

LifeGroup

Leader Guide



WHAT THE NEXT GENERATION NEEDS FROM US

BIG IDEA: We are all responsible for the next generation of Christ followers.

DATE: Wednesday, May 27 and Sunday, May 31, 2026

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 78

OPENING QUESTION

When you were younger, what did you want to do when you grew up? How does that compare to what you do today? *Looking back, do you see any clues growing up as to what your interests were or how your personality fits with what you do today?*

THE SETTING

Psalm 78 is one of the longest Psalms and details the entire history of Israel up to this point. It was written by Aseph. He was a Levite and a worship leader for King David. He contributed a few Psalms to the Bible. Psalm 78 is the story of Israel's deliverance and salvation. But it also details their rebellion and brokenness. In the middle of all that we see a picture of God's faithfulness and grace to a broken people as well as a clear charge to Israel regarding the next generation.

STUDY THE BIBLE

PSALM 78:1-8 (CSB)

My people, hear my instruction; listen to the words from my mouth. ²I will declare wise sayings; I will speak mysteries from the past— ³things we have heard and known and that our ancestors have passed down to us. ⁴We will not hide them from their children, but will tell a future generation the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, his might, and the wondrous works he has performed. ⁵He established a testimony in Jacob and set up a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children ⁶so that a future generation— children yet to be born—might know. They were to rise and tell their children ⁷so that they might put their confidence in God and not forget God's works, but keep his commands. ⁸Then they would not be like their ancestors, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not loyal and whose spirit was not faithful to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ PSALM 78:1-8

What does Aseph say in verse 1 they should tell future generations? Open your Bibles and take a quick look at the rest of Psalm 78. What kind of things does Aseph speak to? Why is this important?

What do we need to tell the next generation so that they won't forget?

What had God done for you or your family personally? How are you passing down those stories of faithfulness to the next generation? (Do you celebrate baptism anniversaries or share stories of healing or reconciliation? How do you build these stories into the rhythms of your day, month or yearly calendars? Brainstorm some ways you can do this.)

READ Psalm 78:5. What did Aseph say about the testimony in Jacob and the law in Israel? Do you know what he is referring to? What was the benefit of knowing Scripture?

Leaders Note: In that time, the Scriptures consisted of the Torah which are the first five books of the Bible – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. But even more specifically, God had given Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai in Exodus 20. In our time it can be easy to make the Ten Commandments (but also all of Scripture) a list of dos and don'ts – a sequence of rules to follow. But the heart of God in giving us the Bible is not necessarily to give us rules to follow or information to master. It is ultimately about a relationship with God.

READ Psalm 78:8. Aseph says that if God's people tell the future generations what God has done and to love His law then they will not be like who? What was true of the previous generation?

Leader's Note: They were rebellious. They were stubborn. They were not steadfast. They were not faithful.

One of the defining characteristics of Gen Z and Gen Alpha is their longing for authenticity and their ability to spot a phony. In light of this, what does the next generation need from us? (Someone who is willing to be honest and speak truth. Someone who is willing to have vulnerable conversations. They need to know we are not perfect – nobody can relate to that. We are not to be their behavior police- but to care about their heart first.)

Did you grow up in church? How did the kid's, student or college ministry leaders or programs influence your life? How did your parents influence your faith – either positively or negatively?

One of our CORE VALUES as a church is:

***We Partner with Families:** We believe in connecting the home and the church and serve people in all seasons of life. By actively partnering with parents, we hope to raise a generation of world changers.*

The truth is we are all called to pass on our faith to the next generation. How might God be calling you to do this outside of your own family? How might He be calling you to partner with parents? What godly knowledge have you gained that you could pass on?

Remember – these generations are all about building authentic relationships. **They won't care how much you know until they know how much you care.** How can you naturally build relationships with parents or families? How could you be the person you needed when you were growing up?

Ministering to the next generation is not optional; it is vital.

RESPONSE

Consider how God is calling you to partner with families. Pray about serving in our Next Generation spaces – ChetsKids, Chets Students or the College Ministry. Commit to pray for all Chets students, parents, ministry staff, LifeGroup leaders and volunteers who serve our next generation. Pray for Vacation Bible School May 31 – June 3 at all our campuses. Pray for hearts to be open to the Gospel and for our faith to be passed on from generation to generation!

www.chetscreek.com/kids
www.chetscreek.com/students
www.chetscreek.com/college

Adapted from "What the Next Generation Needs from Us" by David Branch.

