



LET'S BEGIN HERE

Take a stroll through your family's museum of memories. What treasures do you see on exhibit? A flowing wedding gown hangs elegantly in a glass case. On a pedestal rests the keys to the old family car—it was a used clunker, but it was big enough to fit three kids, the dog, and enough camping equipment for a week at Yosemite! To the right is the birthday memories section, and the school memories wing is around the corner. It's all here in your family museum.

Your children have their own mental collection of artifacts. Their images can't be stored on a smartphone's memory chip, but they are just as vivid and even more permanent. They will last a lifetime.

Among their memories are your attitudes and actions that they observe during their years in your home. What would you wish for them to remember long into adulthood? Psalms 127 and 128 offer an inventory list we can study together.



DIGGING DEEPER

In Psalms 127 and 128, we can identify *three attitudes and actions* that build memories, and each of them say to your children, "You are important!" In addition, the psalmist teaches parents *four investments* they can make to their children's memory bank.

We'll look at these principles and applications in a moment. First, though, let's take a step back and use our *Searching the Scriptures* process to lay some groundwork.

Genre and Background

A good study Bible can help you understand the genre (type of literature) and background of the text. Examples of excellent study Bibles are the *NLT Study Bible*, which is based on the New Living Translation, and the *NIV Study Bible*, which is based on the New International Version. Take a moment to review the introductory article on the book of Psalms that appears before Psalm 1.

Quotable

Think of yourself as a curator for your family's museum of memories. You're the one who watches over the treasures, who realizes their value and passes them on to the next generation.

— Charles R. Swindoll



While reading, look for information that pertains to Psalms 127 and 128, and jot down a few facts about these psalms that you discover. What type of psalms are these? In which collection do these psalms appear?

Pilgrims traveling in family groups walked to Jerusalem for annual festivals. As they ascended the dusty hillsides, they sang their beliefs in songs known as Songs of Ascent. Psalms 127 and 128 are two songs dedicated to family values.

Overview and Observations

Overview Psalms 127 and 128 by reading them straight through and making observations of each section as listed below. What was the psalmist teaching Israel's families about God and family life?

The Foundation of the Home (Psalm 127:1–2)

The Expansion of the Home (127:3–5)

The Child-Rearing Years (128:1–3)

The Later Years (128:4–6)



If the Lord isn't building the values on which your home life is founded, all the time and money that you spend on constructing your house is in vain. What good are energy-efficient windows and a watertight roof when greed, envy, immorality, shame, and criticism are seeping into the hearts of the people living inside the house?



A Closer Look

As Architect and Master Builder, the Lord builds what's most important into your home. What is at the top of his materials list for your home life? *Communicating to your children with your attitudes and actions that they are important.* Using the select tool, highlight the words in Psalm 127:3–128:2 that describe a positive perspective of children.

Children are a gift from the LORD;
they are a reward from him.
Children born to a young man
are like arrows in a warrior's hands.
How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!
He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates.
How joyful are those who fear the LORD—
all who follow his ways!
You will enjoy the fruit of your labor.
How joyful and prosperous you will be! (NLT)

Without realizing, we may be tossing our children or grandchildren a look or a tone that says, "You're a hassle. You're in the way. Don't bother me." These barbed messages cut deep. Instead, determine to give your children encouraging messages to snuggle—such as the following three that emerge from the words you highlighted above.

You are a gift and reward. Brainstorm some words and ways that you can communicate that your child or grandchild is a gift and reward. For example, one word to use is *treasure*, and a way to communicate that is to treasure the time you have with him or her.



You have potential. The archer and arrow image portrays the idea of guidance. Like an archer aims and shoots an arrow toward a target, parents take the time to guide their child toward a good goal. It takes patience and practice to help a child build the habits necessary to reach his or her potential. Use the space below to think of your child's potential goals and how you can guide him or her toward those targets.

You bring joy. The NLT translation captures the meaning of the Hebrew word that is translated “blessing” in the NIV and NASB. It means “happy” or “joyful.” Children learn the powerful role of happiness and joy when they grow up in an atmosphere of happiness and joy.

Children thrive on fun! Fun communicates that you're glad to be with them, that joy accompanies their presence. Oh, the blessings of laughter and play! Just think of all the benefits: encouragement, praise, security, approval, acceptance, friendship, belonging, love. Years from now, when your child strolls through his or her museum of memories, the evenings spent having fun with mom and dad will be their most prized treasures.

The Master Builder can help you to create a positive, fun-filled atmosphere, and it begins with your own heart. Adults whose museums are full of painful memories sometimes drag those old hurts home with them. If you're having trouble filling your home with laughter, ask the Lord to search your heart. What is He revealing about your joy or lack of joy that needs addressing? How can you restore your joy—and then, how can you lighten the atmosphere in your home?





Bring It Home

The final section, Psalm 128:3–6, paints a portrait of family life that we'd love to hang in our hall of memories:

Your wife will bear children as a vine bears grapes,
your household lush as a vineyard,
The children around your table
as fresh and promising as young olive shoots.
Stand in awe of God's Yes.
Oh, how he blesses the one who fears God!
Enjoy the good life in Jerusalem
every day of your life.
And enjoy your grandchildren.
Peace to Israel! (MSG)

Take some time to imagine what it would be like to walk through your own vineyard or olive tree grove—a vast field of row after row of grapevines or olive trees, hanging low with deep-colored fruit. What images come to your mind? What might you experience? What would you smell? How would you feel amid a rich, full crop of grape-filled vines or olive trees with branches brought low by ripe olives? Write down some of your responses.

How do the images of a lush vineyard or rich olive grove strengthen the psalmist's message about the value of children in your home?

Reflecting on the lush images in this portrait, as well as the principles we highlighted above, let's wrap up our study with some final applications. Here are four ways you can invest in your children's museum of memories.

- Make time for your child or grandchild.
- Value your child or grandchild.



- Mom and dad, love one another.
- Live a life of faithful cultivation of faith in your home

Now it's time to usher these applications through the door and into your home life. Write down four ways you plan to put these principles into action this week. It may be as simple as bending down to your child's eye level and saying, "I love you," followed by a big hug.

1.

2.

3.

4.



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, You are the Master Builder of my heart and my home life. You are a safe place to whom I can bring my admissions of failure. By Your grace, the sun will rise tomorrow on a new day to hold a loved one's hand, to choose joy instead of gloom, to encourage, praise, and celebrate the treasures in my home. Help me, Lord, to love from Your heart . . . and laugh! In the name of Jesus, amen.



BIBLICAL PARENTING

Delightful Memories Your Children Won't Forget

Psalm 127:3–128:6

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

STUDY



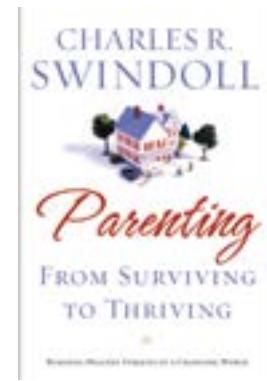
Tools for Digging Deeper



Biblical Parenting
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series



**Top Temptations
Fathers Face**
by Charles R. Swindoll
booklet



**Parenting: From Surviving
to Thriving**
by Charles R. Swindoll
softcover book

For these and related resources, visit www.insightworld.org/store
or call USA 1-800-772-8888 • AUSTRALIA +61 3 9762 6613 • CANADA 1-800-663-7639 • UK +44 1306 640156

For the 2017 broadcast, this Searching the Scriptures study was developed by the Pastoral Ministries Department in collaboration with Mark Tobey, based upon the original outlines, charts, and sermon transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Copyright © 2012, 2017 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

S07
7