



May 3, 2026 | Matt Magee

Series: Acorns to Oaks: The Worshiping Family

Sermon: That they Might Set their Hope in God

Main Scripture: Psalm 78

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CHURCH BODY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Review this week's **Newsletter**

OUTLINE

A. Introductory Summary

- **Illustration:** When we think about preparing our children for the future, it is so easy to try to hand them a highly specific roadmap for temporal success. But a roadmap only works for one specific trip in current conditions, and the moment the landscape changes, that roadmap becomes utterly useless.
- What if, instead of an exhausting, temporary roadmap, we were meant to hand our children a generational compass—the living testimony of God's glorious deeds? A compass never becomes obsolete; it empowers the next generation to navigate unpredictable terrain while always pointing their ultimate hope to the Good Shepherd.
- **Opportunity for Change:** Rather than exhausting ourselves demanding outward perfection and trying to micromanage our children's temporal success with a temporary roadmap, what if we were free to lay down our idols of control, or comfort, and pass down a multi-generational compass—a legacy of grace that points their ultimate hope to the Good Shepherd? That is the profound opportunity we get to explore today!

B. Icebreaker: Think about a time you relied on a physical map or GPS and it led you completely astray. How did you handle the detour?

C. Discussion

1. Principle (What is True?)

We get to pass down the record of God's faithfulness so that the next generation might place their ultimate hope in Him. Asaph says we are to tell the "tehillah"—the glorious deeds and praises of the Lord. We aren't just passing down dry history; we are passing down doxology and handing them the generational compass.

- **Main Question:** According to Psalm 78, what is the greatest legacy we get to leave our families?
 - Let's look at Psalm 78:4-7. What specifically are we instructed to tell the coming generation, and what is the ultimate goal of passing this down?

2. Problem (How do we resist?)

This is an opportunity to foster vulnerability. When we forget God's works, we trade a living hope for the idol of control, managing our family's "success" while hiding behind religious masks. Think of Luke 15, and both "Younger Brother" tendencies (prioritizing temporal fun and ignoring spiritual leadership) and "Elder Brother" moralism (becoming cranky, rigid, and judgmental toward those who don't lead perfectly).

- **Main Question:** If passing down this beautiful legacy of grace is our greatest privilege, why do we so often find ourselves on a random Tuesday night exhausted, frustrated, and spiritually disconnected from the people we love most?
- **Sub-Questions:** Read Psalm 78:36-37 and verse 42. How does the idol of control, or the temptation of spiritual indifference, drive our forgetfulness and keep our hearts from being steadfast?

3. Gospel (How does Jesus redeem?)

We need to see Jesus as the hero! We need a better Shepherd who perfectly trusted the Father's plan without demanding to control the outcome. On the cross, a great exchange took place: He absorbed the punishment for our unsteadfast hearts, and He credited to

us His perfect record of faithfulness. Because of His grace, our hope is no longer tethered to our parenting performance; it is anchored eternally in His finished work.

- **Question:** When we feel crushed under the weight of our own parenting failures or our hypocritical attempts to flatter God with our lips, how does Jesus—our Good Shepherd—step in to perfectly rescue us?
 - How does the "great exchange" on the cross completely remove the crushing weight of having to "save" our kids or manage their temporal success?

4. Response (What do we get to do?)

We do not abandon the ordinary pursuits of household life—we are empowered to elevate the glorious deeds of the Lord right in the middle of it all.

Practical examples to prompt discussion: Explaining why we prioritize our schedule or spend our money a certain way, modeling how to win and lose with godly sportsmanship on the field, or modeling the worship of confession and repentance when we lose our temper at home. We get to live like a tour guide who simply points the way to rest in Christ.

- **Question:** Because our future is secure in Christ, we are freed from the idol of control. What does it look like in our daily lives to "lift the basket" and let grace shine through the ordinary, everyday concerns of our household?
 - What is one practical way you get to intentionally hand someone in your life (a child, grandchild, or friend) the "compass" of God's Word this week, pointing them to the glorious deeds of the Lord?

D. Conclusion

- **Summary:** We are invited today to lay down the heavy burden of worrying about how our children will turn out and to relinquish the exhausting idol of control. Instead, we get to hand the next generation a living compass of God's Word, trusting that as we rest in Christ, He will faithfully draw them to Himself.

- **Gospel Stamp:** Because the Good Shepherd has already secured your future and loves your family more than you ever could, you are perfectly free to lay down your roadmap of performance and rest entirely in His finished work.
- **Prayer:** Father, thank You for sending Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who perfectly fulfilled the law in our place and absorbed the penalty for our idol of control. Holy Spirit, empower us this week to lay down our exhausting roadmaps and joyfully hand our families the compass of Your grace, trusting that You alone will draw the next generation to set their ultimate hope in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.