

My name is Blake Chilton, I'm the Student Pastor here at the Village. I'm really excited to be with you this morning and bring the word of God to you. I have the opportunity to speak to students grade 6-12 all the time, but I feel like another part of my ministry as Student Pastor is to bring the word of God to parents and future parents and grandparents. So I'm excited about this opportunity. I'm also excited about this opportunity because this last week in our nation was a pretty historic week as we elected our first African American President to the Oval Office. And regardless of your political views, our hope of our nation remains the same. And our hope is found on one man, Jesus Christ. So one of the things that I want to convey to you today is how we transfer that hope on to the next generation. And so if you would, turn with me in your Bibles to Psalm 78. We'll start in verse 1. "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 fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done." This is what we are to proclaim to the next generation: the glorious deeds of the Lord, His might, His strength, His power and the wonders that He has done. Let's keep going and we'll see why we're to do that. "He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;..." That's the "why." What we're to do is pass on to the next generation the glorious deeds of God, talk about His might, His strength and His wonders. And we should do that so they would set their hope in God.

I grew up the youngest of three boys, which meant my parent's had to get us out of the house or we would break stuff. It was just kind of what was going to go on. My grandparents had a farm, and they would take us up there and let us just run wild outside, which was great. But that led us to get into hunting. My family has always hunted, and even to this day I just love getting out in the outdoors and just being in a place where my cellphone doesn't work and I can't get e-mail. I just love being out there where it's quiet. One of the things I enjoy the most is deer hunting. I just think they're beautiful creatures, and I just love watching them. The bad part about deer hunting is it's in the coldest time of the year. Right now through January is when deer season takes place. And my dad hates cold weather. He cannot stand it. So a lot of times, I would have to beg my dad to go deer hunting with me and he wouldn't want to go. I remember one time when I was 14 years old, I was trying to talk my dad into taking me, because the place we stayed was a 20 minute drive from the place that we actually hunted. I was begging him to let me go. He came back with, "How about this. How about you just take the keys to my truck?" And at 14, that is my greatest wish come true. I'm thinking I'm going to roll into town, pick up some ladies, but I didn't, I was focused on deer hunting. So I was like, "That's awesome!" And my mom was like, "Do not let him do that." My dad was like, "It will be alright. He's driven before." So I get the keys, I drive out in my dad's old 1979 Chevy pick-up truck, primer color, it was beautiful. So I drive out there. I'm all by myself for the first time. I get in my stand, don't see much and it gets dark. So I come back to the truck to go home. I'm a little nervous. I'm 31 and still scared of the dark, so you can imagine how I was at 14. I get back in the truck, put the keys in the ignition, go to crank it and nothing happens. So automatically my mind begins to race. I'm having all these thoughts of, "Okay, they're going to find me in two or three weeks. I'm just going to be this frozen block of ice. It's going to be bad. I was really nervous about it, and I start to get really scared, because I don't have a cellphone. This is back in the days with like the bag phone, but we don't even have a bag phone. I'm in big trouble. And the first thing I begin to do is pray. I began to just cry out to God saying, "God, I've read Your book. I've heard some stories about You and about how You can do some amazing miracles.

You can make blind people see, You can make the lame walk and You can heal these people. And You can do all these things. And I don't know how good Your track record is in mechanics, but I need You to fix this truck right now." And I said, "Alright, 'Go God' on three. One...two...three." And I cranked that thing up, and it started right up. I was like, "Yeah!" and I did a little dance in the seat. I was so pumped up, and all of a sudden I started hearing this thud. Something was in the engine going "Wham...wham...wham..." over and over again. I was like, "I don't even care," and drove out of there as fast as I could. I drove all the way home as fast as I could. I had the heater on, had the radio on, just jamming. Got home and told my dad the whole story. I was like, "It was amazing. I prayed and God started the truck." He was like, "Why didn't you just start it?" I said, "I couldn't. That's why I had God do it." He said, "Alright, we'll look at it in the morning." The next morning we get up and flip open the hood and we see that one of the belts in the truck had broken. He went, "That's the thud you were hearing. I have no idea how you got home, because that belt powers the engine. You shouldn't have been able to turn the car on. You shouldn't have been able to listen to the radio or run the heater. I have no idea." And I was like, "I'll tell you how. The Lord!" And that began my preaching career right there. I mean, I was pumped up. I was excited.

