



Life Group Study Notes

"Think3"

Sr. Ps. James Lowe - October 15, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Who was or is your favorite teacher? Why?
- By what learning style do you learn best?
- Who has taught you the most about God?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Psalms 78:1-10 ESV Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God. The Ephraimites, armed with the bow, turned back on the day of battle. They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law.

Teach

We have a responsibility to teach the next generation about God.

- We must teach them what God has done as recorded in Scripture and what he has done in our own families and personal lives.
- We must teach them his covenant, his ways, his values, his commands, and his will.
- We must teach them in ways that they can hear and understand. It is our duty to teach them in light of who they are and how they learn, not how we learn.

- We must teach them by our own example and lifestyle.
- We must teach them consistently and persistently (Deuteronomy 6:7).

Trust

We have a responsibility to engender in the next generation trust in God.

- We should aim for them to put their hope in God.
- We should aim for them to obey God's commands, because he is trustworthy.
- We must demonstrate this in our own lives.

Tend

We have a responsibility to inspire the next generation to care for others.

(Note: The soldiers of Ephraim, a tribe of Israel, in some way failed to come to the aid of their brothers in a time of need.)

- We should aim for them to care for one another, demonstrating love in action.
- We should aim for them to pass their faith on to the generation after them.
- We should aim for them to care for others who do not know or follow Jesus.

Psalms 78:67-72 ESV He rejected the tent of Joseph; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loves. He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever. He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance. With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.

Because the soldiers of Ephraim in some way did not come to the aid of their brothers and sisters, God turned to Judah, another tribe of Israel, to bring about his great plan of salvation. From Judah, God chose David to lead his people and care for them. David is himself a foreshadowing of a greater descendant of Judah: namely, Jesus.

Jesus is our true shepherd, the one who not only truly cares about us and about the next generations, but is also the one who has done what was needed to provide for our salvation and deliverance. We must look to him, trust in him, and follow him. We need to point the next generations to do the same. He will help us, because he loves them.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- How are you teaching and influencing the next generation to know and follow Jesus?
- How are you modeling trust in God to the next generation?
- How are you modeling caring for others to the next generation?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God that the Gospel was handed down to you by others.
- Ask God to open your eyes to opportunities to spiritually serve the next generation.
- Ask God to draw many young people to himself through us.