

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

AUGUST 31, 2025  
BULLETIN ISSUE #35



## SERMON OUTLINE

## GOD'S GRACE AND MAN'S PREDICAMENT

JUDGES 13:1-25 | PASTOR DAGS MIGUEL

Israel's downward spiral in Judges 10-12 led to tragic consequences. Jephthah, driven by ambition and insecurity, manipulated God and made a reckless vow. His actions brought about the death of his daughter, civil war and deeper spiritual decline.

Against this backdrop of decline, Judges 13 begins with the haunting words, "And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD" (Judges 13:1). The consequence was forty years under Philistine oppression, with no cry for deliverance recorded. In this spiritual drought, God acted in grace. He appeared not to a prophet or judge, but to an unnamed barren woman—signaling once again that His mercy often breaks in quietly and unexpectedly (Judges 13:1-5).

The angel of the LORD revealed that her son would be a Nazirite,

set apart from birth. This calling emphasized not physical might but spiritual consecration. The mother was to begin this set-apart lifestyle even before the child's birth. God was showing that true deliverance requires holiness long before heroism (Judges 13:6-7).

Manoah, the future father, responded with uncertainty. He prayed, sought answers and tried to assert control. God responded graciously, reaffirming the call and revealing His presence through the angel. Though Manoah displayed fear and spiritual immaturity, God's purpose stood firm. The Lord's messenger ascended in the flames of their offering, reminding them that the mission would succeed not by man's plan but by God's power (Judges 13:8-23).

The chapter ends in hopeful silence: the child is born, named Samson, and the Spirit of the

LORD begins to stir him. Even when Israel remained far from God, He had already initiated a path to deliverance. It started not with victory, but with consecration (Judges 13:24-25).

God's grace is always proactive. Even when His people are passive or compromised, He prepares a way forward. Deliverance begins not with strength, but with surrender.

**Sermon Focus:** God's grace initiates deliverance even in the lowest moments of human failure. In a generation marked by compromise, God begins His work not with human strength, but with holy surrender. Our predicament may be great, but His grace is greater. May we yield to His call, be consecrated for His purposes, and rely not on ourselves, but on the Spirit who empowers. ✨

## PASS THE FAITH - GOD'S CALL FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

DR. MARIA SUSAN GONZALEZ-LIM

Oh, how I miss Lily!! Even as I write this, I'm crying. I miss her so badly, I want to fly out to Davao right now! She's such a bungisngis girl! Even when she's about to sleep, and the lights are out, then we call out « Lily! » during Facetime, she turns on her 'bungisngis' mode - her smiling chinky eyes lighting up the room, showing her gums in a wide delightful grin! She shrieks in delight, when she's excited! She breaks out in bubbly laughter when I play peek-a-boo with her! Her laughter is so joyful and so contagious, it takes away years from my 64 year old body! No wonder people say, having a grandchild was the best thing that ever happened to them.

But beyond the joy she brings, I see in Lily the fulfillment of God's promise in Genesis 12:2-3: "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." This verse sustained me two years ago when I released Nicole to Jorin in marriage. Through tears, I prayed, "Lord, I would like to keep Nicole here with us, but I don't want to hinder Your plan to bless her and the generations after her. So I release Nicole to the destiny You have set. She is Yours. You will take care of her."

Then came Lily Simone on February 2025. We were all in awe of this beautiful creation, made in God's image! She brought brightness and laughter into our days. Yet as I hold her, I also imagine her future: one day a wife, a mother, raising the next generations. As her parents obey God's mandate to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" and raise her in the fear of the Lord, they empower her to thrive in health, career, marriage and family.

*"Impress them (God's Word) on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).*

This same vision—to see families blessed for generations—continues to drive us in the Family Builders Ministry and the Married Life Matters Ministry. Together, we joyfully celebrate life, marriage, and family as God's precious, lasting, and life-giving good gifts to His people.

This September, we begin with **The World Needs a Father** workshop on **Saturday, September 6th, 9am to 12nn**. Pastor Jebo Banzuelo, DZAS radio broadcaster, will lead us in rediscovering God's design for families and the vital roles of fathers

and mothers at every stage of their children's lives.

On **September 13, 20, and 27**, from **9am to 12nn**, we continue with interactive parenting workshops using **Pagsasanay sa Pagiging Magulang tungo sa Pinagpalang Pamilya**. These sessions are designed to equip parents with practical tools and biblical insights for building stronger families. We encourage you and your family to register at the Family Builders Booth at the 2nd floor lobby so we can prepare well and serve you better.

Then on **September 28**, during all worship services, we will have the opportunity to pray a **blessing over our children**. Begin writing your heartfelt blessings now and bring them on that day to declare over your children. After the second service, from **12:30 to 3pm**, we will celebrate GCFSM families with a **potbless!** Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy a fun family program prepared for everyone.

Genesis 12:2-3: "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." ✨

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