

Passing on Faith Ministry

Let's not forget, again!



Have you ever forgotten a lesson that God has taught you? You've been a follower of Christ long enough to know that God will see you through whatever comes your way. Yet you find yourself anxious about a life circumstance. You worry and then worry some more. The Lord is again faithful. "Oh, yeah, why did I forget" you say, "God is good!" A lesson relearned. That's a great reason to worship together. We are reminded of God's faithfulness in spite of our lack of it. If you are like us, you need to be reminded again and again and again.

The children of Israel were no different. They needed to be reminded again and again and again. Moses knew this basic principle of faith formation when he wrote—

"Listen, Israel! The LORD our God is the only true God! So love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. Memorize his laws and tell them to your children over and over again. Talk about them all the time, whether you're at home or walking along the road or going to bed at night, or getting up in the morning." Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (CEV)

The generation of Moses died. The faith was passed to a new generation, the generation of Joshua. And then something happened. The generation of Joshua forgot to pass it on! Joshua and his contemporaries died.

"After a while the people of Joshua's generation died, and the next generation did not know the LORD or any of the things he had done for Israel." Judges 2:10 (CEV)

The second chapter of Joshua records the tragic results. And, as you will see by reading Judges, Chapter 2, forgetting is not benign. Forgetting has severe consequences—idolatry being one. The children of Israel, in two generations, had lost their faith, worshipping false gods instead!

The book of Judges ends with this sad commentary on the children of Israel—

"Everyone did what they perceived to be the right thing for themselves."
Paraphrase of Judges 21:25

Like Israel, the church in America is always one generation away from losing the Christian faith. Are we the Joshua generation? How are we doing at passing on the faith? Are we equipping parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, mentors, the average person sitting in the pew to pass on the faith to our children and youth at home, in the car or while out for a meal? Are we relying solely on programmatic curricula disconnected from family, extended family and the family of God to pass on the faith?

What do you think?

And don't forget!