

BILL & BENI JOHNSON

**BIBLE
PROMISES
& PRAYERS
FOR CHILDREN**



RELEASING YOUR CHILD'S
DIVINE DESTINY

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AND PRAYERS
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BILL *and* **BENI JOHNSON**
with **ABIGAIL MCKOY**



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May our sons flourish in their youth
like well-nurtured plants.
May our daughters be like graceful pillars,
carved to beautify a palace.
May our barns be filled
with crops of every kind.
May the flocks in our fields multiply by the
thousands,
even tens of thousands,
and may our oxen be loaded down with
produce.
May there be no enemy breaking through
our walls,
no going into captivity,
no cries of alarm in our town squares.
Yes, joyful are those who live like this!
Joyful indeed are those whose God is the
LORD.

Psalm 144:12-15 NLT

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Your Child Is a Treasure

Each child is a gift from God that we—parents, grandparents and caregivers—are commanded to treasure. This is both our greatest joy and our most sober responsibility. In light of this, *Bible Promises and Prayers for Children* is intended to nourish you, as well as the children in your care. Each entry begins with a short teaching message, includes related Scripture to meditate on and concludes with a guided prayer. Beni and I hope that reading this book will become a time of encouragement as you connect to God’s heart for your family and beyond.

In each entry, we have also created a section where your children can participate with you. Together, you can discuss the question(s) we offer. Then you can invite your kids to pray with you,

make a bold declaration of faith and engage in the suggested activity. Our prayer is that this would provide an opportunity for discovery and connection between your family and your heavenly Father.

May this book lead you and your entire household into encounters with the almighty God so that your family might impact the world with His love, power, wisdom and purity.

Training Up a Child

God focuses His loving attention on those who belong to Him. Hebrews says that “the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son” (Hebrews 12:6 NIV). God longs to impart His holiness and peace-filled righteousness to all His children. And He has given us the authority and responsibility to impart identity, character and purpose into the lives of the children in our care.

When we walk kids through healthy discipline, we are investing in them. We are reorienting them into an awareness of why they are alive and into the fullness of their inheritance. But this kind of discipline requires godly wisdom. It needs to be an occasion, not an outburst.

Real discipline takes time. The strength of our discipline comes from our ability to respond to a child rather than reacting to his or her behavior. And that means allowing ourselves to be inconvenienced sometimes.

We all know that children can act out at the most awkward moments—in the grocery store, at

a dinner party, in front of guests—and naturally, parents can find themselves either ignoring bad behavior or reacting angrily to put a stop to it. But neither of these produce the fruit we want to see in our children's lives. If we take the time to invest in the moment of discipline, it will spare us much disappointment and pain later.

God's discipline comes from a heart of love, and we model that for our children, shaping their hearts with responsibility and purpose. When we take the time to discuss with them what they did wrong, we are able to make sure they understand their misstep. We give them time to adjust their attitude and take responsibility, and we deliver an appropriate correction if needed.

We get to approach our children with humility and love. Godly discipline is never done out of frustration or vindication, but with tender care. We are raising children to become adults, leaders and parents. Partnering with them for their future success as they grow will impact them for the rest of their lives.

For MEDITATION

For the Lord's training of your life is the evidence of his faithful love. And when he draws you to himself, it proves you are his delightful child.

Fully embrace God's correction as part of your training, for he is doing what any loving father does for his children. For who has ever heard of a child who never had to be corrected? We all should welcome God's discipline as the validation of authentic sonship. For if we have never once endured his correction it only proves we are strangers and not sons. *Hebrews 12:6-8*

He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly. *Proverbs 13:24 NKJV*

You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. *1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 NASB*

For PRAYER

Lord, fill me with Your faithful love so that when I need to redirect ____, it comes from that tender place. Help me delight in Your discipline in my own life so that I can accurately represent Your heart to ____ when I bring correction. Thank You that You care enough about us to invest in training us in the ways that we should go. Thank You that You mark us with identity when You discipline us. Holy Spirit, help me bring discipline promptly, but patiently. Give me God's wisdom to know when to correct and when to tenderly encourage. Thank You for the destiny that You've given ____, God. Thank You that You are faithful to equip those whom You have called; I will remind ____ of who You have created this child of Yours to be.

FOR TIME WITH
Your CHILD

ASK: How do you feel when you are disciplined? Everyone needs training so they can become their best selves. What areas of your life do you feel as if God is helping you grow in today?

PRAY: *Holy Spirit, remind me how amazing You think I am even when I mess up. Thanks that You always love me the same, no matter what. But help me to keep growing, Jesus, so I can be more like You every day.*

DECLARE: I have a powerful destiny. I am important enough to God that He cares about training me!

DO: What kinds of gifts and talents has God put inside you? Discuss with each other the call of God on your life and what kinds of character attributes you will need to fulfill that calling.