

ONE GENERATION AWAY

Week 1 | Remember | Teacher: Libin Abraham

Sermon Questions for 8.02.2026

OPENER

What does a family's faith legacy look like after one generation of silence? Libin opened by pointing to the Vanderbilts, once the wealthiest family in America, who lost everything not through war or tragedy, but simply because the next generation was never prepared to receive what had been built. Their fortune was gone in a single generation. In the same way, our faith can be squandered just as quickly.

READ

Joshua 3:15-4:24; Judges 2:7-10

MAIN POINTS

1. God Designs Rhythms of Remembrance

Throughout Scripture, God built intentional practices, Passover, Pentecost, the Sabbath, Communion, to call his people back to what he had done. He knows how easily we drift and how quickly we forget. Remembering is not just a mental exercise; it is an act of worship that anchors our hearts in the faithfulness of God. Every rhythm God established was an invitation to return to the story of his goodness.

2. The Stones Were Gathered for the Next Generation

When Israel crossed the flooded Jordan on dry ground, God did not let them simply celebrate and move on. He commanded twelve men, one from each tribe, to carry heavy stones from the middle of the riverbed to Gilgal. These stones were not for those who had witnessed the miracle; they were for the children who would one day ask, "What do these stones mean?" God's command was not ultimately to collect stones but to tell stories. The impossible had become their testimony, and the testimony had to be passed on.

3. The Stories Disappeared

In just one generation after Joshua, the people of Israel no longer knew the Lord or the works he had done. The stones still stood at Gilgal. The stories were still true. But somewhere along the way, the conversations had stopped. Life grew comfortable in the promised land, and the visits to Gilgal became less frequent. The tragedy was not simply that the next generation forgot; it is that the previous generation stopped telling. When the stories of God's faithfulness go silent, moral chaos follows.

4. Pass Down the Stories You Have Lived

Libin shared his own family's chain of testimony, from grandparents who first believed and paid a costly price, to parents who left successful careers to plant churches, to his own call into ministry at Bent Tree. Because he had inherited those stories, he had a framework for faith when God called him to take bold, unexplainable steps. He closed with three searching questions: What story are you believing? What story are you living? And what story are you leaving? The greatest gift you can pass to the next generation is not an inheritance of wealth, but a legacy of testimony.

ENGAGE WITH GOD IN A GROUP

- When you look back over your life, what is one moment where God's faithfulness was unmistakable? Have you ever told that story out loud to someone younger or newer in faith?

- Libin described the twelve stones as "conversation starters" designed to make children ask questions. What are some "memorial stones" in your own life, a journal, a baptism photo, a place, a moment, that serve as reminders of what God has done?
- How does sharing a personal faith story differ from simply explaining what you believe? Why might stories be more powerful than statements of belief when it comes to passing faith to the next generation?
- Judges 2:10 says the next generation "did not know the Lord or the works he had done." Libin asked: was it the fault of those who forgot, or those who failed to tell? What do you think, and what does that mean for us today?
- Libin said, "We don't inherit our parent's faith, but we do inherit their stories." Whose faith story has most shaped your own walk with God? What did they pass on to you?
- Who has God entrusted to you, a child, a grandchild, a coworker, a friend, someone in your life group, who needs to hear your story of what God has done?
- This week, take one concrete step toward passing your story on. Who will you share with, and which part of your story do you most need to tell?

BOTTOM LINE

We are always one generation away from forgetting, so remember what God has done, live it faithfully, and tell the story before it goes silent.