



Message Date: 6/09/2026 Lighthouse Meeting Date: 8/09/2026 THANKSGIVING AND FAMILY FOCUS SERVICE (1st Sunday of Every Month)	Message Title: Divine Wisdom for Raising Great Kids Minister: Pastor Chuka Nwafor
Key Texts: Malachi 2:15, Proverbs 22:6, Psalm 127:3, Romans 8:17, 1 Samuel 17:15, Psalm 127:1	Sub Text:
<i>Please read the entire document and bible texts before you begin to discuss and answer the related questions. This will help you grasp the overall context of the message, however, remember the bible is not a discussion book but a decision book. God honours and empowers your decisions not your discussions.</i>	
<u>INTRODUCTION:</u> Two married people who go to church does not necessarily mean that they have or will have a christian home or raise christian children. It is possible to fill a house with Bibles, Sunday services, and christian artifacts, and still not have a christian home. Scripture however is clear that God did not join a man and woman together merely to produce children, but to produce godly offspring. A christian home is a home where the Word of God is the rule and principle of life. The word of God is the final say and the person of Christ through the Holy Spirit is the head and foundation of the home. Where Christ is not Lord and master nor His Word the rule of Law and constitution, He is not Saviour either. This is the big difference between a religious moralistic home and a Christian Home. True Christian Homes are meant to produce true Christian children or at least produce children who are way more receptive to the gospel. This is what is meant by the the scripture in 1Corinthians 7 that says that the children born to a believer are sanctified and made holy 1 Cor.7:14. This does not mean that children born to Christians are automatically Christians, rather it means that Christian parents are in a better position to raise Godlike children because their parents already know God and are Godlike. Malachi 2:15. Good christian parenting attains its full cycle when children are rooted and established in Christ - in the knowledge of God. Genesis 18:19 AMP For I have known (chosen, acknowledged) him [as My own], so that he may teach and command his children and [the sons of] his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is righteous and just, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has promised him.” That means the work of parenting was never meant to end at birth, at dedication, or even at graduation, it is a lifelong assignment to shepherd a soul toward Christ. Tonight we examine five convictions drawn from Scripture: that the home, not the church building, is the first	

mission field; that faith must be armored before a child leaves your covering; that children are a reward to be received with joy, not merely managed; that responsibility and belonging must be deliberately taught; and that true greatness is proven in the small, unseen places of service. If you are a parent, a grandparent, or simply someone who loves a child, this word is for you.

KEY POINT ONE: Home Is the First Altar

Parents, not the church, carry the first responsibility for a child's faith.

Sunday school and children's ministry are a valuable addendum, but they were never designed to replace the home as the primary place where a child meets God. A house filled with ceremony: naming, dedication, celebration without a daily culture of discipleship produces children who know about God but do not know Him personally. Parenting is not complete at the point of provision or ceremony; it is complete only when a child has been personally led to the feet of Christ.

Scripture Focus: "And did He not make them one... He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously." Malachi 2:15

Digging Deep/Life Application: Is my child hearing about God mainly from someone else, and if my home were the only "church" my child ever attended, would they still come to know Christ?.

KEY POINT TWO: Don't Send Them Out Unarmed

Faith must be established at home before a child is released into the world.

Many children raised faithfully in church quietly lose their faith the moment they leave the covering of home, university in particular, becomes for some a place where convictions are dismantled rather than deepened. Wisdom requires more than sending a child away with a diploma to chase; it means investigating whether they are heading into a community that will nurture what has been built, and having the courage to keep a child home longer if their foundation is not yet strong enough to withstand pressure.

Scripture Focus: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Digging Deep/Life Application: Have I confirmed that my child is walking toward a spiritual support system as intentionally as I've confirmed their academic one, or am I hoping their faith will simply survive on its own?

KEY POINT THREE: Children Are Heaven's Reward, Not Life's Burden.

Children are meant to be received with joy, not carried only as weight.

Scripture insists that children are a gift and a source of joy, yet without God's grace and wisdom guiding the process, the very blessing meant to bring joy can become a source of exhausting pressure, the "mental load" so many parents describe is real, and it is precisely why God designed parenting as a shared, two-person labor of love. The passage reminds us that unless the Lord builds the house, those who labor to raise a family labor in vain; God's help is not optional in this work, it is essential.

**Scripture Focus: "Children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward."
Psalm 127:3**

Digging Deep/Life Application: Have I confirmed that my child is walking toward a spiritual support system as intentionally as I've confirmed their academic one, or am I hoping their faith will simply survive on its own?