But how at age 14 do I put my hope in God? Does that make sense? Of all things, how at age 14 do I know to put my faith in God? I had been raised in church, I grew up going to Sunday school and my parents are believers and went to church. And they had told us stories about God, but at 14 I put my hope in God in a desperate situation. You see, I think that hope is birthed from a knowledge of something greater than ourselves and greater than our circumstances. And at that point in time, at 14, I needed something greater than just me. I couldn't help my situation, and so I call on God. That's what this next generation needs. They need to know that God is all mighty, all powerful and that they can set their hope in them. What else? Let's look back at verse 7. "...so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God ..." How crazy is it that some of us forget the works of God and forget His wonders and forget His deeds and forget His might? We read the New Testament sometimes and we watch the disciples and how they interact with the Lord and how quick they are to forget God's power. You read in one chapter where Jesus feeds 5,000 people just like that with very little, and the disciples are there. They have a front row seat to see the whole thing. And then a couple chapters later, there's 4,000 people that need to be fed and the disciples are like, "How in the world are we going to feed all of these people?" And I'm going, "Do you not remember a chapter ago? What are you talking about? God's already done that." But we do the same thing, right? We get stressed out on bills or we get stressed out on this kid and what's going on at school. We get stressed out on all these little things when we've already seen the works of God, we've already seen His might, we've already seen His power. That next generation needs that. They need to know and be reminded of the works of God.

What else? "...so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;..." They've got to know His commandments in order to keep them. My wife and I love to go eat dinner down here at the Shops at Highland Village. They have a lot of outdoor patios and you can kind of see what's going on. And really I like to do it just to spy on our students in our ministry. Because they're always hanging out there and they're running between Barnes & Noble and the movie theater. I'll call them out and say, "Hey, I noticed you were misbehaving at the movie theater the other night." They're like, "How did you know?" I reply, "I walk with the Lord. It kind of freaks them out. But I really do enjoy watching people. Like when my wife drags me to the mall, I'm that guy that sits on the bench outside and just kind of watches people walk by. I just love watching people walk by. But out there at the Shops at Highland Village you see kids running around all the time out there. And some of them are doing their thing, they're obeying and doing what's right. But some of them are like running through the flowerbed and knocking stuff over and just acting crazy, just not behaving well. And some I just want to go up to those kids and go, "Hey, do you not know how to act in public? Do you not know how to behave in public?" And some of them, if they would give me an honest answer back, would say, "Well no. No one's ever taught me that. No one's ever taught me how to act in this situation." And if you think back over your life, you've probably had some adults come into your life and say, "This is how you act in this situation. This is how you behave."

I remember in 7th grade one of the first times I asked a girl out on a date. And I don't know why in the world other than the grace of God she said yes. I had a date, but I didn't think through how we were going to get there, maybe throw her on the back of my bike, give her a pump. I didn't know what was going on. My dad was like, "Well I can take you." And I was like, "In that truck? No thank you. I want a second date." But he was like, "Sure, I'll take you and your friends." So there were like five of us riding in in my dad's single cab 1979 Chevy pick-up. We go to the movies, because that's what you do in 7th grade. And I remember, we all walk in and my dad and I already had a little prearrangement where he'd sit in the back. And I see a seat all the way at the front of the movie theater. And like any 7th grade boy, I sprint down there and beat everybody to it. My date was kind of awkward like, "Oh, that was weird. Now what do I do?" And she just walks down kind of slow and sits down next to me. My dad comes down to me and goes, "Hey Blake." So I walk over to him and go, "Hey, what's up?" And he goes, "Don't just run off and leave your date. That's not cool. That's just not what you do." And I was like, "Oh, why?" He says, "Because came here so she could be with you. So you put your arm out, escort her. Ask her where she might want to sit. She might not want to sit on the front row where she only gets to see half the movie. Ask her where she wants to sit." And so he begins to teach me the ways on how to treat women. He begins to pass that on to me because I didn't know. In the same way, this next generation doesn't know, unless someone teaches them. They don't know the way of God in order to obey the commandments of God, unless they're taught. That's why we've got to pass on the glorious deeds of the Lord. That's why we've got to pass on His might and His strength and all these things, that they might set their hope in God, know His commandments and follow His commandments. If we don't do this, if we don't take it upon ourselves to pass that on, then we will have successive generations that don't put their hope in God, but rather put their hope in idols, things that are broken and empty and will just fail them and leave them unsatisfied. And they'll walk away from the Lord and they won't obey His commandments.

