

NEXT-GEN MINISTRY

Part 5 of The Savior King. Psalm 78:1-8.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. October 11, 2026.

More teaching resources are available at: www.famousgod.com/groups

INTRODUCTION

The Bible teaches us to pass the Christian faith on to the next generation.

- Faith isn't inherited by accident; we must pass it on intentionally.
- Think of a relay race and passing the baton. It's not enough to run the race, the runner must also successfully pass the baton to the next runner.

Bruce Wilkinson's three-chair illustration:

- Chair 1: Grandpa lives the faith; he's committed to Jesus.
- Chair 2: His son borrows the faith. His commitment to Jesus is compromised; he kinda knows the basics, but he lives like the world.
- Chair 3: The grandson leaves the faith. He does not personally trust in Jesus, does not know the basics of the faith, and is either complacent about or hostile to Christianity.

We can break this cycle if we're intentional about it.

This is an urgent priority for everyone in the Cornerstone family.

PSALM 78 AND NEXT-GEN MINISTRY

Please read it in your Bible.

HOW TO PASS THE FAITH ON

1. RECEIVE THE FAITH - verses 1-3.

My people, hear my instruction ...

Receiving the faith involves two things:

- First, we must know the **content** of the faith - *“the instruction,”* what God had said and done in Israel’s past, *“mysteries* (the theological interpretation of events), *and things we have heard and known.”*
- Today, our Christian faith rests on Jesus Christ: who he is, what he did and said, and what he is doing for us now.
- Secondly, we must embrace the faith BY faith. We need a genuine, living trust in and **commitment** to Jesus Christ.
- We cannot pass on a living faith unless we have living faith.

2. RELAY THE FAITH - verses 4-5

We will not hide them from their children, but will tell a future generation...

Asaph told his congregation to pass the baton on to a **“future generation.”**

- He urged them to speak about God’s *“acts, his might, and his works.”*
- He wanted them to share the faith with enthusiasm; to talk about God’s *praiseworthy* acts and his *wondrous* works.
- If we’re not excited by the Christian faith, why would our kids be?

How will we pass the baton?

- Parental influence is paramount.
- The church can reinforce what parents do. Our youth and children’s ministries are not just optional programs. They are absolute necessities.

- Consider working with kids in the community.
- Prayer is vital.

3. RESPOND TO THE FAITH - verses 6-8

So that ... so that ... then ...

Verses 6-8 describe three ways the next generation will respond:

- Verse 6: SO THAT a future generation might know.
- Verse 7: SO THAT they might put their confidence in God.
- Verse 8: THEN, they would not be ... a rebellious generation.

We cannot believe for the next generation, but we can make sure they hear the truth and see it lived out in us.

WILL YOU COMMIT TO NEXT-GEN MINISTRY?.

The question that weighs on my heart is:

- Will our children and grandchildren know the Lord?
- We cannot save them. But we can pass on the Christian faith to them.

Please invest your prayers, time, love, and money to disciple children.

- Pray: “Lord, please raise up a new generation of faithful Christians.”
- Serve: Volunteer in Kids Zone or our youth group. We need faithful adults who will show up and love consistently.
- Give: Prayerfully consider giving to our special early Christmas Offering to purchase 50 new chairs in the auditorium and refurbish the Kids Zone. We need approximately \$40,000 as soon as possible.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Use any or all of the following questions to guide your group's conversation about Sunday's sermon.

Observation

In Psalm 78:1–8, what words or phrases describe what one generation is supposed to pass on to the next?

Verses 6–8 describe several hoped-for results using phrases such as “so that” and “then.” What are the results, and how do they build on one another?

Interpretation

Verse 4 says, “We will not hide them from our children.” What does “hide” mean in this context? How might modern believers hide their faith from their children?

Read Deuteronomy 4:9-10; 6:4-9; 32:46; Jude 1:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 2 Timothy 2:2. How do these passages shed light on Psalm 78's concern for passing on the faith to the next generation?

Application

The sermon says, “We cannot believe for the next generation, but we can make sure they hear the truth and see it lived out in us.” What encouragement would you give a parent/grandparent grieving over a prodigal child?

What might a younger person learn about trusting God simply by watching you, and what is one example you would like to set more intentionally?

How are you investing your life, love, or money in next-gen ministry? Is there something more you would like to do? How could your small group support you in stepping up?