



SERMON GUIDE

RAISING KIDS WHO HOPE IN GOD

Psalms 78:1-8 | Pastor Tim Prince

January 1, 2023

Faith Community Church | fchudson.com

Conversation Questions

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

- Scripture that stands out to you while you read
- Observations you are making about a passage
- Applications that connect the verses to your real life and relationships
- Prayer that invites God to participate in all that you do

Getting to Know Me: Take a minute to share with the group what role faith played in your family growing up. Were church attendance and faith a central part of life in your family or not present at all? What did your parents do to communicate what their priorities were?

Note About the Passage: This is a "historical Psalm" that calls to mind events from Israel's history to celebrate and remember how God persevered with his people and was at work purifying them along the way. The Psalm's purpose is to recount these events so that future generations might take the lessons to heart and put their hope in God.

Verses one and two introduce this Psalm the way that a wisdom teacher normally would speak (Isaiah 28:23; Job 33:1). So the Psalm's purpose isn't just to remember, but it's an invitation to reflect and receive wisdom for daily life.

Read: Genesis Psalm 78:1-8

S: What verses, phrases, words, or feelings stand out to you as you read this text? Is anything "illuminated," surprising, or jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?

O: Verses one and two are an invitation to listen closely and reflect on "dark sayings from of old" – i.e. wisdom. The speaker is saying, "Heads up! This is important instruction. Listen for the lessons that are about to be taught in this poem."

- What do you observe about the speaker's source of wisdom in verses 3 and 4? What do you think the Psalm wants Israel to spend time remembering?
- When it comes to raising kids, where do you think people typically turn for wisdom today? Why do you think they turn to those sources?

O: This Psalm was almost certainly written during or shortly after the reign of King David (2 Samuel) so the "glorious deeds" (v.4) that we're being invited to reflect on would all be from Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua and Judges.

- What are some of the "glorious deeds of the LORD" that we're meant to remember from Israel's history? If you can't think of an Old Testament story, take a few minutes to read or skim through Exodus 14 as an example.
- How do you think hearing about these things would impact kids in your family and church? Are there any specific "deeds of the LORD" that you find particularly inspiring and relevant?

O: We're not just invited to remember what God has done... we're invited to remember what God has said (v.5).

- Turn to Joshua 1:1-9 (or your favorite Old Testament passage where God is speaking).
- "How would these words and commands impact kids if they were more central to their lives?"
- Are there any commands or "testimonies of the LORD" that you find particularly compelling or helpful? Is there anything here that makes you say, "Oh, I wish every kid knew this!"

A: If God had written this passage just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?

A: Are there any specific "deeds of the LORD" or words of the Lord that you've reflected on today that are inspiring hope, courage and joy for you today? Share a specific situation in your life right now that those deeds or words are speaking to?

A: Are there any specific "deeds of the LORD" or words of the Lord that you've reflected on today that you know God is asking you to pass along to a kid in your life this week? Who is it and why do you think it would be helpful to them?

- As a group, talk about the best way to do that this week. How might you help make God more central to children in your life this week?

P: Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide direction that you need.