

What You Live, They Will Remember

Psalm 78:1–8 (ESV)

Student Devotional-Father's Day Edition

Your life is saying something—louder than your words, deeper than your intentions.

Psalm 78 reminds us that every generation builds a legacy. The question isn't *if* you're passing something on. The question is *what* you're passing on.

This week's devotional isn't just for dads—it's for anyone who wants to live in a way that leaves the next generation stronger in faith. Whether you're a student, a son, a sibling, or someone just starting to think about the future, these five days will show you the power of influence—and the kind of life that gets remembered for the right reasons.

Let's walk through this together—and build something that lasts.

Day 1: Listen Like It Matters

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!"(Psalm 78:1, ESV)

Think About It:

It's easy to zone out. Life is loud. Notifications don't stop. And sometimes, we treat spiritual truth like background noise. But this verse opens with urgency—"Give ear... incline your ears..." In other words: *Pay attention*.

The psalmist isn't just offering helpful advice. He's delivering something sacred—something passed down, hard-won, and meant to shape not just individuals, but generations. This isn't small talk. This is soul talk.

And that's what today's about—learning to listen not just for facts, but for formation. The way you lean into God's Word now shapes the kind of legacy you'll leave later. What you're soaking in today becomes what others soak in tomorrow.

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If you want to leave a legacy that matters, it starts by being a listener who values what matters.

Pray It:

God, open my ears today. Help me lean into truth—not just to hear it, but to be shaped by it.

Do It:

Turn off distractions and take 10 quiet minutes today to read Psalm 78:1–8. Read it slowly. Let the weight of it sink in.

Day 2: Tell the Stories That Matter

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord... (Psalm 78:4a, ESV)

Think About It:

You've got stories—moments when God came through, when He answered prayer, when you saw His hand in your life. But have you shared them?

Too often we hide the very stories that could build someone else's faith. Not on purpose—but because we're too busy, too distracted, or too unsure of what to say.

But silence sends a message. And if the next generation doesn't hear about God's faithfulness from us, they'll hear about something else from someone else.

You don't have to be eloquent—you just have to be honest. Talk about the time you prayed and God showed up. Tell the story of how Scripture spoke directly into your struggle. Show your family that the God of the Bible is also the God of *your* life.

The stories you share today may become the anchors your kids or friends cling to tomorrow.

Pray It:

Lord, give me the courage to speak up. Help me share my story in a way that points others to You.

Do It:

Tell someone younger than you one story today about how you've seen God work. Keep it simple. Keep it real. But don't keep it to yourself.

Day 3: Live the Kind of Life That Plants Hope

That they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God... (Psalm 78:7, ESV)

Think About It:

Hope doesn't just appear—it's formed. It's shaped by what we watch, what we remember, and who we trust.

Psalm 78 shows us that the reason we tell the next generation about God's works is so they'll *hope* in Him. That means our faith isn't just about us—it's about who comes after us.

Every time you respond to stress with prayer instead of panic, you're showing someone how to hope. Every time you choose obedience when it's hard, someone watching is learning what faith looks like under pressure.

Hope is contagious when it's lived consistently. The next generation doesn't need perfect leaders—they need present ones. Ones who trust God through real struggles, real questions, and real life.

Pray It:

Father, let my life plant hope in the people who follow me. Help me trust You so deeply that others learn to trust You too.

Do It:

Think of someone younger watching your life. What are they learning from you about hope? Pray for them by name today.

Day 4: Break the Patterns That Hold People Back

...that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation...
(Psalm 78:8, ESV)

Think About It:

Not every family legacy is healthy. Some patterns—anger, addiction, fear, apathy—get passed down without a word ever being spoken.

Psalm 78 doesn't sugarcoat it. Some generations rebelled. They knew about God but didn't live for Him. And the next generation paid the price.

But here's the grace: just because you inherited something doesn't mean you have to repeat it. Through Christ, you can break the cycle. You can be the turning point. You can choose a new direction.

Don't wait to feel "ready." Start by being honest about what needs to stop—and what needs to start. A new legacy begins with one surrendered heart.

Pray It:

Jesus, help me recognize anything I've inherited that needs to stop. Give me the strength to live in a new direction—and the courage to break old patterns by Your grace.

Do It:

Write down one family pattern you don't want to pass on. Then write one thing you can start doing today to build something better.

Day 5: Build Something That Lasts

...and keep His commandments. (Psalm 78:7b, ESV)

Think About It:

This generation has more access to information than any before it—but access isn't the

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same as wisdom. People don't just need facts. They need someone whose life *proves* the truth is worth following.

Psalms 78 says the goal isn't just hope—it's obedience. Not guilt-based rule following, but wholehearted devotion to God that overflows into daily life.

That kind of obedience doesn't start with pressure—it starts with worship. When we remember what God has done, our hearts are stirred to respond.

So make obedience visible. Not in a showy way—but in the quiet rhythm of a life surrendered to Jesus. When people watch you, let them see that God is worth following, even when it's costly.

That's how legacies are built.

Pray It:

God, help me live a life that follows You not out of pressure, but out of love. Let my obedience reflect how good You are.

Do It:

Ask yourself today: What's one area of my life that needs more obedience? Take a step toward it—not because you have to, but because He's worth it.

Conclusion: They'll Remember More Than You Realize

Legacy isn't just about what you *say*—it's about what you *live*.

Your words matter. But your daily choices, quiet faith, and consistent example will stick with the people around you long after conversations are forgotten.

So start now. You don't have to be perfect. You just have to be present. The foundation you build today may become the floor someone else stands on tomorrow.

Let them see something real in you. Let your life point them to Jesus.

Because what you live, they will remember.

See you Sunday.

Before We Gather

- What's something meaningful your father or spiritual father figure passed down to you—either by words or by example?
- Why is it important that our children hear spiritual truth from us—not just from church or culture?
- What keeps men—especially fathers—from sharing their faith stories at home?
- How have you seen hope passed down through example—not just words?
- What's one way you hope your legacy of faith looks different than the one you received?
- What kind of legacy are you building right now—even unintentionally?
- How can we better support and encourage men to lead spiritually in their homes?
- What's one small step you can take this week to pass your faith to the next generation?