

## Does the Bible teach birth control?

There are those people who believe any unnatural form of birth control is a sin against God while others believe that it is sinful to bring a lot of children into an already overpopulated world where many children are dying of starvation.

1. Are there any examples of birth control in the scriptures?

Genesis **38:6-10**

Genesis **30:1-2**

The one true case in which someone deliberately chose to reduce the number of children is more of a case in which the reason behind the limitation is condemned by God. The actual limiting of the number of children was not identified as a problem. Onan chose to not have children with Tamar because the child that would be born would not be recognized as his own child but he would be recognized as being his brother's child. There is nothing in the scriptures that specifically identifies any need to limit the number of children nor is there anything that identifies a problem with choosing to limit the number of children.

2. What does God say about having children?

Psalms **127:1-5**

Genesis **16:1-4**; 18:18-19

Deuteronomy 4:40; **11:18-21**; 31:12-13

Psalms **34:11**; 78:4; **103:13**; 115:13-15

Ephesians **6:4**

Proverbs **5:15-19**

Children are a gift from God and are His reward provided that the children are obtained in the proper way. The presence of children, whether natural or adoption, are a picture of the hand of God's blessing upon a family. Children are given to form a family that is pursuing the knowledge of God and passing on the commands of God. Children are also given to teach men about compassion and empathy for others. The goal is to raise up the children to love the Lord that they might be used of the Lord to further His kingdom.

3. Why might the Bible imply a benefit to larger families?

Genesis 12:7; **13:14-16**

Deuteronomy **11:9-12**

The scriptures cover a time in which the people of the Bible live in a primarily agricultural society. This is a society whose success is largely dependent upon the number of workers and thus the amount of food produce that can be processed.

4. Are there benefits to smaller families?

Proverbs **1:8-10**; 4:20-22

2 Timothy **2:2**

2 Samuel **13:17-22**

A real benefit of a smaller family is that it is easier to commit yourself to training a fewer number of children rather than a larger number of children. Regardless of the number of children, the need is to train and educate them in the Lord. One of David's great failings was his inability to discipline his children for his sinfulness.