

**Intro:** Whitney Houston. 1985. George Benson 1977. "I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way...I have found the greatest love of all; learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all." It is important. But it's not the great love. **Jesus Storybook Bible. God's "Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always & Forever Love"**

**Thesis:** "Teach Children the Greatest Love of All: Jesus's love for sinners."

## I. Teach the Children (1-4)

- A. **Patterns/Cycles of Sin in History.** 1. Unbelief/Disobey 2. Cry out 3. Mercy/Grace
- B. **Tell them the stories.** "His-story." God's provision, deliverance, faithfulness. Man's sin!
- C. **All of it.** The Good & The Bad. The Cool & The Mundane.
- D. **Sing with them.** Good songs. Old songs. History. Truths. Hymns. Praise.
- E. **Teach the Children.** They are the future of the church. Hope of the world. Disciples.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Edward Kimball > Moody > Wilbur Chapman > Billy Sunday > Mordecai Ham > Billy "Frank" Graham. **You never know what God will use. Your impact. One child.**

## II. Know Your Tendencies (v. 37-42) theme verses

- A. **This is a warning Psalm.** Don't be like your fathers.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Stephen in Acts 7. "Just like fathers who rejected God. Killed the prophets."

- B. **Cyclical Sins.** Generational sins. Addictions. Cycles. Patterns. Habits: Anger. Gossip. Complaining. Worry. They can all be broken by Jesus.
- C. **Cycles.** What about Poverty? Education? Parenting? Faith? Gospel changes everything.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Sunday school originally started to teach people to read. Bible. 1750s

- D. **Romans 2:1-5.** God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance. Not store up wrath.

### APPLICATION:

1. **How are you doing? What are your tendencies. Your habitual sins? Generational sins? Who else knows? Anyone? Help?**
2. **How are your kids? Other kids? Do you care? Pray? Encourage/Help parents.**
  - (a) **It's not too late.** "Grown up w/ kids. Ship sailed." Never too late to repent, lead, reconcile, forgive, show mercy, teach, try; if your both still here. No door mat. Boundaries

## III. Remember God's Mercies (67-72)

- A. **Old Testament.** Patriarchs. Rock/Water. Plagues. Exodus. Manna/Meat. Shepherd.
- B. **God is cyclically merciful to cyclical sinners.** Story of Bible. God's people. **You too?**
- C. **Jesus shows us God's Great Love, Mercy, Grace.** He is God's Love, Mercy, Grace. They appeared and were "made manifest" in Jesus.
- D. **Jesus is the King of the Lion of Judah.** Son of David and seated on throne forever.
- E. **Jesus is the Lamb standing on Mt. Zion** with His people in Rev. 14.
- F. **Jesus is the Good Shepherd** who leads, guides, calls, keeps, lays down life for sheep
- G. **Jesus is the Rock** that was struck so we would have life.
- H. **Jesus is the Living Water** for the thirsty wanderers in the wilderness.
- I. **Jesus is the Manna/Bread of Life that came down from Heaven to give life.**

### APPLICATION:

1. **God is cyclically merciful to cyclical sinners.** Habitual sins? God's Mercy never fails. **If a believer,** it's because He chose to save/love you. Knew everything about you. Not shocked.
2. **Has the Lord been good to you?** Patient? Grace? Mercy? Forgiveness? Love? Kindness?
3. **Why are you here? People? Has His goodness brought you here? Mentors, Parents, teachers, friends, kids, books, growth, sermons, learning life lessons, opportunities, job, etc.**
4. **What steps took place to bringing you to salvation? For the last 2,000 years in history? Apostles, Pastors, Theologians, Missionaries, "random" events, marriages, coincidences, etc.**

***Psalm 78***

**1-4** > Intro/Teach the Children about Lord's glorious, mighty, wonderful deeds. Warning!

**5-8** > Patriarchs were taught this. This goes way back.

**9-11** > The people forgot, rebelled, refused to walk in ways of LORD.

**12-16** > Exodus, Water from Rock in the Wilderness.

**17-20** > Still tested, complained, Food, unbelief

**21-30** > God's anger is kindled but He shows mercy. Feeds them manna/meat. They're full!

**31-55** > Anger Him again. Sin. Forgot what He had done in Egypt. Repent (35). Lord's mercy.

**56-67** > Anger Him again! Punishes. Death. Turning over to sin. Rejects them.

**68-72** > After all that. Still shows mercy. Still promises hope. Salvation. Permanence. Guidance.

***Romans 2:1-5:*** 1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. 2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. 3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.