KEY POINT FOUR: Raise Them to Belong, Not Just to Use

Teaching belonging and inheritance builds responsibility and character.

A child who is taught they belong to a family develops a sense of duty; a child who is taught they will one day inherit develops ownership and care rather than a careless "user mentality" that later bleeds into how they treat relationships and responsibilities. Assigning children real responsibility from an early age, chores, order, accountability, is not cruelty; it is the deliberate building of resilience and character so that the pressures of adult life do not later overwhelm them.

**Scripture Focus: "And if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ."
Romans 8:17**

Digging Deep/Life Application: Am I giving my children a sense of ownership and responsibility now, or am I unintentionally raising them to simply use what is given to them without ever caring for it?

KEY POINT FIVE: Greatness Is Proven in the Small, Hidden Places

Anointing and calling never exempt anyone from humble, faithful responsibility.

Even after David was anointed the next king of Israel, he did not consider himself too great to return home and tend his father's sheep; his willingness to serve in hidden, unglamorous places was the same character that would later sustain him on a throne. Children who are taught this pattern early, that ministry gifting never excuses them from ordinary household responsibility grow into adults whose greatness is real because it is rooted in humility, not performance.

Scripture Focus: "But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem." 1 Samuel 17:15

Digging Deep/Life Application: Do I model and expect diligence in small, unseen responsibilities at home, or have I allowed gifting, titles, or busyness to become an excuse for neglecting ordinary faithfulness?

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Raising great children was never meant to be automatic, and it was never meant to be carried alone. It begins in the home before it is confirmed in a church building; it must be reinforced before a child is released into the pressures of the world; it must be received as joy even in seasons of exhaustion; it must be cultivated through belonging and responsibility; and it must be modeled through humble, faithful service in the small things. The same God who sought godly offspring from the very first union of man and woman is still seeking that today, and He has promised His grace is sufficient to help you build what only He can truly establish (Psalm 127:1). Your labor is not in vain.

PROMISES OF GOD FROM THE MESSAGE

1. GOD BUILDS WHAT HUMAN EFFORT ALONE CANNOT SUSTAIN.

"UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, THEY LABOR IN VAIN WHO BUILD IT." PSALM 127:1

2. CHILDREN ARE GOD'S REWARD, NOT A BURDEN TO BE MERELY ENDURED.

"CHILDREN ARE A HERITAGE FROM THE LORD, THE FRUIT OF THE WOMB A REWARD." PSALM 127:3

3. A HOUSEHOLD FULL OF CHILDREN BRINGS HONOR AND STRENGTH, NOT SHAME.

"HAPPY IS THE MAN WHO HAS HIS QUIVER FULL OF THEM; THEY SHALL NOT BE ASHAMED, BUT SHALL SPEAK WITH THEIR ENEMIES IN THE GATE." PSALM 127:5

4. A CHILD TRAINED IN THE WAY OF THE LORD WILL NOT PERMANENTLY DEPART FROM IT.

"TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO, AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT." PROVERBS 22:6

5. GOD'S COVENANT PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE GUARANTEES HIS INVESTMENT IN THE NEXT GENERATION.

"DID HE NOT MAKE THEM ONE... HE SEEKS GODLY OFFSPRING." MALACHI 2:15

6. EVERY BELIEVER AND BY EXTENSION, EVERY CHILD RAISED IN CHRIST HAS AN INHERITANCE SECURED IN HIM.

"AND IF CHILDREN, THEN HEIRS, HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST." ROMANS 8:17

7. GOD NOTICES AND REWARDS FAITHFULNESS IN SMALL, HIDDEN PLACES BEFORE GRANTING POSITION.

(ILLUSTRATED THROUGH DAVID'S LIFE) "HE WHO IS FAITHFUL IN WHAT IS LEAST IS FAITHFUL ALSO IN MUCH." LUKE 16:10

PRAYERS: PRAYER POINTS OF GOD FROM THE MESSAGE

1. Lord, help me to be the first and clearest voice that leads my children to genuinely know You.
2. Father, strengthen my children's faith and surround them with godly community before they step into the pressures of the wider world.
3. God, help me receive my children as the reward You declare them to be, and give me the grace and partnership I need so I do not labor in vain.
4. Lord, teach me how to raise children who own their responsibilities and inheritance rather than merely using what they are given.
5. Father, let my children learn early that true greatness is proven in faithful, hidden service, and let that same humility mark my own life as their example.

"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." Psalm 127:1

For further information please contact the admin office or visit (admin@rccg-iccuk.org / 07514 011221)