

PARENTING LESSON 2: CHILDREN ARE ARROWS

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, are the children of one's youth." Psalm 127:4 (ESV)

Have you ever felt frustrated with your children, especially when they've failed to achieve the dreams you helped them to meet? I felt this way when my children were still young, and I thought that there was something wrong with them, until I learned that children are like "arrows in the hand of a warrior!"

Can an arrow hit a target on its own? Of course not! You will need a bow to use it, right? But if you already have a bow, will the arrow now hit the target? Not without a skilled warrior, diba?

If children are like arrows, we need to understand the characteristics of arrows in order to handle them better. An arrow is an inanimate object, so it is neither good nor bad, and on its own it cannot do anything. But in the hands of a mighty warrior, an arrow can be a deadly weapon.

Our children are the same; they were born with the capacity to do good, but on the other hand, they also have the tendency to do bad things. They can only hit the target you want them to hit depending on your abilities as a parent. But since parents are just caretakers for the Lord, the target you should set for them should be based on what their Father in heaven wants.

In order to be effective, a warrior must spend time honing his skills, not talking to his arrows. When his arrows fail to hit their targets, he should not break them but instead seek to improve as a warrior. I believe parents are the same. When our children do not hit the targets we want, it does not mean there is something wrong with them. Instead, it means that there are things we need to improve on as parents.

My relationship with my children only improved when I realized that parenting is not about my children, but about me as a parent! This is why I would always say that my children made me a better person. I became a better father when I changed my perspective— from looking for what is wrong with them, to wanting to know what is wrong with me. One of the most important things I learned was that, throughout the years I was frustrated with my children, they were also very frustrated with me! That was because I was not a good example of what I was teaching. You see children learn by imitating others. If they do not like what they see in us, they will instead imitate someone else. When I became more sensitive to my children, they started to listen to what I had to say and followed the direction I want them to take.

Take control of your children's future by deciding to become a better parent, because at the end of the day, God will make you accountable for the arrows He gave you.