

## From Generation to Generation

### Father's Day 2017

Psalm 78

June 18, 2017

#### Introduction

One thing that I have learned as a dad is that kids see, hear and remember everything. In some ways this is challenge, but it is also a gift. As the people of God we have been given an important responsibility – to teach the next generation to know, love and follow God.

As parents and as the church we must use every moment that we have with those who are growing up around us. We should strive to help them see, hear and remember the goodness and faithfulness and love and grace of God. This is the admonition that Asaph gives in Psalm 78 – Teach the next generation.

#### Asaph's Introduction (vs. 1-3)

- At the very start Asaph explains that he wants his readers to hear a story – it's a story that he was told by those who came before him. It was told to him and now he's passing it on, and not just for historical record, but as a parable to teach future generations.

#### Asaph's Commitment to Sharing God's Works with the Next Generation (vs. 4)

- Asaph was committed to making sure the next generation knew of the glory and might and wonders of God. He was committed to not remaining silent, but speaking of the things of God (Psalm 145:1-4)
- **Application:** As a church and as parents we must be creative and consistent in our efforts to tell our kids who God is. We must help our kids see the glory of God and all that He has done. Every part of life is an opportunity to teach your children about the things of God. Every meal, every sunset, every joy, every tragedy, every day is an opportunity to teach your children about God and His character. He is the creator, provider, sustainer, protector, comforter, redeemer and the list goes on and on. Learn to use all that God has given you as a means of pointing your children to Him.

#### Asaph's Commitment to Sharing the God's Words with the Next Generation (vs. 5)

- Asaph was not only committed to teaching the next generation the works of God, but also the Words of God.

- Verse 5 is really a summary of the teaching of Deuteronomy 6 when Moses instructs the people to give their lives to teaching the next generation. (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)
- **Application:** As a church and as parents we must never forget the importance of teaching our kids to know and love the Word of God. The Scriptures have the power to change hearts. The Scriptures are the means by which God brings people to salvation. If we desire to raise children who know and follow God, we must be faithful to teach them the Word of God.

#### Reasons for Being Faithful to Share the Works and Words of God with the Next Generation (vs. 6-8)

- **We must be faithful to proclaim the Words and Works of God so the next generation can be spared from the pains of forgetfulness and unfaithfulness (vs. 7b-8)**

Asaph knew the importance of remembering the things of God because he had an example of what happens when a generation forgets. The rest of the chapter, 9-72, is given to the example of a generation that did not remember the works and words of God and lived in constant rebellion.

- The Story of Israel: A Forgetful and Rebellious People (vs. 9-72)

- **We must be faithful to proclaim the Words and Works of God so the next generation will see character of God and know that they can trust Him (vs. 7a)**

We live in a world that often seems hopeless. This world is so broken and so full of pain and if we aren't careful it can be so easy to lose hope. If we want our kids to be people who find hope in God and trust Him through the difficulties of life, we must teach them that He can be trusted. We must tell them who He is and what He has done so they can trust Him.

- **We must be faithful to proclaim the Words and Works of God to the next generation so that they will be equipped to do the same (vs. 6)**

This is the plan of God, that one generation tells the next generation - and that generation tells the next generation. Asaph tells us is that our influence not only impacts our kids, but our grandkids, and our great grandkids. Do we want the generations that follow us to hope in God? Do we want them to trust Him? Then it starts with us. Will we be faithful?