

RENEW&REACH

VISION

series

TELL THE **NEXT** GENERATION

RENEW & REACH

Renew & Reach: Vision Series

Discussion Guide

Scripture: Psalm 78:1-7

A maskil of Asaph.

¹My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

²I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old —

³things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.

⁴We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.

⁵He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children,

⁶so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.

⁷Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Discussion Questions

1. Are there any stories that are repeatedly told when your family gets together? Why do these stories come up so often?
2. What is Asaph, the Psalmist, encouraging God's people to share in verse 4?

3. A large portion of this Psalm has Asaph recounting the Exodus story. Can you summarise what happened?
4. Why might Asaph be sharing this story with God's people again?
5. Discuss the meaning of verses 5-6 in connection with Deuteronomy 6:6-9.
6. What are some ways a parent might recount the stories of Scripture and the instruction of God today with their child/ren?
7. Why does God want parents to do this?
8. Much of Psalm 78 is about the continual rebellion of Israel despite God's grace toward them. How might these stories of Israel's unfaithfulness help God's people remain faithful?
9. Do you ever see Israel's tendency to forget God's grace and promises in your own heart? Why do you think you forget?
10. What can you do to invest in the faith of the next generation?

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Scripture: Luke 15:1-32

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

⁸ "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.

²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ " 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

Discussion Questions

1. What's something that you'd spend a lengthy amount of time searching for?
What might you not worry too much about?

The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin

Read Luke 15:1-10

2. Who are the people Jesus is speaking to?
3. Who is upset and why?
4. The sheep and the lost coin have different apparent values, but Jesus emphasises that both the shepherd and the woman were right to leave the others and to search for the lost, and that rejoicing was the right reaction to have when it was found.
Why do you think this is?

5. What do you think some modern equivalents are for the lost sheep and coin?

The Prodigal Son

Read Luke 15:11-32

6. Who does the younger son represent? Who does the older son represent?
Who does the father represent?
7. What differences are there in their attitudes towards the father?
8. What similarities are there between their attitudes towards the father?
9. How does the father's reactions to each son highlight the character of the father?
10. How do these passages shape our understanding of who God is? What is something new that you have discovered or seen in a new light about God's character?

Live It Out

11. How do these passages shape the way you think about unbelievers? How do these passages shape the way you might share the gospel?
12. In what ways do you rejoice in God's work? What things stand out in these passages that might cause you to rejoice more?

REACH THE LOST

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A FIRM FOUNDATION

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Discussion Guide

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Discussion Questions

1. Describe your own attitude towards money. Are you a saver, a spender, or something else?
2. Who does Paul have in mind when he describes the "rich in this present world"?
3. Why do you think Paul warns the rich to not be "arrogant" or to "put their hope in wealth"? How does wealth create a false sense of importance or security?
4. Paul describes God as the one "who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." How can we balance enjoying God's blessings without becoming attached to them?

5. What does it mean to be "rich in good deeds"? How can we apply this in our daily lives?
6. Verse 19 speaks of our good deeds and our generosity as "a firm foundation for the coming age." What does this mean? How does this motivate you towards generosity?
7. Paul says our generosity leads to "the life that is truly life."
What do you think he means by 'true life'?
8. Read 1 Timothy 6:10. How can the pursuit of money cause people to wander from their faith? How can we guard against this?
9. What attitudes or fears keep people from being generous? How can we overcome these barriers?
10. How can we live out the command to be generous and willing to share?
What are practical ways to do this?
11. How does generosity reflect our faith in God rather than in material things?
12. How can we encourage a culture of generosity in our church or community?



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Scripture: Philippians 4:1-7

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends! ²I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. Paul calls on believers to "stand firm in the Lord" (v.1). What does it look like to stand firm in Christ in our daily lives?
2. Paul addresses a disagreement between two believers in verses 2-3. What is the solution to their dispute? What does it mean to 'be of the same mind in the Lord'?
3. Why is unity among Christians so important?
4. How can we handle disagreements in a Christ-like way?

5. Paul commands believers to 'Rejoice in the Lord always' (v.4). Is this possible or is it just wishful thinking? How can we maintain joy even in difficult circumstances?
6. What does verse 5 mean? What is the connection between our evident gentleness and the nearness of the Lord? Reflect on the reality that Christ is near to us and how this might affect the way we live.
7. Verse 6 instructs to 'not be anxious about anything'. Again, is this possible or wishful thinking? Why? How does the command to pray 'in every situation' help us to overcome worry?
8. Does gratitude ("with thanksgiving") play a role in your prayer life and your overall spiritual life? Why or why not? How can you cultivate gratitude in your life?
9. Verse 7 describes the peace of God, which surpasses understanding. Have you ever experienced this kind of peace? What was the situation?
10. How does God's peace "guard our hearts and minds" (v. 7)? What might be some threats to our peace?
11. What is one specific way you can apply these verses this week in your personal life or relationships?

