should also provide guidance and opportunities in the various areas of life so that the children can grow in wisdom and favor with God and the people around them. **Topic: Child Development**

DEATH OF ATHALIAH

¹³Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the escorts and the people, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD. ¹⁴When she looked, there was the king standing by a pillar according to custom; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. So Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, "Treason! Treason!"

¹⁵And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the army, and said to them, "Take her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her." For the priest had said, "Do not let her be killed in the house of the LORD."

¹⁶So they seized her; and she went by way of the horses' entrance into the king's house, and there she was killed.

¹⁷Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD, the king, and the people, that they should be the LORD's people, and also between the king and the people. ¹⁸And all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down. They thoroughly broke in pieces its altars and images, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD. ¹⁹Then he took the captains of hundreds, the bodyguards, the escorts, and all the people of the land; and they brought the king down from the house of the LORD, and went by way of the gate of the escorts to the king's house. Then he sat on the throne of the kings. ²⁰So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword in the king's house. ²¹Jehoash was seven years old when he became king.

JEHOASH REPAIRS THE TEMPLE

12 In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash^a became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was

Zibiah of Beersheba. ²Jehoash did *what was right* in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him. ³But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

⁴And Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money of the dedicated gifts that are brought into the house of the LORD—each man's census money, each man's assessment money^a—and all the money that a man purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the LORD, ⁵let the priests take it themselves, each from his constituency; and let them repair the damages of the temple, wherever any dilapidation is found."

⁶Now it was so, by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, that the priests had not repaired the damages of the temple. ⁷So King Jehoash called Jehoiada the priest and the other priests, and said to them, "Why have you not repaired the damages of the temple? Now therefore, do not take *more* money from your constituency, but deliver it for repairing the damages of the temple." ⁸And the priests agreed that they would neither receive *more* money from the people, nor repair the damages of the temple.

⁹Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who kept the door put there all the money brought into the house of the LORD. ¹⁰So it was, whenever they saw that *there was* much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up and put it in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD. ¹¹Then they gave the money, which had been apportioned, into the hands of those

12:1 ^aSpelled *Joash* in 11:2ff 12:4 ^aCompare Leviticus 27:2ff

SOUL NOTE



Childcare (12:1, 2) Jehoash was a godly king who "did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him." He was only seven years old when he became king (11:21), so he needed instruction.

Children do not have natural wisdom, so they must be taught and guided by those who love them. Patient instruction and consistent mentoring will prepare children to take on the tasks God has for them. **Topic: Child Development**