

Intro: Lake Testimonies. Older to younger. 4 generations. So cool. Most intrigued with older.

I) 1-13 - Know Your Story

- 1 In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame!
- 2 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me, and save me!
- 3 Be to me a rock of refuge,
to which I may continually come;
you have given the command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
- 4 Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.
- 5 For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
- 6 Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;
you are he who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.
- 7 I have been as a portent to many,
but you are my strong refuge.
- 8 My mouth is filled with your praise,
and with your glory all the day.
- 9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
forsake me not when my strength is spent.
- 10 For my enemies speak concerning me;
those who watch for my life consult together
- 11 and say, "God has forsaken him; pursue and seize him,
for there is none to deliver him."
- 12 O God, be not far from me;
O my God, make haste to help me!
- 13 May my accusers be put to shame and consumed;
with scorn and disgrace may they be covered
who seek my hurt.

- A. **vv1-4** - covered well last week. Mike Ruiz. Go Listen.
 - B. **vv5-9** - from youth. Before birth. Mother's womb. Time of old age. Strength spent.
 - C. **vv17-18** - taught from youth. Old age and gray hairs.
- ILLUSTRATION:** Neck Hurt. Elbow hurts. Shoulder hurts. Pickleball. Knees hurt. Thighs. Trim beard. Bunch of gray hairs. Crossing my leg when I read/drink coffee!
- D. **2 Timothy 3:14-17** - Taught from childhood the Scriptures.
 - E. **vv.10-13** - covered well last week. Mike Ruiz. Go Listen.

APPLICATION:

1. **Know Your Story & Testimony.** Do you have one? Do you know Jesus? Believe Scripture. God's Truth? Salvation?
2. **Are you a church kid?** *Don't be ashamed of that. Or bored by it. Don't think having a more dramatic and rebellious stage in your testimony is more exciting or cool.* > **FL friend:** "I wish I didn't have a dramatic testimony." > **Bro-in-law:** "I wish I didn't know the day and moment when I became a Christian."
3. **Are you a little older?** *Does the Gospel still amaze you? Does Jesus still astound you? Do you still see Him and what He's done as wondrous/marvelous? Do you view the gray hairs, joint aches, aging skin/body as a reminder of the hope you have for eternity? Are you constantly trying to delay, prolong, cover up and color all the wrinkles, blemishes and grays/whites that you forget they're all reminders of how fleeting and temporary this life is. Let those draw you to Jesus and the Hope He's offered to you. Dwell on that. Meditate on eternity.*

II) 14-24 - Share Your Story

- 14 But I will hope continually
and will praise you yet more and more.
- 15 My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,
of your deeds of salvation all the day,
for their number is past my knowledge.
- 16 With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;
I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.
- 17 O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
- 18 So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation,
your power to all those to come.
- 19 Your righteousness, O God,
reaches the high heavens.
You who have done great things,
O God, who is like you?
- 20 You who have made me see many troubles and calamities
will revive me again;
from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.
- 21 You will increase my greatness
and comfort me again.
- 22 I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God;
I will sing praises to you with the lyre,
O Holy One of Israel.
- 23 My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you;
my soul also, which you have redeemed.
- 24 And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all the day long,
for they have been put to shame and disappointed
who sought to do me hurt.

- A. **I will. I will. I will. I still.** Active choices. Doesn't just happen. Mindset and determination to testify.
 - B. **You. Your. All about Him.** Not me and what I've done. How I've changed my ways. How I realized. He saved me. He woke me up. He made me see my sin and need. Gave me faith to believe.
 - C. **Pass it on to NextGen.** Those to come. Remind them.
- ILLUSTRATION: Jordan Peterson.** "Young Men, you are welcome here!" Young people are welcome here. In church. Learn. Worship.
- D. **Exodus 13:1-16. Deut. 6:1-8.** Teach them all the time. Never too late. Repent if you have to. Pride. Laziness. Fear. Do it.
 - E. **1+2 Kings. 1+2 Chron.** "Followed/Did not follow father"
 - F. **David. Eli. Samuel. Josiah.** All examples of NextGen falling away. Children/Youth are future of the church. Stay in church! Why do they keep leaving the church? Were they ever a part?

ILLUSTRATION: Keep the nursery/childcare manned. Covenant Children. Church Childcare. I just signed them up and made them tell me no. Raise your hand at membership/baptism? Then go help.

APPLICATION:

1. **Share Your Testimony. What is a testimony?** *To be a witness is to be passive. "YOUR/You." What you've done. Not me. Telling about you've seen done. Witnessed. Has He done anything good for you lately? Has He been good to you? Can I get a witness? There testimony out there of God's goodness?*
2. **Younger Kids/Youth/Adults/Believers.** Listen to older and more mature believers. Be willing recipients of how the history of God's work in people's lives. Have a friend who has gray hair.
3. **MY TESTIMONY. Philippians 3.** Church now of church boys. Did it all. Sunday school certificate. So proud. So good. White washed tombs. Clean on outside, dead on inside. **Ephesians 2.**