

A photograph of a woman and a young girl sitting together, reading a book. The woman is on the left, wearing a blue jacket, and the girl is on the right, wearing a blue dress with white floral patterns. They are both looking down at the book. The background is a brick wall.

PASS IT ON

PSALM 78

Who impacts the people you care about: the President, Congress, judges, your local mayor? All of those people impact our lives, but the ones who have the greatest impact on us are the people all around us. So, do you want to see a great future for your children and grandchildren, those who matter the most to you? If you do, be intentional about taking the time to tell your children (and grandchildren if applicable) about the wonderful works of God (Psalm 78:1-5).

How do we do this? We receive guidance from Psalm 78, where the psalmist says, "I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old." Jesus quoted this passage (Matthew 13:35) as He began to use parables to teach His disciples. In other words, we must take the time to sit with our children (and grandchildren) and help them understand the truths of Scripture.

The psalmist admonishes us not to hide what we have heard and known (Psalm 78:3-4). Instead, make known the praises of the Lord or teach your children why the Lord should be praised. Help them to see that the only real hope is that which is found in God.

The psalmist also wants us to teach our children about the danger of forgetting the works of God (Psalm 78:7) and of being stubborn and rebellious by using examples throughout the rest of the Psalm of how Israel failed.

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These are lessons that are very difficult to pass on outside of the home, so the Psalmist also says to impress upon your children the importance of telling their children and grandchildren (Psalm 78:6). Stressing the importance of passing on the faith will emphasize how important these truths are in our own lives. After all, we must have something personally to be able to pass it on.

To truly fulfill this responsibility, we must develop patterns like church attendance, family Bible reading and prayer time, and traditions around holidays that remind your family of their hope in God (Psalm 78:7-8). Only by doing so can we be effective in our charge of passing on our faith to the next generation. Throughout this month, we will emphasize these activities and stress ways parents and grandparents can develop these patterns.

In Jeremiah 29:6, the prophet instructed the exiles to focus on building strong families as they dealt with the exile. In other words, he wanted them to build marriages, raise godly sons and daughters, and have godly homes as they developed the generation that followed them.

Join us as we focus upon our families with the Jeremiah 29 Initiative in November.

JEREMIAH **29**
INITIATIVE

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