

Week 27– Questions to Consider

Psalm 78 ~ Psalm 79 ~ Psalm 80 ~ Proverbs 17:1-14

Small Group Warm Up Question:

How do you think church will change over the next 10 years? 50 years?

1. How does it encourage you to know that God never abandoned His love of you, even when you were living in sin as a lost soul? In what ways did you see God's faithfulness in spite of your rebellious heart during those seasons? Why did Israel need a similar reminder in Psalm 78?
2. Why would you want the "coming generation" in your family to learn from your mistakes rather than to repeat your mistakes? What are ways we can effectively warn and guide our children and grandchildren? (Psalm 78:4)
3. What are some ways we can effectively reach and teach the "next generation" about Jesus? Why is it important and motivating to have your Christian faith reach the "children yet unborn" and "their children"? (Psalms 78:6)
4. Why are setting one's "hope in God", not forgetting "the work of God", and keeping "his commandments" evidences of saving faith? (Psalm 78:7) Why are not keeping "God's covenant", refusing to "walk according to the law", and forgetting "his works" evidences of lostness and rebellion? (Psalm 78:10-11, 22)
5. Why is the description of the Exodus such an example of what it looks like to follow or rebel against God? (Psalm 78:12-55)? What descriptions of Israel's sins parallel ways we sin today?
6. Psalm 79 is a Psalm of lament over Israel's suffering from their disobedience, with grief and repentance. What areas of our community, state, or nation grieve you today? Where do we need to see repentance, confessing our sin and responding in obedience?
7. When was a prolonged season of suffering in your life? How did you speak to God in prayer in that season? What parts of Psalm 79 & 80 sound similar to ways you may have prayed?
8. Why is the name of God as "shepherd" and the people of God as "flock" always a good reminder? (Psalm 80:1)
9. Why is asking God to "let your face shine" such an important way to pray? (Psalm 80:3)
10. When was a time your recommitted to your relationship with God? What were your prayers like? What were your hopes and goals? How did you mature, grow, and take steps closer to God in that season? (Psalm 80:18)

More questions @ www.southfork.church/psalms-proverbs-discussion-guide

Sound Steps

Psalm 78 (ESV)

Unstable Steps - The Walk of the Lost

Psalm 78:10–11 "They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law. [11] They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them."

1) PAST STEPS - Ungrateful M_____.

"They forgot his works & the wonders that he had shown them"

2) PRESENT STEPS - Disobedient Steps

"did not keep God's covenant"

3) FUTURE STEPS - S_____ -Focused Path

"refused to walk according to his law"

Why do the spiritually-dead (lost) live the way they do?

Psalm 78:22 "because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power."

Sound Steps - The Walk of the Saved

Psalm 78:7 "so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments"

1) PAST STEPS - Grateful for the Journey

"not forget the works of God"

2) PRESENT STEPS - J_____ -Focused Path

"keep his commandments"

3) FUTURE STEPS - Eternal Hope

"set their hope in God"

Why do the born-again live the way they do?

Belief & Trust in Jesus - "Follow Me"

Steps for a Better Christian Walk

1. **L**_____

Psalm 78:1 “Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!”

2. **Learn**

Psalm 78:2–4 “I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, [3] things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. [4] 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.”

3. **A**_____ **these Unstable Steps :**

- **Abandoning God in Times of Difficulty**

Psalm 78:9 “The Ephraimites, armed with the bow, turned back on the day of battle.”

- **Rebelling against God for Times of P**_____

Psalm 78:17 “Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert.”, Psalm 78:40–41

- 1 Corinthians 10:6–13 “Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ...
- Exodus 32:4 “golden calf”
- Exodus 32:6 “sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”
- Numbers 25:1 “the people began to whore”
- Numbers 21:5 “we loathe this worthless food.”
- Numbers 14:3–4 “Let us choose a leader & go back to Egypt.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:12–13 “Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

- **Personal Discontent with the Lord’s Provision**

Psalm 78:18 “They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved.”

- Exodus 16:1-36 & Numbers 11:1-15, 31-35

- **Public D**_____ **of God’s Care and Power**

Psalm 78:19 “They spoke against God, saying, ‘Can God spread a table in the wilderness?’”

4. **Thank God for His Love**

- *His Grace* - Psalm 78:23–27 “Yet he commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven, [24] and he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven. [25] Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance. [26] He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind; [27] he rained meat on them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas”
- *His Mercy* - Psalm 78:38 “Yet he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath.”

5. **Share the Warnings & the Way**

Psalm 78:5–6 “He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, [6] that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children”

- “The Way” - John 14:6, Acts 9:2; 19:9,23; 24:14,22

This Next Week’s Psalms & Proverbs Reading Plan:

Week 28: Psalm 81 ~ Psalm 82 ~ Psalm 83 ~ Proverbs 17:15-28

- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo
- **Our Plan:** www.southfork.church/2023-bible-reading-plan

Sound Steps

Psalm 78 (ESV)

Unstable Steps - The Walk of the Lost

Psalm 78:10–11 “They did not keep God’s covenant, but refused to walk according to his law. [11] They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them.”

1) PAST STEPS - Ungrateful Memory

“They forgot his works & the wonders that he had shown them”

2) PRESENT STEPS - Disobedient Steps

“did not keep God’s covenant”

3) FUTURE STEPS - Self-Focused Path

“refused to walk according to his law”

Why do the spiritually-dead (lost) live the way they do?

Psalm 78:22 “because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power.”

Sound Steps - The Walk of the Saved

Psalm 78:7 “so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments”

1) PAST STEPS - Grateful for the Journey

“not forget the works of God”

2) PRESENT STEPS - Jesus-Focused Path

“keep his commandments”

3) FUTURE STEPS - Eternal Hope

“set their hope in God”

Why do the born-again live the way they do?

Belief & Trust in Jesus - “Follow Me”

Steps for a Better Christian Walk

1. Listen

Psalm 78:1 “Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!”

2. Learn

Psalm 78:2–4 “I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, [3] things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. [4] 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.”

3. Avoid these Unstable Steps :

- Abandoning God in Times of Difficulty

Psalm 78:9 “The Ephraimites, armed with the bow, turned back on the day of battle.”

- Rebelling against God for Times of Pleasure

Psalm 78:17 “Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert.”

Psalm 78:40–41 “How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the desert! [41] They tested God again and again and provoked the Holy One of Israel.”

- 1 Corinthians 10:6–11 “Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. [7] Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” [8] We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. [9] We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, [10] nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. [11] Now these things

happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

- Exodus 32:4 “And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!”
- Exodus 32:6 “And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”
- Numbers 25:1 “While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab.”
- Numbers 21:5 “And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.”
- Numbers 14:3–4 “Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:12–13 “Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. [13] No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

- **Personal Discontent with the Lord’s Provision**

Psalm 78:18 “They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved.”

- Exodus 16:1-36 & Numbers 11:1-15, 31-35

- **Public Doubt of God’s Care and Power**

Psalm 78:19 “They spoke against God, saying, ‘Can God spread a table in the wilderness?’”

4. Thank God for His Love

- *His Grace* - Psalm 78:23–27 “Yet he commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven, [24] and he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven. [25] Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance. [26] He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind; [27] he rained meat on them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas”
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