



Life Group Study Notes

"Think3"

Dr. Rice Brooks - October 8, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

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

- What is one positive thing you remember or enjoy about one of your grandparents?
- Have you ever been to a family reunion? How big was it?
- Who do you look like the most in your family line?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Isaiah 59:21 ESV *"And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says the Lord: "My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the Lord, "from this time forth and forevermore."*

Even though our children and our children's children have genuine freedom to make choices, God nevertheless gives us promises concerning what he will do in them. God desires to work generationally and has made a covenant with us to do so.

God wants us to also take a covenantal approach to our family relationships. He wants us to be committed to our children and to our children's children to teach them in the ways of God, to teach them about God's grace, and to demonstrate these to them.

2 Timothy 1:5 ESV *I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.*

God often identifies himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, three generations of those first called by God to be the beginnings of the nation of Israel. God builds generationally. He lays foundations and builds upon them. By his grace, mercy, and truth, we can build spiritual momentum through the generations.

Psalms 78:5-7 ESV *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...*

God wants us to transmit our faith in Christ to our spiritual offspring as well. We are to make disciples who makes disciples.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

We have a responsibility to pass on to future generations the heritage of the faith and God's vision for this world. Every day we are alive we have an opportunity to make an impact on this world for good. Every day we have an opportunity to change, to grow, to obey God, and to stop sinning.

God's grace, mercy, and truth are extended to us day after day. As Paul wrote, "[W]e appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, 'In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.' Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:1-2 ESV).

We have the privilege to call upon God and access his help day after day because of what Jesus Christ has done for us. His sinless life and obedience to God, which culminated in his death on the cross for our sins, makes possible our relationship with God. Because of what Jesus has done, we have access to the Spirit of God who now indwells us and works in us and through us to do God's will. Because of the faithfulness of God's people through the centuries, we have access to God's truth revealed to us in Scripture. God has given us the help we need to live for him and to impact the next generations.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

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

- Do you think much about how your life is impacting the next generations? How does (should) this affect your decisions?
- What is a decision you're proud of that will clearly impact the next generation for God?
- What are some things God would want us (you) to do to help lead the next generations in the knowledge and ways of God?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

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

- Thank God for the knowledge of God and the Gospel that has been passed down to us by previous generations.
- Ask God for his instruction and guidance on how to live a more purposeful life for the benefit of the next generations.
- Ask God if there are any amends that you need to undertake in order to reverse any negative impact you may have had on the next generation.