Let's look in verse 7. "...so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation..." This is what they'll grow up into if they don't know God and His glory. "...a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God. The Ephraimites, armed with the bow, turned back on the day of battle. They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law. They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them." And for the next 50 verses the psalmist begins to lay out a little bit of Israel's history. And it begins to talk about how Israel had seen the works of God. They had seen His wonders, they had seen His might, they had seen all these things and they had rejected Him, they had disobeyed Him, they had not followed His ways. They haven't remembered the Lord and they were breaking His commandments and they were breaking His covenant over and over again. Look in verse 67. "He rejected the tent of Joseph; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loves. He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever. He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance." If you'll notice, he used Ephraim twice. Ephraim was the son of Joseph, and Joseph was one of the twelve tribes of Israel. And the reason He uses Ephraim as an example through the last 50 verses of just going, "Hey, you've sinned against Me. You've disobeyed Me..." the reason He uses that is because I believe Ephraim was representative of Israel, one of the last faithful tribes to God. Ephraim and Judah being the last two.

If you back up to Numbers 13, it tells us the story about Moses. And when Moses was about to enter the Promise Land, they wanted to send some spies in there to scout out the land and check it out. So he gets twelve guys, one from each tribe, and says, "I want you to go into the land, check it out and come back and bring us a report. What are the people like? What are their dwelling places like? What's the food like over there? Tell us all these things." So they went over there, they were over there for several days and they came back and gave a report. Ten of the twelve came back and said, "That land is amazing. The land is a land flowing with milk and honey. They have great fruit and great food and all of these things, but the people are giants. They're huge. We look like grasshoppers to them. And their cities are these

huge fortified cities. They don't live in tents, they live in huge fortified cities. It's unbelievable." And this was the result of their report. They said, "There is no way that we can go and take this land. The people are too many. We just can't do it." Two of them, Joshua and Caleb said, "We can take this." Caleb was from the tribe of Judah, Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim. The last two faithful ones said, "We can do it, not by our own strength, but by God's strength." And they begin to recount the glories of God saying, "Do you not remember when God did this? Do you not remember when we were being chased by the Egyptians and the Lord opened up the Red Sea and we walked through on high ground, and then when the Egyptians came pursuing us the waters closed them up and drowned them? Do you not remember when we were in the desert and in desperate need of food and God brought manna, bread down from heaven for us to eat? Do you not remember when we were thirsty in the desert and God said, 'Strike that rock, and I'm going to let water come forth from that rock?' Do you not remember His glory? Do you not remember all His deeds? Do you not remember all these marvels and wonders that He's shown you?" So these two guys begin to recount all these things to them and say, "God is faithful. If He's called us to do it, we can do it by His strength. We can do it." But the voices of those ten had won out and they turned, but these two were faithful, one from the tribe of Ephraim, one from the tribe of Judah.

But Ephraim had slowly began to fall away from the Lord and disobey the Lord. I think He uses this as a text to go, "Ephraim was one of my last remaining faithful tribes." But the cool thing about God is He is never without a remnant. He always has a faithful witness. There will never be a time on this earth, a time in this country, a time in this city where there won't be anybody. He always has a faithful witness. Remember in 1 Kings 19 where the nation had gone bad. You've got rulers who are trying to kill Elijah, the prophet of God. And he's running, he's scared and he gets into a hole and just begins to wallow in self-pity and go, "God, just kill me now. I'm Your last faithful follower. Just kill me now." He begins to say that over and over. And the Lord whispers to him and says, "Hey, I've got over 7,000 that have never bowed their knee to Ba'al that still worship Me." That's who God is.

