



Setting Them Free for God's Glory

Resource materials written by Scott & Suzanne Greer

There are three questions that shape your life as a parent: Who is God? Who does God say I am? Who is my child becoming? Your goal as a parent is to raise a child that understands who they are in Christ and is able to share the good news of God's love and grace with others. If you think of your child like an arrow, then you get to partner with God to do two things for your children: Sharpen them and let them fly.

1. Sharpening Arrows (and aiming them at His glory). The goal isn't to keep your child close to you, but to surrender your plans (and their plans) to God. This helps you and your child see that God has a mission for their life. Psalm 127:3-4, Ephesians 4:12 !

PRAYER ~ praying for and with your kids is #1. God will be at work in your own heart.

PRIORITIES ~ mission-minded, servant-hearted daily life begins with you. Have a "walk across the street" mentality and get out of your own comfort zone in your own city first. Then have a heart for the world, too.

PARTNERING ~ with godly adults who will mentor and encourage; offer outreach and mission opportunities. If you are fearful for your kids to get involved in ministry, then get involved yourself.

"What is most encouraging is the authentic state of a parent's heart. To be sincerely excited about your kids taking the gospel to others, that is the root of encouragement."

2. Releasing the arrows: If God is calling your child to missions, He is also calling you. learning to TRUST GOD, to see with an ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE, and respond to the CALL OF GOD.

TRUST GOD ~ Realize that FAITH is often not reasonable. Don't obsess over possible dangers, be fearful of what others may think, or worry about finances. Choose to TRUST: 2 Timothy 1:7 Isaiah 26:3-4 1 Peter 5:7 Philippians 4:13

ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE ~ Don't let earthly, temporary concerns keep you from seeing your life with FOREVER in mind. Psalm 103:15-19 This life is short; God's loving plan is everlasting, to our children's children.

CALLED BY GOD ~ If your child is called (short-term missions trip, urban outreach, gap-year internship, Bible college, cross-cultural missions, or a life of ministry anywhere), God is calling you:

- to pray (Phil. 4:6-7)
- to encourage and cheer them on
- to be flexible with time, \$\$, home, plans
- to offer support or help in times of crisis
- to be creative in long-distance relationships
- to say goodbye and hello in positive ways, over and over again