

Why don't children come with an instruction manual?



Psalm 121¹⁻²

Introduction

It never ends

I've made lots of mistakes

I believe we are a family

They don't come with an instruction manual

What do we want to know?

Why no instruction manual?

Which is it: Formula or Faith?

They do come from One who knows everything

The Father reveals Himself

The fundamental premise underlying this whole series

They do come with a promise

The promise that God will be their God (Gen 17⁷)

The promise that God's kingdom belongs to them (Matt 19¹⁴)

The promise that God will be our Guide (Isa 58¹¹)

The promise that God will be our Helper (Isa 41¹⁰)

The promise that God will be gracious (Joel 2¹³)

The promise that God's grace will be sufficient (2 Cor 12⁹)

Conclusion

Thank God they don't come with an instruction manual!

Discussion



Questions answered

- Why don't children come with an instruction manual?
- Is child training primarily a matter of the right formula or of faith?
- What is better than an instruction manual concerning our children?
- What is the fundamental premise underlying this series of sermons?
- What is our model for training our children?
- What does God give us instead of a detailed instruction manual concerning what to do in every conceivable situation?
- What promises does God give us that encourage and enable us as parents?
- What is the relationship between our children and the kingdom of God?
- What does it mean for God to uphold us with his righteous right hand?
- Does God deal with us according to our parenting performance?
- What would be the awful consequences of our children coming with an instruction manual?



Something to pray about (and follow through with)

- The wonder of God entrusting little people into our care.
- The sufficiency of God to reveal and help us in all He calls us to do.
- The poor plight of those who have children but do not know God – and how we can reach out to them.