

# The God of Generations

## **The God of Generations**

### **Key idea:**

God is the God of generations and calls his people to pray and work to pass the faith from one generation to the next.

### **Key text:**

Deuteronomy 4:9

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

### **Key points:**

1. The first step in passing on the faith is to carefully watch the state of my own soul.
2. To keep the faith vibrant in my own heart I must actively recall, recount, and rehearse God's Word and works that I have experienced in my own life.
3. The primary responsibility for passing the faith to the next generation falls on parents, who are supported in this task by extended family and the local church.
4. Every single Christian in every stage of life is called to be part of the task of passing the faith on to succeeding generations.
5. What is being passed on is not just knowledge, but a living, vital relationship with Jesus.

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Why is the first step in passing on the faith watching my own soul carefully? Is it enough for me to simply have knowledge of the teachings of Scripture, or do I need something more to successfully pass the faith on to the next generation?

3. What does the Bible mean when it commands me to “remember” God’s Word and works? Is “remembering” simply bringing up a mental image or does it mean something more? How do I remember God’s Word and work in my own life?
4. Why are parents the most important people for passing the faith on to the next generation? Why are a good church and a solid youth group not enough?
5. What implications does the idea of passing the faith across generations have for the demographics of a local church? Should a local church be mainly one generation or should it be comprised of all ages? Why is this important? What are the benefits of a multi-generational local church?
6. What trends in our culture make it harder to build inter-generational relationships? What steps can I take to overcome this?
7. How am I helping pass the faith down to the next generation? What specific steps do I plan to take to be more engaged in this task?
8. Whom can I pray for, share what I have learned, and invite to church this week?

**Preview of next week: The Covenant of Promise (Genesis 12:1-7)**