



SDG Discussion Guide

Psalm 78

February 23, 2020

For starters:

What were your favorite stories when you were young: Mother Goose? Aesop's Fables? Grimm's Fairy Tales? Home-spun stories? Bible stories? Others? What are the favorite stories of any children you've known (at home, in school, in church)?

Who is the keeper of your family stories and traditions? Do you ever hear of times when your folks or grandparents were young? What warnings or encouragement to future generations is implicit in their oft-repeated stories?

Guideline:

The following is meant to provide interaction with the respective Sunday's sermon text. Feel free to forward it to your small group members. Hard copies are available at Church on the respective Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud and slowly the selected passage in your group.

Before you begin your discussion, pray, and ask God to speak to your group. Listen attentively, and notice, what may God be highlighting for your consideration and learning?

Now that you have prayed, please see the following questions that may assist you in your discussion.

1. People in biblical times did not have access to scripture. What took the place of history books, schools, and seminaries (vv 1-8)? What does this believer want future believers to know and not forget about God? Whose responsibility is it to see that they remember (see also Dt 6:6-9)?
2. Who are the men of Ephraim (vv 9-11; see Jer 31:5-6)? Who does Ephraim come to symbolize as the list of sins grows (vv 8-11)? What difference should these miracles of the past make in their present lives?
3. How would you characterize the role Israel relegated to God (vv 32-39)? What name would you give to the "game" Israel plays with God: a) The spirit is willing, the flesh is weak? b) Flattery will get you anywhere? c) Lip service only? d) Insincerity? e) Let's buy some time? f) Good start, but no follow-through? g) All head, no heart?
4. Does this psalm leave you hanging? How did the New Testament writers pick up where the psalmist left off (see Mt 2:6; Jn 10:1-18; Rev 7:17)?
5. How do you feel about God's involvement in the staging of your own continuing story: a) God has written every chapter? b) God is seen between the lines only? c) God is the audience? d) God is the director?
6. What lesson would you like to pass along to the next generation? What historical example would you use to make your point?
7. What story of God's past dealings with you can you "remember" in times of temptation, forgetfulness and doubt you still face?

Prayer:

Lord, help us to remember our story in your great story and the redemptive, defining moments that have given shape and purpose to our lives. Help us to remember where you have been with us in critical points along the journey. Encourage us in our present circumstance and galvanize us once more in your courage and hope, that we may faithfully share your goodness and promises to the next generation. In Jesus' name, amen.

*The discussion questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan,