

Week 12

Joel 2 Lifestyle



Every Child must hear

Joel 1:3

Tell your children about it, Let your children tell their children, And their children another generation.



Joel first issued the call to the elders and inhabitants of the land to hear and take heed. Next, he exhorted them to tell their children. They are to ensure that the children fully understand the seriousness and the implications of what is happening. In turn, they are to tell their next generation about what God is saying and doing.

When it comes to educating the children about what is on God's heart, the times and seasons and the realities of the End-Times, it is a top priority to God!

The fact that God calls for a four-generation mandate speaks of the importance and priority of this issue to God's heart. This has to be in the "core syllabus" of spiritual formation in the lives of our children. Every child must keep hearing the message so as to come to grasp and have an understanding of the End-Times as well as the times and seasons we are living in.



It is not just for Joel's generation, but it is meant for our times, especially for our children, who may well be the generation who witness the return of our Lord Jesus.

THERE IS THUS AN
URGENCY AND
PRIORITY IN
TEACHING THEM
ABOUT END-TIMES!





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We ourselves ought to be the ones who tell our children and their children about it. The sad truth, however, is that Christians have over the years, watered down the importance or even completely avoided the sharing of truths pertaining to End-Times to their children or to new believers.

We fear that new believers are too young to hear and are not able to make sense of these truths. Many of us may not have clarity about End-Times as well. As such, the majority of believers today are left without much grid or understanding of End-Times.

What happens if we do not share with our children while they are young?

They will grow up having little or no understanding of the coming shakings and judgments. Along the way, wrong paradigms concerning End-Times may also be instilled into their hearts. Examples of such wrong paradigms:

“DON’T TALK ABOUT END-TIMES, IT
ONLY CAUSES FEAR AND
CONFUSION.”

“WE DON’T NEED TO KNOW.”

“WE CAN’T KNOW THE TIMES AND
SEASONS AT ALL.”

As such, when we want to share the truth with them at a later time, we may face passive or even active resistance. We will then need to work doubly hard to break through the walls of wrong paradigms and understanding that have been erected through the years.

Young believers (both spiritual and physical children) have hearts that are soft, like wet cement, moldable and teachable. Like good soil, they receive the truth with great openness. The implanted Word then sprouts forth and bears fruit as they continue to keep and cultivate it.



We must share these Biblical truths with Christians when they are young. Jesus' disciples were in their late teens or early 20's when he taught them about the signs of His return and of the end of the age (Matthew 24).

What about new believers? Are they too young to learn about End-Times?

Absolutely not. This may surprise you, but Paul taught the Thessalonica Church about the End Times when they were only three-week-old Christians! He taught them so that they could be watchful and sober, and be prepared for the second coming of Jesus (1 Thessalonian 5:6).

If Paul saw the importance of teaching the new-born believers in his times so as to prepare them, how much more relevant will it be to us in this day and age!



We must prepare our children for the coming Day of the Lord that is both great and terrible. We do not want them to be dumbfounded and unprepared when the storms come.

We want our children to be grounded in the truth of God so that they will know of both the great glory and the unprecedented crises that are coming upon the earth.

***WE MUST TEACH THEM WHO GOD IS,
WHAT HE IS LOOKING FOR AND WHY
HE ALLOWS FOR THE SHAKINGS.***



PRAYER AND FASTING

Our children must be grounded in the lifestyle that God is looking for. More than just mere cognitive teaching, we ourselves must *live lives that are real, deep and authentic.* We must live our lives righteously and center each of our decisions upon the truths and principles of God.

Like in the days of the Old Testament and the early Church where fasting and prayer are norms for God's people, we must live out this lifestyle so that our children may see the reality of this message.

A vintage green typewriter sits on a light-colored wooden surface. To its left is a dark green notebook, and to its right are several yellowed, aged papers. A small pinecone is visible in the bottom left corner. A white rectangular box with a thin border is centered over the typewriter, containing the title text.

Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 12

- Read through 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. Did Paul teach the Thessalonian new believers about the times and the seasons and the Day of the Lord? What does Paul exhort us, our youths and children to do in light of this? How would you live your life so that your children will catch the reality of the times and seasons and the urgency of the hour?

Prayers for Week 12

- Pray for those involved in Youth and Children Ministries to be bold in teaching the young ones about the times and the seasons and about End-Times. Using Colossians 1:9, pray for them to have wisdom, spiritual understanding and clarity to teach from a place of knowing God's heart.