And just as in this, He is looking for a faithful people among us that will be faithful to pass on the glorious deeds, to pass on the might, the wonders of God to the next generation. This is our future. He's looking for that among us. And my prayer is that the people of the Village Church would be that. I pray that we would be about investing in the lives of the next generation the hope of the glory of Christ. Because it is their only hope. They can trust in all these idols, they can trust in relationships, they can trust in people, they can trust in Presidents, they can trust in all these things. But unless their hope is in God, it's all in vain.

And here, He has a faithful witness. His witness is in David. And the cool thing about this is He gives us two things in the very last verse that show us how we can pass on the glorious deeds of God to the next generation. Let's look at verse 72. "With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand." What does that mean to shepherd with an upright heart? He's talking about David. David was a shepherd. If you look in Acts 13 and 1 Samuel, it talks about how David was a man after God's own heart. That's what he was known as, a man after God's own heart. What that simply meant was that he was humble before God and before man. So how do we shepherd this next generation with a humble heart? How do we shepherd humbly? I think it happens in a couple of ways. One is this, that we simply admit to this younger generation that we have faults. And I think the older we get, the more we don't like to admit those faults. We don't like to tell people younger than us, "Aw, I've been down that road and I've made some mistakes and it's cost me." Instead, we want to exalt ourselves as, "Hey, we've done it right all our lives. We've done it this way and we've done it right. You need to follow us." instead of looking at the next generation and going, "Hey, I've blown it." Because the truth of the matter is young people are smart. They can see right through you. And they're looking so desperately for somebody who's authentic and real. Our leaders in our middle school and high school ministry, the majority of them are young, which is kind of a good and bad thing. But one good thing about them being young is that they're open and honest about their mistakes. They're like, "Hey man, I was there five years ago, and I made those mistakes. You need to follow the Lord. Trust the Lord. I made that mistake and this is the road that I took because I took the wrong way in a

crossroad of life." And they're just real and authentic. What does it mean to shepherd humbly? It means to just admit your mistakes.

About a year ago, I had just come home from a long hard day at work. I was tired and just kind of at my wit's end, running out of patience. My three year old son was just acting up, really acting like a three year old. And I disciplined him a little too harshly. After I got done, I was just worn out. I came into the kitchen and my wife said, "Hey, you need to apologize to him." I was like, "You're crazy. he's three. I'm not apologizing to a three year old." She went, "No, you were a little harsh on him. You need to apologize to him." And the more I thought about it, I was wrong. I was wrong and my pride was keeping me in the way from apologizing to my son. And I started thinking, "If I can't apologize to him at three, how will I ever apologize to him at thirteen?" And so I went in there and grabbed that little boy, I put him up on my lap and said, "Hey buddy, dad is sorry. I'm sorry. I was harsh and I'm just tired. I shouldn't have disciplined you so hard. But I love you. I love you so much, and I discipline you because I love you and I want what's best for you. And you need to obey mom and dad. Do you forgive me?" He's like, "Do you got some candy?" I took that for a yes. But that's what it means to shepherd humbly, to simply be real and openly admit your mistakes. Parent's, what would that do with your kids, with your relationship with your kids if you sat on the edge of their bed tonight before they go to sleep and you just admitted some of your faults? With nobody pushing you to do it, just go, "Hey, I'm sorry for some things I've done in parenting you. I'm not a perfect parent. I haven't done this thing perfectly and I've made some mistakes. I just wanted to say I'm sorry." Do you know how much healing that could bring in your relationship with them? And ultimately what you're doing in that situation is you're not exalting yourself as perfect, you're exalting God as perfect. Just go, "Hey, I'm trying to be a good father, but ultimately God is the perfect Father. Worship Him for that." That's what it means to shepherd humbly.

