



September 6, 2026

Sermon Title: Arise for Who's Next

by: Pastor Alan Hannah

Scripture: [Psalm 78:1-8, 11] —¹"O my people, listen to my instructions. Open your ears to what I am saying, ²for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past— ³stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us. ⁴We 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. ⁵For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, ⁶so the next generation might know them— even the children not yet born— and they in turn will teach their own children. ⁷So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands. ⁸Then they will not be like their ancestors— stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God. ¹¹They forgot what he had done— the great wonders he had shown them."

Last week's Big Idea: **God's blessings come when we trust His perspective on what's next more than our nostalgia for what was.**

This week's Big Idea: **We don't arise for us. We arise for who's next.**

Hebrew word for "so the next generation might know" (Psalm 78:6) is literally "arise".

THE GENERATION AFTER JOSHUA

Scripture: [Judges 2:7,10] ⁷"And the Israelites served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and the leaders who outlived him—those who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel... ¹⁰After that generation died, another generation grew up (arose) who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel."

Scripture: [Deuteronomy 6:4-7] ⁴"Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up."

THIS SEASON FOR ACAC

Family & Kids; Students; Next Generation of Leaders

TO THE OLDER GENERATION

Scripture: [Titus 2:2-6] ²"Teach the older men to exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely... ⁴Teach the older women to live in a way that honors God... ⁵and train the younger women to love their husbands and their children... ⁶In the same way, encourage the young men to live wisely."

Scripture: [Psalm 71:17-18] ¹⁷"O God, you have taught me from my earliest childhood, and I constantly tell others about the wonderful things you do. ¹⁸Now that I am old and gray, do not abandon me, O God. Let me proclaim your power to this new generation, your mighty miracles to all who come after me."

Life Group Discussion Questions

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WARM-UPS:

1. What is one valuable lesson or tradition you learned from a mentor or elder?
2. Who intentionally invested in your spiritual growth when you were younger or as a young believer? What did they do?

DISCUSSION:

1. Read Psalm 78:1-8. Discuss the Psalmist's command to remember and tell. What is our duty, purpose, and warning to share with a younger generation? What are some examples you or others have shared?
2. Read Judges 2:7,10. What is the danger of a silent generation? How does one avoid faith failure and shift from one generation to another, keeping in mind that it is always one generation away from extinction if we fail to pass it on? What practical steps can we take to avoid spiritual decline?
3. Pastor Alan shared: *"Rising up is not the same as remembering rightly — a generation can be active and engaged and still miss the whole point."* Discuss his warning for ACAC: "a full calendar of ministry activity isn't the same as actual discipleship." How is this prevented?
4. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7. When you think about the rhythm of daily discipleship, discuss the importance of the foundation of love for God, methods and lifestyle when impressing His commands on your children, grandchildren or others. What is the difference between formal teaching and lifestyle discipleship?
5. Pastor Alan commented, *"Every ordinary moment is an opportunity to pass faith to your children."* Share examples from your childhood or with your children, grandchildren or others.
6. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or inspiring in the sermon today, and what will you do differently as a result? What did the Holy Spirit impress upon you?

IN THE WORD: Read the following scripture passages and discuss how they apply to this week's sermon about "Arise for Who's Next".

- Proverbs 22:6 - Starting children on the right path.
- 2 Timothy 1:5 - The power of a legacy of faith.
- Psalm 145:4 – One generation commending God's works to another.
- Joel 1:3 – the multi-generational command to tell the story of God's judgments and blessings.

PRACTICE:

1. Pastor Alan shared multiple opportunities to "arise" in Family & Kids and Students ministries and the development of the Next Generation of Leaders. How can God use your gifts, time and talents in these areas of ministry and service to "teach and train".
2. If you are part of the older generation, how is the Lord challenging you to be proactive in the following areas: MENTORING a college student, young adult, or newly married couple; ENCOURAGING a student or young family in the lobby instead of walking past; EQUIPPING, TEACHING a class, LEADING a small group, SERVING in kids or student ministries, or ENGAGING with our young adults on Monday night; FUNDING what's next, like giving towards a residency program, and family ministries.