

## **“Generations”**

**Mount of Olives | May 17, 2026 | Psalm 78:1-6a**

**Pastor Jim Reynen**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Lord God, ageless and eternal, give us grace to see Your presence in the young, the old and all the in-betweens. Open our eyes, ears, hearts and hands to practice Your love and share Your gracious blessings among the generations. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **Scripture Reading**

#### **Psalm 78:1-6a**

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them...

### **Message Notes:**

#### **2 Kings 18:1-2**

In the third year of King Hoshea son of Elah of Israel, Hezekiah son of King Ahaz of Judah began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi daughter of Zechariah.

#### **2 Kings 18:3,5**

He did what was right in the sight of the Lord just as his ancestor David had done. He trusted in the Lord the God of Israel; so that there was no one like him among all the kings of Judah after him, or among those who were before him.

#### **2 Kings 19:19**

So now, O Lord our God, save us, I pray you, from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Lord, are God alone.

#### **2 Kings 20:17**

Days are coming when all that is in your house, and that which your ancestors have stored up until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left, says the Lord.

#### **2 Kings 22:2**

He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

#### **2 Kings 22:11,13**

When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes. "Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

### **2 Kings 23:25**

Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him.

### **2 Chronicles 7:14**

...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

### **Study Questions – Read: Psalm 78:1-6**

#### **ICEBREAKER – Getting started:**

1. What is something meaningful an older generation passed down to you?
2. When you think about “legacy,” what comes to mind?
3. Who in your life has taught you the most about faith or character?

#### **Based on Psalm 78:1-6, answer the following questions:**

#### **OBSERVATION – What does the text say?**

1. As you read **Psalm 78:1-6**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

#### **INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?**

1. What does Asaph ask the people to do in verse 1, and why might this be a significant starting point?
2. How does the psalm describe the teachings being passed down (vv. 2–3)?
3. What does the phrase “things we have heard and known” suggest about communal memory?
4. Why does the psalm emphasize that these teachings were “told to us by our ancestors”?
5. What commitment is made in verse 4 regarding the next generation?
6. What specific deeds of God are highlighted as worth communicating (v. 4)?
7. How does verse 5 explain the structure God established for teaching His people?
8. What role do laws and decrees play in the passing of faith from one generation to the next?
9. According to verse 6, what is the ultimate goal of generational teaching?
10. How does this passage frame responsibility—individual, family, or community-wide?

#### **APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?**

1. What helps you personally “incline your ear” to God’s teaching in a distracted world?
2. How can you become more intentional about remembering God’s work in your life?

3. Who in the next generation (children, students, younger believers) could you actively invest in?
4. What practical steps can you take to pass on stories of God's faithfulness?
5. Are there habits or patterns in your family or community that need to be reshaped to reflect God's ways?
6. How might this passage encourage you to view your faith as part of a bigger, ongoing story?
7. What is one action you can take this week that helps bridge your faith to the generation after you?

**Graphic for sermon:**