It also means this, to exalt Him as protector. And I know as a parent it's our job to protect our kids as best we can. But ultimately we can't. We cannot protect our children to the extent that we want. My wife had a little baby girl about three and a half months ago. And when we found out it was a little girl, I got really scared. Because I know there were little boys out there just like me. And so automatically all these thoughts just start coming into my mind. I was like, "I've got to hit the gym. I've got to get pumped up. I've got to get huge. I need to go buy some guns and ammunition, learn martial arts. I need to do all these things, so when these boys come knock on our door, I can be in the living room with my shirt off, cleaning my gun going, "What do you want?" That's what I'm thinking, which I thought was a great thought. But the Lord quickly rebuked me and was like, "Hey, you can't protect her even if you did all that stuff. You can't. But I can." What's going to happen when my little girl goes to her elementary school and somebody's mean to her on the playground? "Sorry baby, I can't be there. I'm at work. But you know what? God's with you. He's your protector. Even if you're on the other side of the earth, He's with you at all times." I exalt God as her ultimate protector, and she gets to see Him as that. That's what it means to shepherd humbly.

I think it also means that we exalt Him as provider. I know once again that it's our responsibility to provide for our children as best as we can. And the problem with this is a lot of our generation loves to give our kids all these things when really all they want is us. But we love to give them all these things that our parent's never gave to us. And so we just shower our kids with gifts all the time. And the problem is they never get to see God as provider. They just see us as provider, a cheap imitation. When my wife was about to turn 6 years old, she wanted a birthday party. She loves birthday parties. So she asked her mom, "Mom, can I please have a birthday party?" And at that time, her mom was on a real tight budget and couldn't afford it. And she said, "Baby, I wish we could, but we just don't have the money right now. We just can't afford to do that." And she said, "Well, I'm going to ask God for it and He's going to do it." So her mom's like, "Pray it on, girl." And so my wife begins to pray and ask the Lord, "God, give me a birthday party. I want to have a birthday party." And a week later, they received an envelope in the mail from some friends of the family that had come together and bought a gift together for somebody else. And in that envelope was a check for \$8 for their portion. And my wife was automatically like, "That's my birthday money. The Lord sent us some money." So her mom's like, "You're right. Let's go

cash it. All eight buck of it." And so they took that \$8 to the store and bought some party favors and some things for all the kids that were coming. And they called a friend and were like, "Hey, can we come and have a birthday party at your pool?" They said, "Yeah, absolutely." They bought invitations and said, "Hey, we can save money if we hand delivered these." They had just a bit more money, so they went and bought some cake mix to bake a cake for her birthday party. They had spent all that money and they had two cents left over, and the party was ready to go. And if you ask my wife which birthday is the most memorable to her, she'll say, "Probably when I was six." And she doesn't remember all the gifts that she got, but she remembers God's provision, that God showed Himself as provider. And that story has stayed in her mind and has stayed in our family and we'll pass that on to our kids. Because what's cool about it is twenty so years later, we're married, struggling to meet bills and we're like, "What are we going to do? How is this going to happen? How can we do this?" And my wife says, "God will provide." How did she know God would provide? How can she trust in that? Because she's seen it before. She's seen God's might, she's seen His wonders, she's seen His strength. She's seen His provision that her parent's couldn't provide at that point in time. But she saw God as provider. That's what it means to shepherd humbly, to exalt Him as provider and protector.

Do we have these stories that we're passing down to the next generation? Do you ever read the book of Acts? Do you ever read about all these amazing things that God's doing? Do you ever read that stuff and just say, "Man, I want that stuff to happen in my life?" And maybe it's just a lack of faith, maybe we're just not being obedient, maybe we're not giving Him an opportunity. Maybe we've padded our lives so well and we've got so many fall back plans that we don't need God. I don't know, but I want that stuff to happen. And that stuff does happen at times. My wife and I have a black book that we're writing these stories in. We're writing the stories of God and His provision and His protection and how He's moved in our lives. And our kids will have that one day. And I hope my kids will grow up and I'll come in one day and they're not flipping through the TV but they're flipping through the pages of that book just reading stories about God's faithfulness in our lives. Maybe one day that will get passed down to my grandkids. Do you have those stories of God's faithfulness and God's grace and His love and His might and His power? Are you passing those on to the next generation? Shepherd humbly.

