

Ministering to Parents As They Minister to Their Children

What to Tell Them Based on Psalm 78

By

Pastor Charles Storey

Psalms 78:1-11 Amplified Version

“1 Listen, O my people, to my teachings; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth [and be willing to learn]. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable [to instruct using examples]; I will utter dark and puzzling sayings of old [that contain important truth] 3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their children, but [we will] tell to the generation to come the praiseworthy deeds of The Lord, and [tell of] His great might and power and the wonderful works that He has done. 5 For He established a testimony (a specific precept) in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they should teach to their children [the great facts of God’s transactions with Israel]. 6 That the generation to come might know them, that the children still to be born may arise and recount them to their children, 7 That they should place their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments 8 And not be like their fathers a stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart to know and follow God, and whose spirit was not faithful to God. 9 The sons of Ephraim

were armed as archers and carrying bows, yet they turned back in the day of battle, 10 They did not keep the covenant of God And refused to walk according to His law; 11 And they forgot His miraculous wonders that He had shown them”.

Many useful concepts are emphasized for parents in the verses of Psalm 78. Israel’s history is used as a backdrop for valuable lessons they are to teach their children. This Psalm brings attention to events to be celebrated and other events to avoid. This Psalm shows God’s sovereignty and how He dealt with Israel as He chose throughout the events they experienced. This Psalm reminds the nation to consider their experiences with God’s love, mercy, and kindness to serve as a model or reminder for generations to come.

1. Teaching Through Parables and Stories: Parents are encouraged to use various methods in sharing and teaching their children. These truths and principles that are important in their history are encouraged to use non-traditional methods of teaching.

2. Pass It On! Share with the children the many miracles and mighty works God had done for them. When children are made aware of God’s continuous presence in their lives, it helps to create a sense of appreciation and reverence for God.

3. From Generation to Generation: As the parents received from their parents, they must pass on the mighty things God has done in

their lives. Parents who are disciples of Jesus Christ are encouraged to tell the children how they were reconciled back to God. The truth about the finished works of Jesus is paramount.

4. Obey God: Parents are encouraged to be in constant teaching mode and modeling as an example of their own obedience to God.

5. Don't Forget: To avoid spiritual apathy, parents must be continuous and consistent in sharing the many blessings of God with their children.

6. Build a Firm Foundation: Start early in the teaching with clarity on the Word. "Train up a child in the way that he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it". Proverbs 22:6
Training starts with assessment, motivation, design a system, implement a system, and continually evaluate the system.

7. Encourage and Model Faithfulness: The parent's life should be a living example of God's faithfulness. Parents can use Lamentations 3:22-23 NKJV, as a reminder of His faithfulness. Here is what it says: "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."

8. Share Personal Experiences: Parents must bring their personal experiences as a disciple into their teachings and instructions to

their children. This increases the believability of the teaching when they see how God provided for the parents.

9. Learning from History: Both positive and negative experiences can serve as a tutorial for children to understand God's love, grace and mercy. Israel's history is rich in God's continuing love in spite of their shortcomings.

10-Build Trust: Children can learn and trust God when they see the commitment of their parents. The overall goal of parents is to raise up children who walk in submission and obedience to God.

These concepts provide a recipe or framework for parents to use their experiences with God as a teaching tool. In discipling their children. This Psalm gives strategic reminders for parents to not be limited in the tools utilized to "be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth in kind.