

Entrusting Our Children to The Lord

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Our children are entrusted to us, but they belong to God. So one of our primary goals as parents is to help each of our children understand that they are a son or daughter of God. They are one of His children. We should help them understand that, just as they are dependent on us as parents, they are even more dependent on God. They need to learn to trust Him, and we as parents need to trust Him as well.

This concept is captured very beautifully in the Bible in the 1st Book of Samuel. After Samuel is born, his mother, Hannah, takes him to Eli, the priest. She tells Eli, "I prayed for this child, and the Lord granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the Lord."

When one of my children became very confused and challenging as a teen-ager, I was forced to acknowledge the limits of my influence with this child. In my prayer life, thinking of Abraham's offering of his son, Isaac, to the Lord, I offered this child to God.

Here is a summary of my prayer. You can put this prayer into your own words and apply it to all of your children, regardless of their ages: "Lord, help me fulfill my responsibilities as a parent of my children. Help me to do what I must do. But I beg you, Lord, to make up for what I lack as a parent. I ask that You be for my children who I cannot be, and that You do for my children what I cannot do. Guide my children so that they will become who You created them to be and will fulfill the mission and purpose for which You created them."