

WARM-UP

- Tell us about the most surprising thing that happened to you this week.
- Recall a challenging experience you had as a teenager. What was it like and how did you overcome it?
- Which generation are you a part of? What are some of the differences you notice with other generations?

WORD *¹⁷O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. ¹⁸So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come. ¹⁹Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens. You who have done great things, O God, who is like you?* **PSALM 71:17-19**

Though not everyone has the privilege of knowing God from a young age, the psalmist points out his story—that he learned from God in his youth, and this carried on throughout his life. In fact, he said he was already old and gray, and was still testifying of God’s faithfulness to the next generation. Even if he had spent his whole life knowing God, he still could not exhaust God’s righteousness and mighty power. Today, we will see how these principles apply in our generation and in how we can help the next generations know and love God.

1 | Initiate the work among the youth.

O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. **PSALM 71:17**

As a church, we believe in reaching and discipling the next generation. We prioritize the youth, and we don't look down on them (1 Timothy 4:12). When we teach them to follow God at a young age, they not only serve God for the rest of their lives; they will make an impact in the lives of others, too. What do you think would happen if we didn't reach the youth with the gospel? What would happen if we did?

2 | Impart the mighty works of God to the youth.

¹⁸So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come. ¹⁹Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens. You who have done great things, O God, who is like you?

PSALM 71:18-19

We tell younger generations about God because He is great and He is good. His character and work should be proclaimed. Regardless of the challenges we face or how the culture shifts, God can never be minimized. There is none like the God we serve. This is true if we are young and until we get old. Who proclaimed God's might to you, and how has God changed your life?

3 | Invest in the next generation.

17. . . and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. 18So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

PSALM 71:17-18

Our understanding and experience of God is not for us alone. We are to share this with others, particularly to the next generations. When the youth know God at a young age, they have a longer time to reach others, including the next generation after them. This involves preaching the gospel to them, believing in them, serving them, and teaching them to lead. How can you continue doing this, even when you are old and gray?

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APPLICATION

- As part of the current generation, how can you pass on what you have learned about God's goodness to the next generation?
- Who is the next generation in your home and community? How can you reach them today?
- How can you invest in the next generation? Ask God for specific ideas, strategies, and opportunities.

