

## SERMON NOTES - My Testimony - 6 - Testify to Generations

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

Psa 107:2 NKJV - "Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,"

### Intro - The Power of a Testimony:

A testimony is powerful and affects the world around us. It reveals how God works and what He can do, and it creates faith and an expectation of God working again. It releases His power into situations and into the lives who hear it - The root meaning of Hebrew word testimony means "repeat, do it again." - and it gives praise and glory to God, thus God inhabits it - Psa 22:3 - "But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel."

It also affects ME - Lifts my own faith & hope - Lam 3:21-24 - "21 This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. ... They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."

And it defeats the devil and evil around us - Rev 12:11, Psalm 107:42-43, 2 Cor 2:12-17

Psa 145:4 - "One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts."

### What happens if we don't do this?

Jdg 2:10-15 - "10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel. 11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; 12 and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. 13 They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. 14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. 15 Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed."

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." - *Ronald Reagan*.  
*Inaugural Address, January 5, 1967*

### What is a generation? *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*

- A period of time & Those living during a period
- Those characterised by quality, condition, class of men
- A dwelling-place, habitation - (Isa 38:12 NASB)

We must share and tell of His works to different generations within our own family AND to others near and far. It is our responsibility, and we must do it.

### How can we do this?

- Use Traditions & regular events: Psa 78:2-8 & Exo 13:3-10, 14-16 Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving & others. Games & fun. Meals. Question times. "What are you thankful for?"  
Psa 78:4-8 NKJV - "We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. 5 For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; 6 That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, 7 That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments; 8 And may not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not set its heart aright, And whose spirit was not faithful to God."

- Have regular times together, like meals, where you discuss, ask questions, tell stories, & pray.
- Have Scriptures & Songs around your home - Deu 6:6-9
- Church attendance - only a small percentage of us will have children who become professional athletes or musicians, but 100% of our children will have to stand before God on judgement day.
- Praise and worship in Church is so important. Heb 2:12 "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." Psa 66:16 "Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul."
- Small groups are a great opportunity to share testimonies.
- Be involved in ministry yourself and involve your children in serving God.
- Kids and youth ministry in Church & "going outside my comfort zone and culture" are so important. Be this person for someone else's family members.

### Other verses:

Psa 71:15-18 NKJV - "15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness And Your salvation all the day, For I do not know their limits. 16 I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only. 17 O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works. 18 Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come."

The passover meal at the feast of unleavened bread and the dedication of every firstborn, include remembrances, as do stone altars of remembrances in the Old Testament:

Exo 13:3-10, 14-16 NKJV - 8 "And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, 'This is done because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt.' 9 "It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD's law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt. 10 "You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year. ... 14 "So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' that you shall say to him, 'By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Deu 32:7 NKJV - "Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; Your elders, and they will tell you:"

Deu 6:6-9 NKJV - "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Pro 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."

# Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

**1** - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

**2** - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

**3** - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?  
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

**4** - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

**The blessing** and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.