

Celebrating Generations

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INTRODUCTION

Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.

— Joel 1:3

I. OUR HIGHEST CALLING IS TO OUR CHILDREN AND EXTENDED FAMILY

A. There is a sense of pessimism about the spiritual state of the next generation.

“In contrast to previous generations, who relied on an institution or authority figure to understand the world, they’re really relying on the relationships they have with other people.”

— Springtide Research Institute study on Gen Z

B. An upward spiritual trend among the younger generation is “wonder about the universe”

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

II. WHAT IS THE NEXT GENERATION ASKING FOR?

A. Community, participation and connectedness

We never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn’t think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God — which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.

— 1 Thess. 2:13

III. IT BEGINS WITH CHARACTER AND CARING

We were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children. We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God’s Good News but our own lives, too.

— 1 Thess. 2:7–8

We were devout and honest and faultless toward all of you.

— 1 Thess. 2:10

We treated each of you as a father treats his own children.

— 1 Thess. 2:11

IV. TAKING THE INITIATIVE

We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory.

— 1 Thess. 2:11–12

- Pleading (coming alongside and calling to)
- Encouraging (coming along side with soothing speech)
- Urging (testifying, charging, impressing)

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again 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.

— Deuteronomy 6:5-7

- We teach through providentially provided moments of life.

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

— Psalm 78:7

CONCLUSION