

## **PSALMS: BEING AUTHENTIC WITH GOD**

We're starting a new series based on the Psalms and being authentic with God. Dallas Willard talking about the Psalms said this:

"To trust in God, we need a rich and accurate way of thinking and speaking about him to guide and support our life vision and our will. Psalms give great power for faith and life. This is simply because it preserves a conceptually rich language about God and our relationships to him. If you bury yourself in Psalms, you emerge knowing God and understanding life."

The Psalms help us express what we're feeling, our anxiety, frustrations, anger, joys, praise, every human feeling is expressed here and there is power in being honest and authentic with God and each other.

Our practice for this term will be: **SIMPLICITY**.

## **VISION SUNDAY: NEXT GENERATIONS**

### **PSALM 78:1-8**

#### **Introduction**

Q – Were you able to practice anything that came out of your last life group meeting?

Q - Do you remember anything from Sunday's talk that struck you?

Q – Other than potentially your faith, what did you learn in your family of origin? How did you learn? What has stuck with you?

#### **The Psalm**

Psalm 78 is attributed to Asaph, who was one of the chief musicians and worship leaders appointed by King David (1 Chronicles 16:4-5). Asaph's role was significant in the musical and liturgical life of Israel, and several Psalms are attributed to him.

The context of Psalm 78 is primarily historical and didactic. It is a lengthy psalm that serves as a didactic poem, recounting the history of Israel from the time of the Exodus to the establishment of the monarchy under King David. Asaph uses this historical narrative to teach important lessons about God's faithfulness, Israel's faithlessness, and the consequences of disobedience.

Throughout the psalm, Asaph emphasizes the importance of passing on the stories and teachings of God's faithfulness to future generations. He urges the people of Israel to remember the mighty works of God, to keep His commandments, and to teach them diligently to their children.

We're going to focus on verses 1-8, but you might want to read the whole Psalm 78 together or in silence, before unpacking verses 1-8.

**Please read Psalm 78:1-8 together.**

There are three key elements to this part of the Psalm, remembering, understanding, and teaching.

Q - What are they remembering and passing on?

Q - What are they saying they won't do? Why?

Q- Which are the good deeds and wonders that they are passing on?

Q - Which are the good deeds and wonders that we'd pass on? (think about the New Testament, but also what God has done in your own lives)

Q - What stories of God's work in your life and in our church would you pass on to others?

Q - There is also an invitation to pass on the commandments, the law, the way of Jesus. What would you pass on to the next generations?

The next generations even includes 'unborn' children. As a church we're keen on investing and discipling our next generations, kids, young people, young adults and even grandparents to parents.

Q - Which are the best ways of helping the next generations 'know and trust' God?

Q - What is the description of their ancestors in v. 8? How can we avoid being and raising the next generations so that they're not like that?

Q - It takes the whole church to teach, encourage, disciple and love the next generations. How can we do that well?

Q - What can you do, no matter your age, to encourage others in their journey with God?

Q - It's always hard for one generation to pass the baton to the next. We like being in control, we like doing things our way. What does it mean for us at St PB to pass the baton? What does it mean for you?

**Prayer**

Let's pray together for our church:

- Kids, their leaders and parents

- Yotuh, their leader and parents
- All of us as we nurture, teach, pray for and invest in the next generations.

**Action**

Why not encourage a parent or a child or young person in their faith this week. Send them a text, pray for them, encourage their leaders at church.

**Nico Ohlsson**