

Three individuals –

Very knowledgeable and academically trained father.

The “wise and prudent” are often blinded spiritually – particularly to their own sinful state, and need for mercy and forgiveness (by pride and self-reliance). They are “doing very nicely, thank you very much” – they “have it all worked out”. (increasing knowledge can lead to arrogance – 1Cor 8:1). He would not understand the ramifications of John 3:16

Academically trained mother – though less so than her husband.

We are not told much about mum – but the daughter’s desire to seek God is probably because of her mother’s example. She would therefore have an understanding of John 3:16 – and what it means – Rom 8:4 – and recognise it as the wisdom and power of God.

Nine-year old daughter

*Her comprehension would be limited, being a child – but if God reveals it to her, capable of recognising her need for forgiveness and mercy – and also a desire to have a relationship with God. This is not about full knowledge, but about **heart** – honouring and being subject to her parents, and kind to her siblings and friends – and honest - would be the fruits of that.*

Without Scriptural knowledge one is vulnerable to deception – children are in need of protection in this area, as well as other areas of life. The gifts of teaching and sound instruction in Scripture are given to protect the assembly from deception –

Eph 4 ¹⁴ that **we should no longer be children**, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

The “unstable and unlearned” can twist the Scripture to their own destruction – rather than be corrected and edified by it (2 Peter 3:16)

Some Scriptures relating to children, how they relate to God – and qualities they have that we need to emulate - copied below.

1 Cor 13 ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but **when I became a man, I put away childish things.**

1 Cor 14 ²⁰ Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, **in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.**

1 Peter 2 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ² **as (like – in the way they do) newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,**

Luke 10 ²¹ In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that **You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes.** Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

Prov 18 Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire;

he breaks out against all sound judgment.

² A fool takes no pleasure in understanding,
but **only in expressing his opinion.** (ESV)

Prov 20 ¹¹ Even a child is known by his deeds,
Whether what he does *is* pure and right.

Prov 26 ¹² Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Luke 2 ³⁹ So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their *own* city, Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And **the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.**

⁴⁶ Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both **listening to them** and **asking them questions.** ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him **were astonished at His understanding and answers.** ⁴⁸ So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."

⁴⁹ And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that **I must be about My Father's business?**" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

⁵¹ Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and **was subject to them,** but His mother kept all these things in her heart. ⁵² And **Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.**

1 Sam 2 ¹⁸ But Samuel ministered before the LORD, **even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.** ¹⁹ Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring *it* to him

year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The LORD give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the LORD." Then they would go to their own home.

²¹ And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile **the child Samuel grew before the LORD**.

How long to have 5 more children – ten years? Samuel went to serve Eli very young – around 4 years old? He may have been around 14 when the Lord called to him.

²⁶ And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men.

1 Sam 3 Now **the boy** Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; *there was* no widespread revelation. ² And it came to pass at that time, while Eli *was* lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, ³ and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God *was*, and while Samuel was lying down, ⁴ that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!" ⁵ So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

¹⁰ Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

¹⁹ **So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him** and let none of his words fall to the ground. (*everything he forecast happened – his words were in line with God's*) ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel *had been* established as a prophet of the LORD. ²¹ Then the LORD appeared again in Shiloh. For **the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD**.

Thanks Michael.