

FUTURE NOW

SERMON STUDY - 8.17.2025

Leader Corner

Championing our Next
Generation

Psalm 9:1, 105:1-2

It's cliché, but it's often said that younger generations have the energy and empathy, whereas older generations have the experience and wisdom. This "difference of strengths" can lead younger generations to accuse older generations of being inflexible, judgmental Bible-thumpers who don't practice what they preach, and it leads older generations to accuse younger generations of being scripturally illiterate "bleeding hearts" whose kindness and compassion seem detached from the truth of the Scriptures. After all, say the young, "Any Christian can sit at home and post Bible verses on Facebook. What matters is getting involved!" On the other hand, say the old, "Any secular nonbeliever can help the needy because it's culturally viewed as 'the right thing to do.' What matters is being firmly rooted in the truth!" The optimal answer, of course, would be if the energetic, impact-driven, compassion of youth were *combined with* the firm, scriptural wisdom and experience of the old. That's why the multi-generational church is such a gift! God has given us the opportunity to advance the Gospel by supplementing each other's strengths, not criticizing each other's gaps. In this study, we'll unpack these themes in two psalms.

Main Idea: A healthy church passes down wisdom and lifts up action, uniting truth and compassion across generations through a shared testimony of God's faithfulness.

Main Practice: Honor God by telling of His works...not just as individuals, but as a united church family that brings both kindness *and* conviction to the next generation.

Main Teaching: Psalm 9:1, Psalm 105:1-2

As You Begin...: Which generation do you most naturally connect with, and which one do you find hardest to relate to? As a reference, here are some accepted groupings, with current 2025 age ranges:

- Core Gen-Z (17-23)
- Z-ennials (24-32)
- Core Millennials (33-39)
- X-ennials (40-48)
- Core Gen-X (49-55)
- Boom-X'ers (56-66)
- Core Boomers (67-73)
- Elder Boomers (74-79)
- Core Silent (80+)

Connect with Prayer & Praise

Have someone in your group read the following Scripture aloud:

"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. 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." – Psalm 78:4-7, ESV

with Principle

1. As a group, read Psalms 9:1; and 105:1-2 together and discuss the key, biblically-based teaching points you recall from the weekend's sermon. What stood out?
2. What does the kind of wholehearted thanks expressed at the start of Psalm 9 say about the psalmist's posture toward God? What can this teach us about our initial approach toward God?
3. What does "recounting" suggest (Ps 9:1, ESV)? Other reliable translations (NASB, NET, NRSV, NIV) use the word "tell" to describe their approach toward God's wonderful deeds. What does this look like, not just emotionally, but also practically?
4. Psalm 105 echoes a similar thought. Why is this kind of public declaration important, especially in the context of community? What's the difference between giving thanks silently vs. "making his deeds known" vocally or publicly?
5. What assumptions do these Psalms make about the role of older generations in the spiritual development of younger ones?
6. What are the risks of assuming that *either* "sound biblical beliefs" or "relevant impact" is the *only* thing that matters?
7. How might generational division silence the church's witness? How might generational unity amplify it?
8. In the context of back-to-school season, how might these passages encourage older generations to influence the children and students in their lives? Or, if you're on the younger side, how can these psalms encourage you to better interact with older generations?
9. What practical steps can churches or small groups take to regularly include and prioritize the gift of multi-generational access?

with Practice

These Psalms challenge a purely individualistic approach to spirituality and faith formation. This week, help others in your group draw the connection between remembering and retelling, inviting each other to be proactive, hopeful voices in the spiritual lives of the next generation. And if possible, identify one person outside your generation and find a way to encourage them toward combining sound doctrine with impactful action.

for Further Study

Read Deuteronomy 6:4–9, where Moses commands Israel to teach God's words diligently to their children. Consider how that Old Testament vision connects to the practice of making God's works known today.