

# Abide in Me

**John 15:4**  
*Bible studies for disciples  
who make disciples*



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The Week of May 8, 2022

*Life is Hard, God is Good*  
**When Faith is Faithfully Forwarded**

Psalm 78  
Tell the Coming Generation  
A Maskil of Asaph.

As the inscription under the heading indicates, Psalm 78 is a *maskil* or a teaching. It is instruction meant to impart wisdom. It is a Wisdom-Psalm presented with the force and intensity we have come to expect from Asaph. It is also an Historical-Psalm which takes lessons from the history of Israel to show the faithfulness of God amid the stubborn rebellion of His people.

In the preamble of the Psalm, Asaph appeals to readers, then and now, to tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord so that they might believe in the God who has accomplished redemption.

In your *Growth Group* setting, assign one person to read Psalm 78 out loud while the others are encouraged to close their eyes and listen.

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!  
<sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,  
<sup>3</sup> things that we have heard and known,  
that our fathers have told us.  
<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,  
<sup>6</sup> that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,  
and arise and tell them to their children,  
<sup>7</sup> so that they should set their hope in God  
and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments;  
<sup>8</sup> 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.

## EXPLORING THE PASSAGE TOGETHER

1. As you listened to the preamble, is there a word or phrase that stood out to you and why?
2. Based on the preamble, what is the purpose of this psalm?
3. When you look back and remember, who do you recall articulating the faithfulness of God to you? What made their telling about God and His works especially compelling?
4. Read Psalm 78:9-40 as a group. Asaph calls his teaching a parable. Describe what a parable is and then discuss how these verses function as a parable.
5. Recount the myriad of ways in which God's faithful character and abounding goodness were made known to the Israelites in the exodus and during the wilderness wanderings.
6. Look again at the preamble in verses 1-8. What is the central message that Asaph wants to communicate?

7. Asaph encouraged the Israelites of his day to look back at the exodus and remember God's accomplished redemption. In a similar way, we look back at the cross and resurrection of Christ. In both cases, when separated by hundreds of years, how do we help the present generation to learn and remember what God has done and point them towards Jesus? (See verse 7a).

8. Think of a time in your life when you clearly saw God at work in your life. How does remembering that help you today?

## **PRAYER**

As you pray, take time to intercede for your children, grandchildren, and others with whom you have influence but do not believe yet that they might put their hope in God.

## **MEDITATION**

In his novel *Peace Like a River*, Leif Enger reflects on the significance of faithful telling. It captures our task as Christians as well.

*"Is there a single person on whom I can press belief?*

*No sir.*

*All I can do is say, Here's how it went. Here's what I saw. I've been there and am going back.*

*Make of it what you will."*

