PSALM

127

CXXVII

Wisdom Instruction

Psalms of Solomon · Book V · Songs of Ascents

"A Song of Ascents. By Solomon."

PICTURE WORD

Builders

IN ONE SENTENCE

nless the LORD builds the house and guards the city, human work is useless, and children are his gift.

Remember it: One twenty-seven: if the LORD doesn't build it, the builders waste their bricks.

MEMORY VERSE

Unless Yahweh builds the house, they who build it labor in vain. Unless Yahweh watches over the city, the watchman guards it in vain.

Psalm 127:1 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

יִבְנֶה

"builds" · verse 1

In the Psalms: twelve times, in 10 psalms

יִבְנֶה means "he builds." The same verb is used for building walls, cities, and also families, as when Israel's matriarchs are said to have "built" the house of Israel (Ruth 4:11). That is why one short psalm can move from building a house to the gift of children.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

1–2	Without the LORD, building, guarding, and long hours are vain
3–5	Children are the LORD's gift, like arrows in a quiver

MY NOTES

Listen. Hear Psalm 127 in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at **ispress.de/psalms/127**.

Didactic. Preached: a teaching psalm, a sermon meant to be heard, not sung.

The Two Ways · Waiting on God

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Unless the LORD builds the _____ and guards the city, human work is _____, and children are his _____.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman...

- (A) falls asleep
- (B) must call for help
- (C) is blamed
- (D) guards it in vain

2. What does the LORD give to his loved ones?

- (A) Sleep
- (B) Gold
- (C) Long life
- (D) Victory

3. Children of one's youth are compared to...

- (A) olive shoots
- (B) arrows in the hand of a mighty man
- (C) stars in the sky
- (D) pillars of a palace

TALK IT OVER

1. What kinds of work does the psalm call vain without the LORD?

2. What does the line about sleep say about God's care for his people?

3. Where are you rising early and staying up late in your own strength?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 127 TEACH?

- ☐ I listened to the song
- ☐ I can say what it teaches
- ☐ I can say verse 1 by heart
- ☐ I know the picture word

Answers Blanks: house · useless · gift · Check yourself: 1. D (v. 1) · 2. A (v. 2) · 3. B (v. 4)