The next thing is this, "With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand." What does that mean to guide with a skillful hand? David was a shepherd of sheep long before he was a shepherd of God's people. But he was building those leadership skills out in the sheep pasture before he was a king in Israel. He was honing those leadership skills. A couple of weeks ago, we had some training in here through Communities in Schools. CiS is a great program. What they do is match you up one to one with at risk children in local schools. You don't tutor them or anything; you just go in once a week to their school and just hang out with them for about an hour. You just spend time with them and encourage them. You just shed a little bit of hope in their life. You go, "Hey man, you can do this. You can pass these classes. You can do this." And their success rate is unbelievable. Kids are graduating, kids are passing their classes and going on to the next grade. It's unbelievable. So I'm like, "Hey, I want to be a part of this." I thought that would be awesome to get involved in the life of another kid in a school that we don't have a lot of students coming to the Village from." So I was like, "I'm going to do middle school." So I cam in her and sat down. And one of my friends came in, named Josh Phillips. He was sitting down on the other side, and I'm like, "Hey, what are you doing?" He was like, "I'm doing elementary." I'm like, "Man, don't do elementary. The kids got snotty noses and stuff. Come on and do middle school with me." He went, "No I want to do elementary." I asked, "Why do you want to do elementary school?" He said, "Because I have two little daughters and within a couple years they're going to be in elementary school, and I want to learn how an elementary school kid thinks. I want to learn how to teach them, how to talk to them. I want to learn the things that they deal with and struggle with. I want to learn all these things so that I'm prepared for when my girls get to that age. I want to be a step ahead of them." I was like, "You're the most brilliant man I've ever met. That's genius." But what he was doing was he was honing those skills on how to pass on the faith to the next generation. That's what he was doing. It's a skill. And David guided God's people with a skillful hand.

I hear people say all the time, "Oh, I can't do Kid's Village. I can't do Little Village. I just don't know how to talk to them." Well nobody does. They're weird and they don't make sense. But it's a skill and you develop that skill just by spending time with them and giving it a shot. And the cool thing about kids is they're so forgiving. Here's my challenge to you, that you engage this next generation. This is our future. If we don't pass our faith on to the next generation, what will become of us? What will church look like in 50 years in America. Invest in the next generation. There are so many opportunities. This is not a ploy for you to call me and get involved in the student ministry. If you want to and if God's leading you to that, come on. But if God's calling you to get involved in Kid's Village, then do it. They need some people in there. Little Village needs some people in there serving and passing on the glorious deeds of the Lord. Communities in Schools is a great organization. Get involved in that. We have a church down in South Dallas called Cornerstone that we're involved in. They do Cornerstone Academy, and they're involved in the lives of teenagers in Dallas. Get involved there. And it may not even be associated with the Village. That's fine. Maybe it's a kid in your neighborhood that every day you drive home he's outside shooting baskets all by himself because his parents don't get home until late after work. Maybe you need to go over there and shoot hoops with him and just begin to talk to him about the Lord. Tell him your testimony and what God's done in your life and what you've seen God do. What this essentially is is the Great Commission. Matthew 28, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." This is the Great Commission. I pray that you would engage this next generation. They are desperately, desperately in need of the hope of Christ.

One of my favorite things to do is go to school lunches. Because we get to see our students in their element. We get to meet their friends and we get to hear people talk. And sometimes I come out really excited, because I love seeing our students and hanging out with them. But sometimes I come out of those things really burdened because I hear how girls are putting their hopes in a relationship with a high school boy who has no idea how to treat them. Or these boys are putting their hopes in athletics because their dads get so excited when they watch their team on the TV screen. And he said, "I want my dad to be that excited about me. Maybe if I pour my life into athletics, that will be my hope that I get some acceptance." And these hopes are vain and fleeting. And if we could just redirect them to hope in the Lord who is faithful and mighty and strong and loving and good, that He could fulfill those hopes by His gospel, by Christ through a transformed relationship. That's my prayer. And so I ask you to join me and engage this next generation for the hope of the gospel of Christ in them.

Let's pray, "Father, we thank You so much that You are good, that You are great, You're mighty. I thank You that we don't have to embellish stories about Your greatness or about Your strength. But Father, I pray that we would take this challenge a little more serious. I pray that we would not just hold these stories in about God's faithfulness, that we would not just keep them to ourselves but that we would pass them on to a next generation that is looking for hope. I pray that they might remember the works of God, that they might set their hope in You, that they might obey the Lord. May we be faithful to that task. Lord, please move in Your people and transform us that we might transform the next generation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."