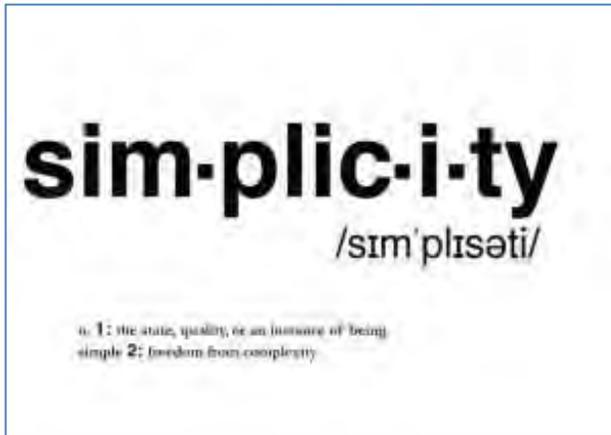


## Explaining True Children's Day to children

Matthew Huish  
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How do you explain the meaning of the Holy Days to children? It is often stated that something is only understood well enough if it can be explained simply. The Bromley Children's Ministry recently asked Matthew Huish, the pastor of the FFWPU Community in Bromley, to prepare an explanation of True Children's Day for their celebration programme. This is what he wrote:

Let me tell you a story:

In April 1960, True Father married True Mother in the Holy Wedding of True Parents. Soon afterwards, True Mother was pregnant with their

first child, a daughter called Ye Jin. But before Ye Jin nim was born, True Parents established Children's Day.

Why do you think Children's Day was established on the 19th of November 1960 and not on Ye Jin nim's birthday, on the 27th of January 1961? Maybe True Parents were really excited about having their first child, and they wanted to celebrate early. But maybe it was because they were following the lunar calendar:

In most of the Christian world, a solar calendar called the Gregorian Calendar is followed. In Korea and most of the Far East of Asia, a lunar calendar is followed. This means that the 19th of November would have been the 1st day of the 10th month of the lunar calendar. Why is this interesting? Because a baby needs more than 9 months (usually about 40 weeks) to grow in the mother's womb before it is born. Because of this, the 10th month of the year can be considered the time to welcome a child after it has prepared for 9 months.

But why do we need a Children's Day in the first place? This is what True Father said on separate occasions:

“What is Children's Day all about? It is the day when we can be victorious as children and reach the position of universal glory.”

“Children's Day is when we children celebrate that we, who due to the Fall could not enter the state where we could partake in God's glory, can finally for the first time in history abide in the state where we can participate in His glory.”

“The establishment of Children's Day signifies the appearance of sons and daughters who are able to rectify the fact that they lost God due to the wrongful actions of God's children.”

“Children's Day is the greatest among the holy days. It is greater than Parents' Day because it is the day for Parents to recover their authority.”



God is a Heavenly Parent who wants to enjoy a relationship of love with God's children. Because the first humans abandoned God, our Heavenly Parent has been waiting for God's children to return. True Parents were able to become the new ancestors of humanity, allowing all people to return to God both spiritually and physically. Their first child would have been the first person to be born as a child of God. Our Heavenly Parent was really happy to become a parent, finding God's lost children. All people who are reborn through True Parents (through the Holy Marriage Blessing) can become God's children, so Children's Day is a day

for all people to celebrate.

We celebrate True Children's Day because we are proud of our identity: We are proud that we are God's children and we are proud of True Parents for giving rebirth to all humanity. We celebrate this day every year so that we can remember who we are, as the children of our Heavenly Parent, and to express gratitude to True Parents for giving us the grace of being reconnected with God.

To end with, this is True Father's prayer from the 10th Children's Day:

"I hope and pray that You will allow all Your children to become true children based on their relationship to True Parents, to build true families based on being true children, and based on those true families, to expand into true tribes, true peoples, true nations, a true world and a true cosmos."

Happy True Children's Day!