

Imitators of God
5 – Through the Generations
Psalm 78:1-8



Opening Questions:

- a. Think of someone whose faith has left a mark on your life, what specifically did they do or say that shaped you? What does that tell you about the power of intentional generational influence?
- b. Where in your own life have you been passive about passing down the truth of who God is and what he's done?
- c. Israel's drift didn't happen overnight; it was the slow result of a generation that didn't tell the next one. Where do you see that same quiet drift in your family, or in those closest to you?

1) Don't Ignore the Word of God (v.1-3)

- a. Psalm 78:1 commands, "give ear"—an active posture, not passive attendance. In what ways has your relationship with God's Word become routine rather than transformative?
- b. What parts of Scripture do you most easily affirm in theory but resist in practice?
- c. What are the younger people in your life (kids, grandkids, those you disciple) actually learning about Scripture from watching you?
- d. What is one concrete step you could take this week to make God's Word more central in the rhythms of your home or relationships?

2) Don't Hide the works of God (v.4-6)

- a. V.4 says "we will not hide them from our children." That's a deliberate choice. Think of a young person in your life right now, what do they actually know about what God has done for you, in your life? What have you been hiding, even unintentionally?
- b. What testimony from your life have you dismissed as too ordinary, too messy, or too unfinished to share? Why do you think God might want you to tell that story anyway—especially to someone coming behind you?
- c. What would it look like for this group to become a place where we regularly declare the works of God. What would have to change in how we meet, or how we talk to each other for that to happen?
- d. Name one person specifically—a child, a grandchild, a younger friend, someone new to the faith—with whom you could share what God has done, taught, sustained, or forgiven you for? What is stopping you from having that conversation this week?

3) Don't Forget the Hope of God (v.7-8)

- a. V.7 says the goal is that the next generation would "set their hope in God." That hope is caught as much as it's taught. When life gets hard, what are you running to? What does your default response to difficulty say to those coming after you?
- b. V.8 warns about being a generation who isn't steadfast toward God. Is there any area in your life right now that you are wavering? Where you need to actively preach the hope of the gospel to yourself, before you can point anyone else to it?
- c. Think of one person by name, someone in your life who needs to see what hope in Christ actually looks like. What would it look like to intentionally demonstrate the hope of God to them?
- d. Think long-term for a moment, years into the future. How can you finish well in the role God has given you, so that the generation behind you has a clear picture of what it means to trust and follow the Lord

Closing Question

Think about one specific person, by name, that the Lord has placed in your life to influence you toward him. What is one thing from this sermon, and discussion, that you need to act on in that relationship this week?

Series: Imitators of God

Message: 5 - Through the Generations

Text: Psalm 78:1-8

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The church isn't a collection of age-based silos. It is a Spirit-wrought community of young and old, redeemed by Christ and bound together in covenant love. The church's beauty isn't in its sameness but in its holy diversity. And one of the clearest demonstrations of that kingdom diversity is when generations walk together in Christ.

– Drew Daniels, Generations Together for the Glory of Christ

I will imitate God in shaping future generations when I...

...don't ignore the Word of God (v. 1-3)

...don't hide the works of God (v. 4-6)

2 Timothy 2:2

Tell it out, Christian friends, tell it out. The world must hear of a Saviour's love. You are the only Bible some people will ever read. Your life is the only sermon some will ever hear.

– Charles Spurgeon, Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol. 10, 1864

...don't forget the hope of God (v. 7-8)

Colossians 1:27

Psalm 145:4

The grace of God excludes your earning, but it doesn't exclude your effort.

– Ray and Jani Ortlund, To the Tenth Generation

Resource:

To the Tenth Generation: God's Heart for Your Family, Far into the Future, Ray and Jani Ortlund

<https://a.co/d/0dIE4QqX>