



# *Our Children, Our Heritage*

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (April 6, 2014)

*GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST*

Live event via YouVersion Bible app

Text: Psalm 127:3-5

Introduction: Today's a very big day for our young people. Our young men and women are training for the Lads to Leaders conference in Orlando, Florida. During that weekend they will get to use their talents to the glory of God. Jesus once said, "*But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea*" (**Matthew 18:6**). It is clear that Jesus took this very serious. We need to see our children as a blessing and as a heritage from the Lord! **Psalm 127:3-5** compares children to arrows and there are actually several comparisons that could be made between children and arrows. Let's study some of these similarities together.....

Discussion:

## *I. Arrows Are Straight*

- A. Consider what the Bible says about children (**Matthew 18:1-3**).
- B. Consider what the Bible says about sin (**Romans 3:23**).
- C. Consider what the Bible says about the day of Judgment (**II Corinthians 5:10**).
- D. Consider what the Bible says about temptation (**James 1:14**).

## *II. Arrows Are Similar*

- A. They need to grow intellectually (**Proverbs 4:1**).
- B. They need to grow socially (**Proverbs 20:11**).
- C. They need to grow spiritually (**Proverbs 22:6**).
- D. They need to grow physically (**Proverbs 31:28**).

## *III. Arrows Are Sharp*

- A. We need to be on guard for egotism (**Matthew 18:1-4**).
- B. We need to be on guard for low esteem (**Matthew 18:5-6**).
- C. We need to be on guard for criticism (**Matthew 18:7-9**).
- D. We need to be on guard for permissiveness (**Matthew 18:10-14**).



## *IV. Arrows Are Steadfast*

- A. God wants to be respected (**Deuteronomy 6:1-2**).
- B. God wants to be obeyed (**Deuteronomy 6:3**).
- C. God wants to be loved (**Deuteronomy 6:4-6**).
- D. God wants to be involved (**Deuteronomy 6:7**).

Conclusion: Please do not forget to encourage the children. It's been said that it costs about a quarter of a million dollars to raise a child from infancy to age 18. What do you get in return? What is that child worth to you? God loves you more than you love your own children. Have you been born into God's family? Where are you in your walk as a child of God?