



Date: 07-12-2026

Sermon: Remember So They Will Hope

Text: Psalm 78:1-8 NLT

Will the next generation know the works of the Lord because we were faithful to tell them?

1. God's People Are Called to _____ Before They Teach.

Psalm 78:1 NLT

1 A psalm of Asaph.

O my people, listen to my instructions. Open your ears to what I am saying,

Notes:

God's Works Are Not Meant to Be _____.

Psalm 78:2-4 NLT

2 for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past-- 3 stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us. 4 We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders.

Notes:

God _____ His People to Teach the Next Generation.

Psalm 78:5-6 NLT

5 For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, 6 so the next generation might know them--even the children not yet born--and they in turn will teach their own children.

Notes:

The Goal Is Not Just _____, But Hope.

Psalm 78:6-7 NLT

6 so the next generation might know them--even the children not yet born--and they in turn will teach their own children. 7 So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands.

Notes:

Forgetfulness Creates a _____ Generation.

Psalm 78:8 NLT

8 Then they will not be like their ancestors--stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God.

Notes:

Additional Notes

Psalm 78:1–8

Main Idea: God's family must remember and retell God's works so the next generation will place their hope in Him.

Psalm 78 is a historical wisdom psalm written by Asaph. Asaph was connected with Israel's worship life and is associated with the temple musicians during the time of David. This psalm teaches God's people to look back at their history and learn from it.

Psalm 78 does not remember Israel's past in a sentimental way. It tells the truth. It remembers both the faithfulness of God and the failures of God's people. The goal is not merely to preserve history, but to help each generation trust and obey the Lord.

The first eight verses introduce the purpose of the whole psalm: God's people must listen, remember, and teach the next generation so they will not repeat the rebellion of the past.

1. A Call to Listen

Psalm 78:1 — “O my people, listen to my instructions. Open your ears to what I am saying...”

Psalm 78 begins with a command to listen. Before God’s people can teach the next generation, they must first receive the truth themselves.

The phrase “my people” shows that Asaph is speaking to the covenant community of Israel. These are the people who had received God’s law, experienced God’s rescue, and belonged to God by covenant.

In the Old Testament, listening means more than hearing sounds. To listen to God is to pay attention, receive His instruction, and respond with obedience.

Key Thought:

God’s people cannot faithfully pass down what they have not personally received.

2. A History That Must Not Be Hidden

Psalm 78:2–4 — “We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation...”

Asaph says he will speak in a “parable” and teach “hidden lessons from our past.” This does not mean the message is secret. It means Israel’s history contains deeper lessons that must be understood and taught.

Israel’s story included God’s mighty works: the exodus from Egypt, the crossing of the Red Sea, the giving of the law, God’s provision in the wilderness, and His patience with His people. These events were not only history lessons. They revealed the character of God.

The command “we will not hide these truths from our children” shows that silence is dangerous. If one generation stops telling the story, the next generation may not know the Lord’s works or understand why they matter.

This same pattern appears throughout the Old Testament. The Passover meal was designed so children would ask what it meant, and parents would explain how God rescued His people from Egypt. The memorial stones after crossing the Jordan River served the same purpose: they helped future generations remember what God had done.

Key Thought:

God's works are too important to be hidden, assumed, or forgotten.

3. A Command to Teach the Next Generation

Psalm 78:5–6 — “He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children...”

Passing down faith was not optional for Israel. God commanded His people to teach His law and His works to their children.

This connects closely with Deuteronomy 6:4–9, where Israel was commanded to love the Lord and teach His words diligently to their children. That teaching was meant to happen in everyday life: at home, on the road, at bedtime, and in the morning.

Psalm 78 also looks beyond the immediate family. It speaks of children “not yet born.” Faithfulness in one generation affects generations that follow.

Parents had the primary role in teaching their children, but the whole covenant community shared responsibility. In the same way, the church today has a role in helping the next generation know and trust the Lord.

Key Thought:

Teaching the next generation is not a church program first. It is a covenant responsibility.

4. The Goal Is Hope in God

Psalm 78:6–7 — “So each generation should set its hope anew on God...”

The purpose of teaching is not merely information. The goal is that each generation would “set its hope anew on God.”

This means every generation must personally trust the Lord. Faith cannot simply be inherited as a family tradition. Children may inherit a church building, a family name, or religious habits, but they must personally come to know and hope in God.

Psalm 78 connects memory, hope, and obedience. When God’s people remember His works, they are called to trust Him. When they trust Him, they are called to obey Him.

Key Thought:

We teach the next generation not only so they know what happened, but so they know who God is.

5. A Warning Against Forgetfulness

Psalm 78:8 — “Then they will not be like their ancestors—stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful...”

Verse 8 gives the warning behind the psalm. Israel’s history included generations who saw God’s works but still rebelled against Him.

The words “stubborn,” “rebellious,” and “unfaithful” describe a heart that refuses to trust and obey God. The issue was not lack of information. Israel had seen God’s power. The deeper problem was that their hearts were not faithful to Him.

This warning becomes clear in the rest of Psalm 78, where Asaph recounts Israel’s repeated failures in the wilderness. They forgot God’s works, complained against Him, tested Him, and refused to trust Him.

Spiritual forgetfulness is dangerous because it often leads to spiritual drift. When God’s people forget His faithfulness, they become more likely to repeat old patterns of unbelief.

Key Thought:

When one generation forgets God, the next generation often inherits the consequences.

Historical Background

Psalms 78 looks back especially to the story of Israel in the wilderness after the exodus. God had rescued His people from slavery in Egypt, provided for them, guided them, and gave them His law. Yet Israel repeatedly complained, doubted, and rebelled.

The psalm uses Israel's past as a warning. The next generation must not repeat the sins of the previous generation. They must remember God's works, trust His character, and obey His commands.

This makes Psalm 78 both a history lesson and a discipleship lesson. God's people are called to tell the truth about the past so the next generation will know where hope is found.

Connection to the Church Today

The church is also called to remember and retell the works of God. Christians look back not only to the exodus, but ultimately to Jesus Christ.

In Christ, God has shown His greatest act of rescue. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God saves sinners, brings people into His family, and gives hope for eternal life.

That story must not be hidden from the next generation. Children, students, and younger believers need more than programs and activities. They need parents, grandparents, teachers, leaders, and church members who will tell them what God has done.

Summary

Psalm 78:1–8 teaches that God's people are responsible to remember and retell the works of the Lord.

We listen first.

We remember honestly.

We teach intentionally.

We point the next generation to hope in God.

We warn them against the danger of forgetting.

The goal is not merely that the next generation would know our traditions, our church, or our stories. The goal is that they would know the Lord and place their hope in Him.

God's family remembers and retells God's works so the next generation will place their hope in Him.