# Generational Living

Psalm 78

"Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD!"

Psalm 102:18 ESV

"But watch out! Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren." Deut. 4:9 NLT

#### Psalm 78 - Listen to this history:

- v. 11: "They forgot his works..."
- v. 13: "He divided the sea..."
- v. 14: "he led them with a cloud..."
- v. 17: "they sinned still more against him..."
- v. 18: "They tested God in their heart..."
- v. 24: "he rained down... manna to eat..."
- v. 32: "In spite of this, they still sinned..."
- v. 38: "he... atoned for their iniquity..."
- v. 43: "he performed his signs in Egypt..."
- v. 42: "They did not remember his power..."
- v. 54: "he brought them to his holy land..."
- v. 58: "they moved him to jealousy with their idols..."
- v. 59: "he utterly rejected Israel..."
- v. 72: "he sent a king to shepherd them..."

Psalm 78:1 A Maskil of Asaph. Listen, O my people, to my instruction; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

#### Listen to the Word! 1

- 'listen' attention
- 'incline your ears' attitude
- Familiarity breeds contempt?
- Yes but between those outcomes is neglect

"The church that does not evangelize will fossilize." Oswald J. Smith Psalm 78:4

We will not **conceal** them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.

## Do Discipleship! 4

- These 8 verses are oozing with generational language:
  - "fathers" 3x (vv. 3, 5, 8)
  - "children" 3x (vv. 4, 6 [2x])
  - "generation" 3x (vv. 4, 6, 7)
- לַחַבְּי 'conceal' = hide, cover with rubbish

"The goal of all Christian ministry, in any of its forms, is disciple-making."

All make believers disciples – Mentors equip disciples according to their gifts.

Psalm 78:6-8
6 That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, That they may arise and tell them to their children,

7 That they should put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments,

8 And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

### Teach the next generations 6-8

- 1. So that they will know God's Word (v. 6) "that the next generation might know them"
- 2. So that they will tell their children (v. 6) "and arise and tell them to their children"
- 3. So that they will trust God's promise (v. 7) "so that they should set their hope in God"
- 4. So that they will <u>obey</u> God's law (vv. 7, 8)

"so that they should . . . not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments" (v. 7)

"and that they should not be like their fathers" (v. 8)

"God's plan is to make much of the man, far more of him than of anything else. Men are God's method. The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men." E.M. Bounds



# These 8 verses span 5 generations! "our fathers" (vv. 3, 5) "us" (v. 3) "their [grand]children" (v. 4) "the children yet unborn" (v. 6)

"their children" (v. 6)

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

1 Cor 4:2

I never wanted to be rich or famous or powerful – just faithful!

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