



Raising Up the Next Generation: Psalm 78:5b, 6-7

January 19, 2025

By Pastor Joshua Clough

Group Leader Notes

Welcome to the third week in our series, *Under Pressure: Faith in an Anxious Age*. So far, we have talked about how ancient wisdom can help us with our addiction to technology, mental health, and anxiety. Today, we're talking about raising our younger generation. We teach our children by passing on our faith to future generations. This message is for everyone; for our young people, but also for parents, grandparents, and anyone who cares about our younger generations.

Questions:

How do we teach younger generations about Jesus?

Bottom Line:

No matter which generation you belong to, take the time to invest in intergenerational relationships to build one another up in the church.

Take Home Message: Every generation is tasked with raising up the next generation, teaching the way of faith so that they will put their trust in God.

Main Scripture Reading: Psalm 78:5b, 6-7

[God] commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. The they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Other Scripture References:

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| • Matthew 11:28-30 | • Matthew 18:2-5 | • Micah 6:8 |
| • Matthew 19:13-15 | • Proverbs 31:8 | • Matthew 22:39 |

Teaching Points:

- The Generations:
 - The Greatest: Born 1901-1927
 - The Silent: Born 1928-1945
 - Baby Boomers: Born 1946-1964
 - Gen X: Born 1965-1980
 - Millennials (Gen Y): Born 1981-1996
 - *Gen Z: Born 1997-2010
 - *Gen Alpha: Born 2010-2024
- Young people today want adults to help them make decisions that prevent overload, which help them find joy and meaning – and even, they want adults in their lives to share in their joy. They long for advice and connection.

- Gen Z and Alpha have access to many resources in the West. However, what they seek is authenticity. What they want is something real. They want to know, is Jesus real?
- Our commitment to the church should be THE priority. Our faith should be the filter through which all other priorities are ordered.

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. Take a minute to review and acknowledge the various generations represented in your small group.
2. Pastor Joshua mentioned the term “*grind culture*.” Young people, specifically teenagers, today feel stress, pressure, and the need to have their life plans figured out. There is immense pressure to over-commit, achieve, and have it all.
 - Do you know anyone living the “*grind culture*”? Perhaps your own children or yourself? Ask if anyone can explain or knows what it feels like to live in the “*grind culture*”.
3. A good question to ask ourselves is, is Jesus real to me? How do I live it? How do I live out my faith as a parent, a grandparent, an aunt, an uncle, a mentor, or a friend?
 - Ask for volunteers to describe moments when their actions aligned with their words as a model to the younger generations.
4. Pastor Joshua discussed the modern overcommitment problem and how the church often gets cut first.
 - How have you balanced your priority list with work, academics, sports, music, and other extracurricular activities?
 - Is there anything that you would like to change? Ask those in your group how they are able to make growing in their discipleship journey THE priority.
5. Read Matthew 18:2-5

² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³ And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

 - What features of this story resonate with you?
 - Why do you think Jesus is so interested in children and younger generations?
6. Are there any practical ways you can develop relationships with older or younger generations here at church? Consider our various ministries: Kidstown, Middle or High School Ministry. Consider personal, relational opportunities across the generation as well – how can you connect with others from other generations?

Let's Pray: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.^[a] ⁵Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.