

Why Parents Must Tell the Next Generation



“4 We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.” Psalm 78:4 NLT

- What kind of family traditions were passed down to you? Did you have a spiritual influence on your life growing up?

Psalm 78 is an extension of the instruction God gave Israeli parents in Deuteronomy 11:18-20.

“18 So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. 19 Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. 20 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Notice (1) that the parent is to a spiritual life first. Next, (2) the parent should teach and pass onto his or her children what they have experienced. Last, (3) this is to be an ongoing, life-situation training.

Psalm 78 is attributed to **Asaph** as the author. As mentioned in previous Psalms, this is not the Asaph who directed the worship in the Temple in David’s reign (1 Chron. 16:4-7). This had to be a descendant named after him.

Central Lesson:
In the race of life, the baton of faith must be passed on to the next generation.

Parents Must Tell Their Children about God’s Glorious Deeds (78:4).

“4 We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.”

The Life Application Study Bible explained, “God commanded that the stories of his mighty acts in Israel’s history and his laws be passed on from parents to children. This shows the purpose and importance of religious education. To help each generation obey God and set its hope on him. It is important to keep children from repeating the same mistakes as their ancestors. What are you doing to pass on the history of God’s work to the next generation?” (78:5)

Why Tell the Next Generation?

1. **OBEYING** God’s instruction and command to parents (78:5).
“5 For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children,”
2. **Continuing a wholesome and Godly family TRADITION** (78:6).
“6 so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children.”

Even if you did not grow up in a Christian home and had no spiritual influence, you can start the tradition.

3. Allowing each generation to have an **INFORMED** choice to trust in the Lord (78:7)

“7 So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands.”

The modern view of parenting - “I won’t force or teach a religious view to my children. I will let them choose their own religious view if they are interested.” However, children need to be able to make an informed decision. Teaching children about God, Jesus, and the Bible does not need to be forced. Most children are open and interested. The Bible teaches that parents are to teach their children. Give them the information so they can make an informed decision of their own.

4. Helping future generations to **AVOID** the mistakes of the past (78:8).

“8 Then they will not be like their ancestors—stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God.”

Examples of Generational Influence.

- **Joseph passed on his TRADE to Jesus and taught him to be a carpenter.**

Matthew 13:54-56 NLT

“54 He returned to Nazareth, his hometown. When he taught there in the synagogue, everyone was amazed and said, ‘Where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles?’ 55 Then they scoffed, ‘He’s just the carpenter’s son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph,[a] Simon, and Judas. 56 All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?’”

- **Timothy’s grandmother, Lois, and mother, Eunice, passed on their FAITH to him.**

2 Timothy 1:5 NLT

“I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.”

Timothy was a follower of Christ as was his mother (Eunice) and his grandmother (Lois). Apparently, Lois told her daughter, Eunice, about Christ, who later told her son, Timothy, who was a traveling companion to Paul in his missionary journeys in which they told others.

Will you pass on the message of Christ to others—in your family, as well as, outside your family?

Central Lesson:
In the race of life, the baton of faith must be passed on to the next generation.

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday’s study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.