

## Generations Matter – Genesis 10

We've been blessed this morning by Joel Zabarowski as he shared updates on Ancient Path Disciplemaking and then opened God's Word to us from Genesis 10. This chapter, often called the "Table of Nations," details how the earth was repopulated after the flood through Noah's three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. While it may seem like a simple list of names and locations, Genesis 10 reveals important truths about generations—their differences and our responsibilities.

Generations differ in language, location, and most importantly, in the lords they serve. The good news is that God calls every generation to faithfully pass on the knowledge and worship of the true Lord. We are just three generations away from a generation that may not know the Lord (see Judges 2). Therefore, we must intentionally invest in the next generation so that they walk in the way of the Lord.

### 1. Generations Speak Different Languages

Different generations develop their own vocabularies and ways of communicating. From "groovy" and "far out" (Boomers) to "whatever" and "my bad" (Gen X), to "lit," "sus," and "no cap" (Millennials/Gen Z), each generation has its own "tongue."

**Application:** We must seek to **understand** one another. Older generations should listen to the young. Younger generations should honor the wisdom of those who have gone before. Laugh at the differences in good humor, but always build one another up with encouraging, clean speech. As the body of Christ, our language must reflect the King we serve.

### 2. Generations Live in Different Locations

After the flood, Noah's descendants spread across the earth into different territories, clans, and nations (Genesis 10:5, 20, 31-32). Today, families are often geographically scattered.

**Application:** Proximity is a blessing, but distance does not excuse disconnection. If you live near family, invest in one another. If you are far apart, stay connected through technology (calls, video) and intentional travel. Even in the church family, we must intentionally connect across generations—older investing in younger and vice versa.

### 3. Generations Serve Different Lords

This is the most critical difference. Nimrod (a descendant of Ham) became a "mighty hunter before the Lord"—a rebel who built cities like Nineveh and Babel that opposed God. The Canaanites (also from Ham) became enemies of God's people. In contrast, the line of Shem led to Abraham.

The sermon illustrated this danger with Judges 2: - Joshua's generation **knew** and served the Lord. - The next generation **saw** God's works and still served Him. - The third generation **did not know** the Lord and served the Baals.

We are always one generation away from spiritual decline if we fail to pass on the faith.

**Application:** Whatever generation you belong to, you are responsible to pass on the knowledge and love of the Lord. Foolish parents can produce rebellious children (Noah's example). Success in the world's eyes (like Nimrod) can still equal failure before God. Our mission is clear: "Direct [our] children and [our] household after [us] to keep the way of the Lord" (Genesis 18:19).

## 10 P-Words for Raising a Godly Generation

Joel gave us ten practical words to help us shepherd the next generation faithfully:

1. **Provide** – A loving, encouraging environment and the truth of God’s Word.
2. **Protect** – Spiritually guard your home and family (pray against the enemy, remove evil influences).
3. **Present** – Be present with the next generation. Spend time doing what they enjoy.
4. **Proclaim** – Regularly speak the gospel and read God’s Word together.
5. **Pray** – Pray for and with the next generation.
6. **Pastor** – Care for their hearts, comfort them in pain, and bring them to church.
7. **Pilot** – Set the course with Jesus at the center of family life.
8. **Police** – Lovingly correct, discipline, and say “no” when needed.
9. **Pirate** – Learn from other godly families. “Steal” good ideas from those raising faithful children.
10. **Partner** – Maintain unity in marriage and partner with the church family.

### Closing Challenge

Where are you in the generational story? Are you actively investing in those coming behind you? Different languages and locations matter less than the Lord we serve and pass on. Bring any gaps in your generational faithfulness to Christ today. Repent, receive His grace, and commit to being a link in a chain of faithfulness for God’s glory and the good of those who come after you.

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**Main Points:**

1. Generations Speak Different Languages – Understand, laugh, and build up.
2. Generations Live in Different Locations – Stay intentionally connected.
3. Generations Serve Different Lords – Faithfully pass on the true Lord (avoid Judges 2 drift).

**Practical Tools:** 10 P-Words for godly generational investment.

*Note on transparency:* These notes are compiled from the provided sermon transcript. We do not have access to the original speaker’s personal notes or slides.