

## Generations

For several weeks we have focused on listening to God as we walk together in our Spiritual journey. As parents, God has given us the unique opportunity and privilege, as well as the responsibility to teach the generations that follow us. It is important to teach all in our circle of influence; of greatest importance is that of our children. God loves families, that is why he established them. His desire is for the church and the family to connect in such a way that the Gospel, His story, comes alive in the hearts of the next generations.

### Deutoronomy 6:6

**6** These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, <sup>2</sup> so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his

careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>5</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

### Psalm 78:3-4

<sup>3</sup> things we have heard and known,  
things our ancestors have told us.

<sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their descendants;  
we will tell the next generation

the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,

Through this lesson:

1. Participants will better appreciate the importance of embracing the needs of the next generation, as it gives a better impression of the heavenly Father.

2. Participants will better understand the importance of engaging the interests of the next generation as it provokes them to know God personally.
3. Participants will more readily affirm the next generation's identity, giving them a safe place to process doubts.
  4. Participants will be able to mobilize the next generations potential and talents, it develops a personal vision for their future.

## WHY?

Because God EMBRACES us:

**Jeremiah 31:3b** "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

**1 John 3:1a, NIV** See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

**John 12:32, ESV** And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw All people to myself.

**John 6:37, NIV** All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

**Deuteronomy 33:27, ESV** The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Other references to God's embrace. **Hebrews 13:5, John 3:16,**

God ENGAGES us:

**John 15:16** <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

**Ephesians 2:10** <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**God AFFIRMS US:**

**2 Corinthians 3:5** *5. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but **our sufficiency is from God.***

**Psalm 125:1** *1. Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which will not be moved, but abides forever.*

**Psalm 139** Spend time in devotion and meditation in this Psalm and see all the ways God AFFIRMS us. His affirmation is eternal.

**God MOBILIZES us:**

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all this through Christ who strengthens me.

**1 Peter 5:10** <sup>10</sup> And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ,  
after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

**Psalm 138:3** 3. In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold  
with strength in my soul

Have earthly fathers helped or hurt your view of God as your Father?