

TO ALL GENERATIONS: KNOWING THE LORD AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

Judges 2:10; Ps. 78:5-8

By N.D. Wilson

And there arose another generation after them who^a did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel.¹

PROPOSITION: Know the LORD and make Him known to every generation

Know the LORD and the work he has accomplished

- NOT know stuff about God
 - Experience God through a relationship with Him
- NOT know facts about what God has done
 - Treasure his saving acts (the gospel)
 - This protects us from self-reliance and ingratitude
And not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments (Ps. 78:7b)
- Consequence for not knowing the LORD
 - Doing wrong in the eyes of the LORD
There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death (Prov. 14:12; 16:25)
 - Provoking the LORD to anger
 - Inevitable punishment and divine wrath
- Do you *know* the LORD?
If you knew me, you would know my Father also (Jn. 8:19)
No one comes to the Father except through me (Jn. 14:6)

Make Him known to all generations

- Verse 10 is an effect – not just the cause
 - Is this verse primarily about the failure of the generation who arose or the failure of the generation prior?
- Initial failure: the previous generation not passing on the knowledge of the LORD

1. They did not know
 - “They did not know” vs. “They forgot”
 - Object of knowledge: “The work accomplished in Israel”
2. Context: 2:3 “They shall become a thorn” 12 “went after other gods of the peoples who were around them”
 - Failure to drive out the inhabitants
 - Cultural accommodation
3. Scope of apostasy: an entire generation
4. Human tendency to follow what’s right but not pass on what’s right

Just because it says they “served the LORD” (v. 7) doesn’t mean they were diligent to pass on the need for their children to follow the LORD.

The failure of this generation is an invitation for us to make the Lord known to all generations.

Notice I didn’t say “to the *next* generation,” but to *all* generations. Our goal needs to be intergenerational for multiple generations – not just for our kids.

We need to be discipling our children not just to follow the Lord but to disciple others to follow the Lord. Notice the difference?

WHAT do we make known?

1. Who He is (character)
 - a. Fullness of his attributes
 - b. Mission and purpose
2. What he’s done (works)
 - a. Remembering the works of God => obedience (Ps. 78:5-8)
 - b. The gospel
 - c. God’s work in YOUR life
 - d. Is God the main character in the Bible stories you tell?

HOW do we make Him known (Deut. 6:6-7)?

6 “^aThese words, which I am commanding you today, shall be

^a Ex 5:2; 1 Sam 2:12

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update* (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995), Jdg 2:10.

^a Deut 11:18

on your heart.

7 “^aYou shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”²

1. Is the law on your heart? (see Jer. 31:33)
2. Teach your children diligently
 - a. Passionate
 - b. Repetitive
 - c. Incarnational

APPLICATION

- Parents
 - Family discipleship
 - Do you do it?
 - Do you know how?
 - Stop being over-scheduled!
 - Failure of your child will not be because...
 - Inter-family discipleship
 - Moms! (2 Tim. 1:5)
- Children
 - Celebrate mom by
 - Hoping in God (Ps. 78)
 - Committing to pass on her legacy
 - Disciple others!
 - Hope for you whose parents don't/didn't know the Lord (Ps. 78:8)
- Grandparents
 - Commit to every generation
 - Continue to reinvest your life
- Singles
 - You don't need kids to pass on the knowledge of God to the next generation - start discipling now!
- Church

- Whose job is it to disciple the next generations? “mine”
- In Christ, we are not bound by biology
- Commit to every generation: disciple others to be disciples-makers themselves

^a Deut 4:9; 11:19; Eph 6:4

² *New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update* (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995), Dt 6:6–7.