

Now is the Time: Unleashing the Next Generation

When no one else noticed, God did. When others considered David just a lowly shepherd, God delighted in a young man who loved to worship Him. While David tended sheep, he devoted himself to honor and praise His Lord. His heart for God was established before anyone knew his future.

When Samuel came to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the new king of Israel, David wasn't just last choice—he wasn't even on the radar. But God saw him (1 Samuel 16:3-13).

And when no one gave him a chance against the giant mocker of “the armies of the living God,” young David saw God as his Deliverer. He warned Goliath, “I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied” (1 Samuel 17:45). David believed God, charged without fear, and took out the enemy.

A new generation is rising with renewed faith and confidence in God. God sees them—and He invites us to pray for their unleashing to take down the giants of their generation. Our next great awakening may just begin with them. Let's pray it is so!

1 God told Samuel that His choice for the next king of Israel was not based on size or physical attributes. Rather, He said, “People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” Ask God to do a fresh work of faith, trust, and devotion in the hearts of the next generation (1 Samuel 16:7).

2 When Samuel rejected all of David's brothers, his father Jesse said, “There is still the youngest.... He is tending the sheep.” Pray that as the Church we do not discount this next generation but rather invest in mentoring them to become Kingdom leaders (1 Samuel 16:11).

3 David was presented to Samuel as “glowing with health” with a “fine appearance and handsome features.” He was fully prepared for his new calling! Ask God to strengthen and prepare a new generation to step into His Kingdom purposes (1 Samuel 16:12a).

4 God called David with a resounding affirmation: “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.” Pray that young believers will feel called by God to serve Him with confidence and radical obedience (1 Samuel 16:12b).

5 David was incensed with Goliath's insults: “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?” Pray that young people are filled with passion for the righteousness of God to be displayed to their generation and beyond (1 Samuel 17:26).

6 Young David consoled King Saul by saying, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.” Pray for this generation to rise up with belief that God can intervene in any hopeless situation. May their confidence inspire the Church with greater faith (1 Samuel 17:32).

7 David declared victory over Goliath because he believed God. “All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's.” Ask God to inspire this next generation to believe Him for the seemingly impossible as they advance His Kingdom (1 Samuel 17:47).

8 As Goliath moved in for the attack, “David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him” and took him out with a single stone. Pray that this generation runs to the battle with the confidence that God intends to revive their generation to win against the enemy of their souls (1 Samuel 17:48).

9 As an older generation, ask God for opportunity to “declare [His] power to the next generation, [His] mighty acts to all who are to come.” Pray that you can encourage those who come behind you with assurances of God's power to revive and transform a generation (Psalm 71:18).

10 Pray that your children and grandchildren will know and walk in the truth of Christ because “a good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children.” Pray that you leave a spiritual inheritance that touches generations to come (Proverbs 13:22).

11 After crossing the Jordan River, Joshua instructed the Israelites to make a stone memorial “to serve as a sign among you.” When children asked in the future, “What do these stones mean?” they could declare God's faithfulness. Pray for ways to share your own stones of remembrance with the next generation (Joshua 4:6).

12 God's heart is that “one generation commends [His] works to another; they tell of [His] mighty acts.” Pray for mentoring relationships among generations that allow for God's mighty power to be declared and believed (Psalm 145:4).

13 Paul tells Timothy that “I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.” Pray for the faith of one generation to be passed on to the next with even greater trust in Christ (2 Timothy 1:5).

14 It is God’s plan that “future generations will be told about the Lord.” Pray for a thirst for Jesus to rise up in the next generation with the desire to know God’s past faithfulness. May they lead the way in a new spiritual awakening in this nation (Psalm 22:30).

15 Pray for godly adults to mentor and disciple this next generation in God’s Word, believing that “all your children will be taught by the LORD, and great will be their peace” (Isaiah 54:13).

16 Pray that this next generation will seek out older adults to teach them of God’s faithfulness. May they embrace the instruction to “ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you.” Pray for mentoring relationships that help disciple young people in the things of the Lord (Deuteronomy 32:7).

17 Pray that parents will have godly influence over their families and “teach their children so the next generation would know” God’s Word. Pray that parents win the battle over the education of their children in a secular society (Psalm 78:5-6).

18 God promises to pour out His Spirit on all people, with the promise that “your sons and daughters will prophesy” and “your young men will see visions.” Pray for a fresh filling of the Spirit for this generation, that they are unleashed with the power of the gospel on their campuses and beyond (Joel 2:28).

19 Before this next generation was born, God formed them in the womb, knew them, and set them apart for their unique destiny. Pray that they seek the Lord for His calling on their lives, and that God directs them to be fully missional and engaged in Kingdom advancement (Jeremiah 1:5).

20 The Lord instructed Jeremiah to “not say, ‘I am too young.’” Instead, He said, “You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.” Pray that instead of discounting their age, young people are passionate to share the love of Christ in every opportunity (Jeremiah 1:7).

21 Young King Josiah “did right in the eyes of the LORD ... not turning aside to the right or to the left.” Ask God to fill this generation with wisdom from the Spirit to reject ungodly ideologies and instead lead the way in obedience to God’s Word (2 Chronicles 34:1-2).

22 As a young king, Josiah “began to seek the God of his father David” and then “began to purge Judah and Jerusalem” of false idols. Pray that this next generation leads the way in the transformation of this nation. Pray for passionate worship and prayer to the one true God (2 Chronicles 34:3).

23 Pray that this next generation is not ashamed of the gospel—even in a hostile culture. Ask God to build their confidence that “it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16).

24 Pray that the “God of hope” fills this generation with all joy and peace as [they] trust in him, so that [they] may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” May they become voices of truth and healing (Romans 15:13).

25 Pray for the unleashing of this generation to “preach the word.” Ask God to show them how to “be prepared in season and out of season.” May they “correct, rebuke and encourage” their peers “with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Timothy 4:2).

26 Pray that this next generation is unleashed by the Spirit with passion for the gospel and love for the lost, so that they are “fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace” (Ephesians 6:15).

27 Ask God to release this generation as a powerful beacon of hope to the lost, that their “light may shine before others, that they might see [their] good deeds and glorify [their] Father in heaven.” Pray for the love of Christ to flow through them with unstoppable passion (Matthew 5:16).

28 Pray that God’s glory is known “in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!” Pray for this next generation to declare the mighty power of God to save and redeem now and in years to come (Ephesians 3:21).

29 David had confidence because “the LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” Pray that this generation runs to the battles of today without fear, knowing that God will give them victory in Christ (1 Samuel 17:37).

30 David continued to grow in stature as a leader and commander of troops, and “in everything he did he had great success, because the LORD was with him.” Pray that this generation continues to grow and mature in their faith and trust in God, knowing that He has set forth a destiny before them to advance His Kingdom (1 Samuel 18:13-14).