



**PARKLANDS
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Arise and Shine - Isaiah 60.1



Empowering Nations and Parents on Raising the Next Generation

Theme: The Future Starts Now

Main Scripture: Psalm 78:1–9

***Pastor Susan Wanjira
Children's Pastor***

Introduction

- We live in a generation where children are surrounded by opportunities unlike any previous generation—but they are also exposed to many challenges. Through technology, social media, changing moral values, and increasing secular influences, the battle for the hearts and minds of children has become more intense.
- Studies from organizations such as UNICEF and UNESCO consistently show that the family remains the single greatest influence on a child's values, identity, emotional development, and future. While schools and churches play vital roles, no institution can replace the God-given responsibility of parents.

Introduction

- This is why Psalm 78 is so relevant today.
- The psalmist reminds Israel that **every generation has a responsibility to intentionally pass God's truth to the next generation.** A nation's future is not determined only by its economy, military, or political leadership—it is determined by what it teaches its children.
- A nation that intentionally teaches its children to know God, secures its future, but a nation that neglects the next generation risks losing its spiritual heritage.

Introduction

- Psalm 78 was written by Asaph.
- It is one of Israel's historical psalms.
- Rather than simply recording history, Asaph explains why Israel repeatedly failed.
- Generation after generation forgot God's works because God's truth was not consistently passed on.
- The psalm teaches that remembering God's faithfulness protects future generations from repeating the mistakes of the past.

Psalm 78:1–9

1. Teach God's Truth Intentionally

■ Psalm 78:4

"We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done."

- Notice the deliberate language: **"We will tell..."**
- Faith is never transmitted by accident.
- Children do not naturally inherit spiritual maturity.
- Parents must intentionally teach.
- God never intended discipleship to begin at church.
- It begins at home.



1. Teach God's Truth Intentionally

Deuteronomy 6:6–7

"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress 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."

Proverbs 22:6

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

Ephesians 6:4

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord"

1. Teach God's Truth Intentionally

- Examples: **Lois** and **Eunice** intentionally taught **Timothy** the Scriptures.
- Paul later testified that Timothy's sincere faith first lived in his grandmother and mother. (**2 Timothy 1:5**)

Application

- Parents should disciple their children .
- Teachers should not merely educate minds.
- Churches should not entertain children.
- We must intentionally disciple them.



"Children rarely become what parents merely wish; they often become what parents consistently model."

2. Build Children Who Know God Personally

Psalm 78:6–7

"...so the next generation would know them... Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep His commands."

- God's goal was never merely information.
- It was transformation.
- Knowing Bible stories is different from knowing the God of the Bible.
- Children must develop their own relationship with Christ.

John 17:3

"Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent."

2. Build Children Who Know God Personally

Joshua 24:15

"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

3 John 4

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

- Example: **Samuel** learned to hear God's voice while still a child.
(1 Samuel 3)
- Because **Eli** pointed him toward God, **Samuel** became one of Israel's greatest prophets.

2. Build Children Who Know God Personally

Application

Teach children to:

- Pray personally.
- Read Scripture daily.
- Worship sincerely.
- Serve joyfully.
- Trust God completely.



Faith becomes strong when children encounter God for themselves

"Parents introduce children to God, but every child must eventually know Him personally"

3. Leave a Legacy of Faith That Outlives You

Psalm 78:8

"Then they would not be like their ancestors—a stubborn and rebellious generation..."

- Every generation either builds or breaks spiritual legacy.
- Children inherit much more than money.
- They inherit
 - ✓ Beliefs.
 - ✓ Habits.
 - ✓ Character.
 - ✓ Priorities.
 - ✓ Values.

3. Leave a Legacy of Faith That Outlives You

Judges 2:10

"After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done for Israel."

- One generation failed to teach.
- The consequences affected the nation.

2 Timothy 3:14–15

Paul reminds Timothy that from infancy he knew the Holy Scriptures.

Psalms 145:4

"One generation commends Your works to another; they tell of Your mighty acts."

3. Leave a Legacy of Faith That Outlives You

Biblical Example: Abraham (Genesis 18:19)

- God trusted Abraham because He knew Abraham would command his children after him to keep the ways of the Lord.
- That is one reason God established His covenant through Abraham's family.

Application

Ask yourself: If your children lived exactly like you...

- Would they love God?
- Would they serve faithfully?
- Would they pray?
- Would they forgive?
- Would they trust Christ?

Children often imitate our lives before they obey our words.

"Inheritance is what you leave to your children; legacy is what you leave in your children."

Practical Ways Parents Can Start Today

- Establish daily family prayer.
- Read the Bible together consistently.
- Attend church faithfully as a family.
- Model forgiveness and humility.
- Speak blessings over your children.
- Celebrate spiritual growth more than academic success.
- Encourage children to discover and use their God-given gifts.
- Create opportunities for children to serve others.

Challenge to the Nation

- Strong families build strong churches.
- Strong churches build strong communities.
- Strong communities build strong nations.
- The future of any nation is being shaped in today's homes, classrooms, and churches.
- If we desire transformed nations tomorrow, we must invest in transformed children today.

Conclusion

- Psalm 78 reminds us that every generation stands between the past and the future.
- We are not owners of the Gospel—we are its stewards.
- The question is not whether the next generation will inherit something from us.
- The question is: **What will they inherit?**
 - Will they inherit wealth but no faith?
 - Education but no wisdom?
 - Success but no purpose?
 - Or will they inherit a living relationship with Jesus Christ?
- The future truly starts now.
- Let us commit ourselves to raising a generation that knows God, loves His Word, serves His Church, and shines His light to the nations

Call to Commitment

Invite parents, grandparents, teachers, children's workers, and church leaders to stand.

Challenge them to renew their commitment before God:

- To pray faithfully for the next generation.
- To teach God's Word diligently.
- To model Christ consistently.
- To disciple children intentionally.

Invite anyone who has never placed their trust in Christ to receive Him today, remembering that the greatest legacy we can pass on is a genuine faith in Jesus.