

Connecting Church and Home

Quarter 2, Week 13 :: **Kings and Prophets**

Treasure Story: Psalm 78

Can you imagine gently serving someone over and over again who continually brushes you off and fails to acknowledge your kindness? After a while, we would surely become fatigued from serving and uninterested in helping such an ungrateful person. Unfortunately, when it comes to our relationship with God, we are the ungrateful ones and He is the kind and faithful servant. Psalm 78 illustrates this dynamic as it played out between God and the children of Israel. Ultimately God's kindness is meant to win our hearts and lead us to repentance through His Son the promised Messiah.

Connect

"Repentance is a grace of God's Spirit whereby a sinner is inwardly humbled and visibly reformed."
– Thomas Watson

Despite the many graces that God showed His people Israel throughout their history, many of them never repented. He wanted them to love Him and have faith in His plan of redemption. He wanted to bless them and be good to them, and He was despite their faithlessness. Now that Christ has come all people have even more reason to repent and believe instead of going their own way. Thankfully the longsuffering God of the Old Testament is also the longsuffering Heavenly Father of the New Testament. Here are a few reminders of God's patient love toward us:

- **What I Deserve:** Sit down with your children and talk about how we don't always get the punishment that we deserve. Make a list of things that you all have done and then write down what punishment you should have gotten but didn't. Then take some time to praise God and thank Him for showing mercy and not what you deserved.
- **What God Deserves:** Many times we think about what we deserve or don't deserve but how often do we spend time thinking about what God deserves? Talk with your children about the grace of the Lord and then together as a family make a list of things that God deserves from you, such as worship, obedience, praise, love, unity as a family, and faithfulness to the church. Encourage each other to remember that we should give God what He deserves not to earn His favor but because we have already been favored by Him in Christ.

My Mission As Parent

- How often do you catch yourself brushing off God's many acts of love and kindness toward you? How do you respond? How do you respond when your children brush off your kindness to them?
- How important is repentance in your daily schedule? How often do you think about repentance?
- Is the fact that God doesn't treat us according to our sins but according to His mercy a source of regular encouragement?

Prayer Points

- Ask the Lord to help you and your children be mindful of God's daily faithfulness and mercy.
- Pray that the Lord will help you make repentance a part of your daily life.
- Praise the Lord for treating us not according to our sins but according to His grace and mercy.