

## Ps.78:1-8,70-72 “Telling the Next Generation”

Intro. How can parents teach their kids about God?

**Subject: A history of Israel's rebellion and God's grace**

**Object: Prepare the next generation to be faithful to God**

**Theme:** the Psalmist reviews Israel's history of rebellion despite God's grace to warn of the consequences, and encourage us to responsibly prepare the next generation.

### A. Learn from history [1-4]

**1. Pay attention and learn [1-2]** Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth, **2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old:** the psalmist is going to tell us a history lesson to teach us a moral, a deeper meaning (ie. purpose beyond knowing the history of Israel).

### **2. Take responsibility to tell the next generation about God [3-4]**

**3**which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. **4**we will not hide *them* from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.

**a. an ideal: receive from your parents and teach to your kids [3]** Grandparents, parents, children

**b. tell the next generation [4]:** bridge, youth ministries, children's ministries

i. **praises of the Lord:** His attributes worthy of worship, praise

ii. **His strength:** greatness, power, majesty

iii. **His wonderful works:** What God did for Israel [& what God has done in your life]

**? What has God done in your life that would encourage others to trust Him?**

### **3. The summary of Israel's history is to prepare the next generation[9-70]**

The psalmist chronicles the deliverance from **Egypt** the plagues and parting of the Red Sea; through **the wilderness** and 40 years of God's protection and provision (water, quail, manna) contrast with Israel's complaining, murmuring, and lack of trust, to the **Promised Land** and Israel's conquest and subsequent idolatry. The correction of God and His judgment is balanced with grace.

**a. The moral: be faithful to God and you will be blessed**

### B. Learn from the Scriptures [5-8]

#### **a. God has given the Bible to prepare the next generations [5-6]**

**5**For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children;

**6**That the generation to come might know *them*, the children *who* would be born, *that* they may arise and declare them to their children,

**Eph.6:4** And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

**Deut.6:4-9** premiere prayer of Judaism & command re teaching the next gen

**b. That the next generation shall:**

**i. Find their hope in God [7] that they may set their hope in God:**

**ii. Not forget the works of God [7] and not forget the works of God:**

**iii. Obey God and not rebel [7-8] but keep His commandments; 8 and may not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation *that* did not set its heart aright, and whose spirit was not faithful to God.**

**c. The moral: obey God and you will be blessed, rebel and suffer consequences**

**C. Learn from David [70-72] [A picture of Christ-like leadership]** the selection of Judah, Jerusalem [Zion] and David set the stage for God's grace restoration and hope [68-72]

**1. Chosen [70] He also chose David: 1 Sam.16:11, [chosen to lead kids, next gen.]**

a. Jesus is the Chosen One [Is.42:1]

**2. Servant [70] His servant:** the goal of a servant is to please their master, **Mk.10:45**

\* parents serve their children; \* love flows down

**3. Shepherd [70-72] And took him from the sheepfolds; 71From following the ewes that had young He brought him, to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance. 72So he shepherded them:** lead, protect, nurture, care for, **Jn 10:**

**4. Integrity [72] according to the integrity of his heart:** model Christ-like behavior

a. morality is avoiding doing the wrong thing, character is doing the right thing even when difficult, and integrity is morality + character [**Gal.5:22-23**]

**5. Skill [72] And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands:** wisdom [**Lu.2:52**]