



## Imparted Faith and Hope

WEEK 1

### WARM-UP

- Who was your favorite teacher in elementary or high school? Why?
- Growing up, what is one thing you remember your parents or guardian always telling you?
- Tell the group about one instruction you got as a child that you didn't understand until you got older.

**WORD** *<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children . . .*

**PSALM 78:4-5**

As the Israelites set foot in the Promised Land, God promised to remember His people and bring them back if they were to forget Him and be scattered (Deuteronomy 30). Yet, God's people continued to forget Him and be scattered—again and again, even until today. We can forget God. Thankfully, parents, mentors, and teachers have been uniquely placed to guide us and the generations after us to follow His ways and turn to Him. The older generation passes on what they know and believe to the next generation. Whether old or young, passing on what we know leads to an impartation of faith, hope, and character. This week, we'll talk about what God desires for us and the generations after us.

## 1 | God desires for the next generations to know Him.

*. . . that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children . . .* **PSALM 78:6**

To know God is different from knowing about God. Knowing God doesn't only mean facts and memorized Scriptures. It means having a true, personal, and relational knowledge of who God is. God's desire is for each generation to tell the next about who He is, His *glorious deeds*, His *might*, and *the wonders he has done*. As we have experienced the goodness of God in our lives or learned lessons from Him, this should be among the first things we teach the next generation. How have you experienced God move in your life? What is something you would like to impart to the next generation about God?

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## 2 | God desires for the next generations to hope in Him.

*. . . so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God . . .* **PSALM 78:7**

The importance of passing on our experience of God to the next generation is the faith and hope we have in Him. Life is packed with moments of joy and sorrow. For those who believe in God, each of these moments, good or bad, is a chance for strengthened faith and renewed hope. When we know what God has done in the past, we will have faith that He can do it again. What are some faith-building moments you have experienced? Why can you say that God is your ultimate hope?

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## God desires for the next generations to keep walking in His ways.

. . . *but keep his commandments* . . . **PSALM 78:7**

Why must we keep God's commandments? We should not be obeying God out of fear and a "good works" mentality; we are obeying Him because He truly knows what's best for us. He loves us and wants us to choose life—this is why He wants us to keep walking in His ways. The generations now, realizing that the best way is to walk with God, are called to impart this truth to the future generations, so that they, too, will choose life. Have you ever tried to outsmart God or disobey His instructions? How did it feel? What does Deuteronomy 30:11–14 say about God's heart for us as we obey Him?

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### APPLICATION

- We tell the stories of God to the next generation to impart faith and hope to them. What is one thing that you want the next generation to believe and take with them?
- When life seems to be going smoothly, it can be easy to forget God. When things are rough, we may lean on our own strength. What is one thing you can start doing to remember and acknowledge Jesus daily?
- Every situation, whether good or bad, is an opportunity to strengthen your faith and renew your hope. What is a habit you can develop that will cause you to see God's perspective in each situation?

## PRAYER

- Thank God that He has placed people in your life who can impart faith and hope to you. Pray that as a parent, teacher, fellow student, or in any way you interact with the next generation, God will use you for them to know Him and walk in His ways.
- Pray for the faith to relinquish control of your situations to God. Believe that, as you continue obeying Him, He will fulfill His purpose for you.
- Ask God for strengthened faith, even in sorrowful or difficult situations. Pray that your hope will always be in Christ and that you will share this hope with others.

## NOTES

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