Commentary

Verse 1. *My people, hear my instruction; listen to the words from my mouth.* In plain terms: "Listen up." Asaph is asking God's people to pay close attention to what God is saying. If anyone should be quick to listen to God, it should be the people who belong to Him. When God speaks—especially through His Word and through faithful messengers—the right response is to listen and take it seriously, not brush it off. So, he repeats the idea: lean in, focus, and don't miss what's being said. Reading the Bible isn't meant to be casual; we're meant to think about it deeply and live it out.

Verse 2. *I will declare wise sayings; I will speak mysteries from the past (in other translations - I will open my mouth in a parable.)* Asaph is saying he's about to teach through a story that has a deeper meaning. Israel's history isn't just "facts from the past"—it's meant to help God's people learn lessons for their own lives. Some people roll their eyes at symbolism, but Scripture itself says these stories can point to bigger spiritual truths. So, Asaph calls his teaching a "parable" because, underneath the surface, there's more for thoughtful listeners to discover.

This idea of teaching with parables shows up later in the Bible too when Jesus says in Matthew:

"I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

When he says he will speak "things hidden," he means he's going to bring out lessons that aren't obvious at first glance—like wisdom that's been there all along, waiting to be noticed. Asaph has a lot of Israel's story in mind, and he's going to pour it out in song. But the real value isn't only in the story itself; it's in what the story teaches about God and about us. The message on the surface matters, but the deeper meaning is worth digging for.

Verse 3. *Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.* This faith wasn't invented yesterday—God's people learned it from those who came before them. They heard these truths from their parents and elders, and they've seen enough to know it's real. That creates a responsibility: if we've received God's truth, we shouldn't keep it to ourselves—we should pass it on. Today we have the Bible written down and widely available, which should make us even more eager to teach our kids and the next generation, not less.

Verse 4. *We will not hide them from their children.* In other words, “We’re not going to keep this to ourselves.” God’s people are committing to tell the next generation about who God is and what He has done. The church’s future depends on this—kids and students aren’t just “the next group,” they’re the next generation of the church. The most important thing we can teach a child is not just information, but a real knowledge of God: His goodness, His power, and His works. Faith stories should be shared at home, not only at church—around the table, in everyday life, and through the way we live.

Verse 5. *For he established a testimony in Jacob...* God set up His people to preserve and protect the truth about Him in a world full of false worship. He gave Israel His Word (“a law”) and told parents to teach it to their children. This wasn’t meant to stay in one generation; it was designed to be handed down on purpose, in the normal rhythms of life. Deuteronomy 6:7 captures it well:

Verses 5–6. These verses picture faith being passed down over and over—parents to kids, kids to grandkids, and so on. One commentator summarized it like this:

1. *Fathers;*
 2. *Their children;*
 3. *The generation to come;*
 4. *And their children;*
 5. *And their children.*
- Adam Clarke.

Verse 6. *That the generation to come might know them...* The goal is simple: make sure the next generation actually knows God’s truth. As far as we can plan and prepare, we should help kids and students grow up with Scripture in their lives. God’s Word doesn’t “expire”—it keeps shaping people in every generation. And it doesn’t stop with one group learning it; the point is that those who learn it will turn around and teach it to their children too.

Verse 7. *That they might set their hope in God.* The reason we teach the next generation is so they learn to trust God. Hearing God’s truth helps people believe. It also helps them remember what God has done—because we forget easily. When we forget God’s works, we usually drift from God’s ways too. The point of learning isn’t just to know more facts; it’s to live differently—obedience and a real walk with God are the goal.

Verse 8. *And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation...* Asaph’s hope is that the next generation won’t repeat the same mistakes. Just because something has “always been this way” in a family or a culture doesn’t make it right. God wants growth, not cycles of disobedience. The previous generation was stubborn, quick to resist God, and inconsistent. They didn’t set their hearts on God, and they couldn’t be relied on to stay faithful. Passing on God’s truth is one of the ways God helps the next generation build a steadier faith than the one that came before.