

Beliefs Matter

Discovery Starters

Witness

We are called to **share the Gospel of Jesus Christ** with those who do not know Him

[Psa 78:1-7](#); [Isa 40:3-11](#); [Mic 4:1-2](#); [Hab 2:14](#); [Luk 24:44-48](#);
[Act 3:12-26](#); [Act 10:39-43](#); [1Co 9:19-23](#); [2Co 2:12-17](#); [1Pe 3:15-18](#)

Belief #3 – Witness: Tell the Next Generation

Biblical Foundation:

O my people, listen to my instructions. Open your ears to what I am saying, for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past—stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us. We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders. For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands (Psa 78:1-7).

Discovery Starter:

When we think of global evangelism, let us not forget a frequently overlooked demographic: the youngest among us. The renowned evangelist, Dwight L Moody, reportedly said, “At a certain meeting two and a half people were converted to Christ. A friend asked if he meant, two adults and a child. The facts were just the opposite two children and an adult. When a child is led to Christ, a whole life is saved!”¹

Reaching a younger person with the gospel should be a high priority for everyone of us. A Barna study in the US revealed that “two out of three born again Christians (64%) made that commitment to Christ before their 18th birthday” – and 77% did so in their first 21 years of life!² Certainly it is no accident that Jesus told his disciples, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them!” (Luk 18:16). Let’s focus on the next generation when we share the gospel.

Unfortunately, although Hezekiah was a good king (2Ch 18:3) ... his priorities were short-sighted. At the end of his reign a delegation from Babylon visited him. This occurred "to test him and to see what was really in his heart" (2Ch 32:31). Because Babylon was a only minor player on the world stage in those days, Hezekiah displayed to them all his treasures. He failed the test; his pride was exposed. As a result, Isaiah the prophet confronted him with future judgement which would result in his sons being "taken away into exile" (2Ki 20:12-18). Instead of repenting, Hezekiah compounded his sin, saying, "At least there will be peace and security during my lifetime" (2Ki 20:19). His utter disregard for how his life would impact the next generation had devastating effects. Tragically, his son Manasseh proved to be the most wicked of all of Judah's kings, even sacrificing "his own son" – Hezekiah's grandson – "in the fire" (2Ki 20:2-6).

May this be an ever-present lesson to us. May we never lose sight of the next generation. May we pass on to them the stories of redemption that will lead them in the ways of God.

Keep Going:

The Scriptures repeatedly underline the need of passing on the legacy of God's redemption to the next generation. Take time to reread this discovery starter's foundational passage and consider the following portions of Scripture:

- Exodus 10:1-2
- Leviticus 23:42-43
- Deuteronomy 4:9; 31:10-13
- Psalm 22:29-31; 79:13; 89:1-2; 145:1-7
- Isaiah 38:19
- Joel 1:2-3

In light of the exhortations in these passages, what steps do you believe God would want you to take to share the good news with a younger person? Make a determination in your heart to obey God and do what he has spoken to you.

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1. See <https://www.quotetab.com/quote/by-dwight-l-moody/at-a-certain-meeting-two-and-a-half-people-were-converted-to-christ-a-friend-as?source=opposites>
 2. <https://www.barna.com/research/evangelism-is-most-effective-among-kids/>