

A HIGH CALLING

Psalms 78:1-8

The following are resource questions that you can use with your Care Group for discussion. They are based on the sermon preached on Sunday, June 20 2010, by Rev Dr Arnold Wong at the Grace Baptist Church, Singapore. The sermon is available online at <http://www.gracebap.org.sg/worship/series.html>.

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What is the higher calling for Fathers? It involves the Fathers telling His children about God.

The Invitation to Hear God's Revelation (1-4)

This Psalm begins with an invitation to "listen." "Listen" is the Hebrew *azan* which means to "hear, listen with understanding," and then "to be obedient." "To my instruction." "Instruction". While the instruction comes from the Word, it is an instruction that must be fortified by the example of their fathers. The most effective way to communicate God's truth for maximum impact on children is when it comes through the parents.

The more parents teach their children and fortify their instruction by godly and loving lives, the better. Sunday school teachers and pastors were never meant to be substitutes for a mothers' tears and fathers' prayers. Why is this? Because parents have the opportunity, as no one else, to be models in living colour of both **attitude and action** of those things they seek to communicate.

We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.

Notice two things in this verse: First, note the determination to communicate God's truth to the generations to come is seen in the use of a negative statement followed by the positive declaration of what they intend to do. Second, these two statements together warn us that when we fail to tell our children about the truth of God, we are in essence concealing, hiding God's truth from our children and from the generations to come.

But the psalmist is aware of the problem parents have of communicating the truth of God to the next generation. By our own indifference to the things of God, by our preoccupation with the pressures of life, by our materialism, by our failure to get real in our walk with the Lord, we become guilty of concealing God's truth because we fail to tell to the generation to come, the truth of God's Word.

What exactly would the psalmist tell to the next generation? "The praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done." This refers to the great works of God, His glorious deeds, in creation and especially in the redemptive acts of God in history.

We must never miss the fact that the history of creation and redemption provide us with a revelation of God. They reveal his grace, mercy, love, patience, power, holiness, justice, faithfulness, omnipotence, etc. Let's not miss the fact that, when we communicate the story of creation and redemptive history, or other information of the Bible, we are not only communicating facts but a history that teaches us about both God and man.

Answer the question: But why is all of this needed?

The Goal in Hearing God's Revelation (5-8)

Further, this stresses two great needs and responsibilities we have as believing parents: (1) We must put our trust in God's Word above the ideas of men for all areas of life, including, the raising and training of our children. (2) But if we are going to do that, we also need to communicate the character of the Bible as indeed the Word of God, an objective, inerrant, infallible guide and authority that always takes precedence over the ideas of men and the world.

Discussion Question. Do we sometimes elevate the ideas of men whether psychological or philosophical above the authority of the Word?

These words pinpoint the primary procedure God uses to effectively communicate His Word generation to generation. This is the most effective way for children to truly come to know the Scriptures. **The primary means established by God is the home** under the godly influence of a godly father and a godly mother. This includes both parents working together, but God places the responsibility for this directly on the father.

Discussion question. Are we as fathers carrying out our responsibilities in teaching our children?