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PRAYER

The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in.
Lord, you are ever watchful and bless us with your gifts; as you provide for all our needs, so help us to build only what pleases you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Common Worship: Daily Prayer Psalm 127, The Church of England

WARM UP (OPTIONAL)

Would you rather go back to the past to see your ancestors or go into the future to see your descendants?

NOTES

WORD

¹ Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. ² It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. ³ Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. ⁵ Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

PSALM 127:1-5

The Lord builds his church. In the ultimate sense, we have no control over who will attend our church, who will be faithful, and who will be unfaithful. We have no control over who will listen to the sermon and apply it, and who will not. We have no control over which children will apostatize and which will not. "On this rock," says Jesus, "I will build my church." Peter doesn't build the church, and neither do we. Our great wisdom and powerful personalities are of little use when we are set against the sinful hearts of men. When we gather together, let us remember that it is the Lord that has assembled these living stones. Not us.

[Devotionals 212 - Generations.org](http://Generations.org)

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = not at all; 10 = extremely), how would you rank your closeness to the members of your family? Why might you say this?
2. Children are described in verse 3 as a HERITAGE and a REWARD. What does this mean to you?
3. Is God the one who is building your life? If so, how do you know he is building your life? If not, are there any obstacles for you in letting God build your life?
4. What does it mean to "eat the bread of anxious toil" in verse 2?
5. Have you put your trust in Jesus? Would you be willing to abide in God's presence in every area of your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER