റിവ. ഡി. ജെ. അജിത് കുമാർ

God's Faithfulness through Generations

ആശ്രമ സമൂഹം · 2026 നവംബർ 1

> മുഖ്യ വാക്യം
> Mark 10:14 : "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."
>
> വായനകൾ
> Proverbs 3:1–12; Psalm 145; 2 Timothy 1:1–8; Mark 10:13–16

Sunday – 1 November 2026

Context: Teaching children faith, family worship.

Today, as we celebrate World Sunday School Sunday, we are reminded of two beautiful truths: God has been faithful to every generation, and we have a responsibility to pass on our faith to the generations that follow us. Central Message: God's faithfulness continues from generation to generation when families and churches teach children to know Christ, practise faith at home, and grow together in the love of God. Every generation has its own challenges. Our grandparents grew up in a different world, our generation has experienced tremendous social and technological changes, and our children are growing up in a world shaped by smartphones, social media, academic competition, consumerism and countless distractions. Yet one truth remains unchanged: the faithfulness of God never changes, even when the world around us changes. Psalm 145:4 declares, "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." This is not merely a beautiful statement of praise; it is a responsibility entrusted to every generation of believers. We must tell our children what God has done, teach them His Word, demonstrate His love through our lives and help them develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Christian faith is not something we should keep to ourselves. It is a precious gift that we must share with our children and grandchildren. We cannot assume that the next generation will automatically inherit our faith simply because they are born into Christian families. Faith must be taught, demonstrated, nurtured and experienced. Our readings today lead us to three important truths about passing on faith from one generation to another.

1. God's Faithfulness Must Be Remembered and Taught at Home

Proverbs 3:1–12 begins with a father's instruction to his child: "My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart." These words remind us that faith formation begins with teaching, guidance, discipline and the example of those who care for children. The writer of Proverbs does not merely encourage children to memorise rules. He calls them to trust in the Lord with all their hearts, acknowledge Him in all their ways and receive His wisdom. The purpose of Christian teaching is not simply to produce children who know Bible stories, but to nurture young people who trust God, love their neighbours, practise honesty and make decisions according to His Word. The family is the first school of faith. Before children learn about God in Sunday School, they often develop their first understanding of

faith by observing their parents and grandparents. They notice how their parents pray, how they speak to one another, how they treat people in need, how they respond to difficulties and how they practise forgiveness. A child may forget many words spoken by adults, but the example of a parent's life can remain in the child's heart for years. If we teach children to pray but never pray with them, they may struggle to understand the importance of prayer. If we teach them to love others but allow hatred and bitterness to dominate our homes, our actions may contradict our teaching. Therefore, family worship is essential. A Christian family need not organise a complicated programme. A few minutes each day can become a powerful spiritual experience. Families can read a short passage from the Bible, sing a hymn, share a prayer request and pray together. Parents can ask children what they have learned about God and encourage them to speak honestly about their questions and struggles. Family worship is not about creating a perfect religious atmosphere. It is about inviting Christ into the ordinary experiences of everyday life. When a family prays together during illness, gives thanks during times of blessing, seeks God's guidance during difficult decisions and forgives one another after disagreements, children begin to see that faith is not limited to Sunday worship. It is a way of life. Psalm 145 reminds us that one generation must declare God's mighty acts to the next. We must share our testimonies with our children. Tell them how God sustained your family during difficult times, how prayer strengthened you, how Scripture guided your decisions and how God's grace helped you overcome your failures. The faithfulness we have experienced must become the testimony we pass on. We cannot guarantee that our children will make every decision according to our wishes, but we can faithfully plant the seeds of God's Word in their hearts and pray that those seeds will grow.

2. The Church Must Welcome Children and Help Them Grow in Faith

In Mark 10:13-16, people bring little children to Jesus so that He may touch them. The disciples rebuke those who bring the children, perhaps believing that Jesus has more important things to do. But Jesus responds strongly: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them.” This is our key verse for today. Jesus does not treat children as an interruption to His ministry. He receives them, embraces them and blesses them. In doing so, He demonstrates that children have a special place in the kingdom of God. The disciples saw children as people who could wait. Jesus saw them as people who should be welcomed. The disciples tried to keep them away. Jesus called them closer. What a powerful message for the Church today! We must ask ourselves whether our congregations are places where children are welcomed, heard, nurtured and encouraged to grow in faith. Do we regard children's ministry as a minor activity, or do we recognise it as one of the central responsibilities of the Church? World Sunday School Sunday reminds us of the importance of Christian education for children. The modern Sunday School movement is commonly associated with Robert Raikes, an English newspaper publisher who began an organised Sunday School initiative in Gloucester, England, in 1780. He sought to provide education, moral instruction and biblical teaching to children, particularly those from poor working families who had little access to schooling. Sunday Schools gradually spread, becoming an important part of Christian education and community life.

In India, too, Sunday Schools have played a significant role in teaching children the Bible,

introducing them to Christian worship, nurturing their spiritual lives and preparing future generations for service in the Church and society. However, Sunday School must be more than a weekly classroom where children memorise Bible verses and learn songs. It should be a place where they encounter the love of Jesus, discover their God-given dignity, learn to pray, develop Christian values and understand their responsibility towards others. Sunday School teachers are therefore performing a sacred ministry. Their work may sometimes appear ordinary, but its influence can last a lifetime. A teacher who patiently explains a Bible story, listens to a child's concerns or encourages a discouraged student may leave a lasting spiritual impression. At the same time, the Church must equip Sunday School teachers, provide appropriate teaching materials, encourage creative methods of learning and create safe environments where children can grow. Parents, pastors, Sunday School teachers and the wider congregation must work together. Sunday School cannot replace family worship, and family worship cannot replace the ministry of the Church. They must strengthen one another. Let us remember that the children sitting in our churches today are not merely the future of the Church; they are an important part of the Church today. They can worship God, learn His Word, serve others and share their faith in ways appropriate to their age. When Jesus welcomed children, He challenged His disciples to change their attitude. May He also change our attitude towards children's ministry.

3. Faith Must Be Modelled, Nurtured and Passed on to the Next Generation

Our reading from 2 Timothy 1:1-8 provides a beautiful example of faith passing from one generation to another. Paul remembers the sincere faith that lived first in Timothy's grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice, and which, Paul says, now lives in Timothy. We are not given many details about Lois and Eunice, but their names have been preserved in Scripture because their faith influenced the next generation. Timothy's spiritual journey was strengthened by the faith he witnessed in his family. This reminds us that children learn faith not only through instruction but also through relationships and example. Lois and Eunice may not have held prominent positions in the Church, but their influence helped shape a young servant of God. Their faith became part of Timothy's spiritual foundation.

Parents and grandparents, never underestimate the influence of your prayers and example. You may wonder whether your children listen when you speak about God. You may feel that your efforts are small in comparison with the influences surrounding them. Yet a prayer offered in faith, a Bible story shared with love, a word of encouragement or an act of forgiveness can remain in a child's memory long after the moment has passed. We must also recognise that passing on faith does not mean forcing children to repeat our experiences or making every decision for them. Our responsibility is to introduce them to Christ, teach them the Scriptures, demonstrate Christian character and encourage them to develop their own living relationship with God. As they grow, they will have questions and face choices that differ from those of previous generations. We must listen patiently, guide them wisely and pray faithfully. Paul encourages Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of God.” This reminds us that faith must be nurtured. A child who has learned about Jesus needs opportunities to practise compassion, share with others, forgive friends, stand for truth and serve the community. Faith becomes stronger when it is lived out. This is especially important in

today's world. Children face pressures that previous generations may not have experienced in the same way. Digital media, academic competition, bullying, loneliness and the desire for acceptance can deeply influence their lives. We cannot protect children from every difficulty, but we can help them develop spiritual roots that will sustain them through life's storms. Parents must be willing to listen when children ask difficult questions about God, suffering, injustice or the challenges they observe in the world. Instead of discouraging their questions, we should guide them towards thoughtful reflection, prayer and a deeper understanding of Scripture. A child who feels safe asking questions at home and in church is more likely to develop a faith that is personally meaningful and resilient. We must also teach children that faith is not merely about attending church services or belonging to a Christian family. It is about following Jesus in everyday life: telling the truth when lying seems easier, helping someone who is excluded, respecting people who are different, caring for creation and standing with those who are suffering. Our greatest legacy is not simply the property we leave behind, the education we provide or the achievements we accumulate. It is the faith we demonstrate and the knowledge of Christ we help others discover. We cannot live our children's faith for them, but we can show them the way to Jesus.

Conclusion

Dear brothers and sisters, the theme of our meditation is “God’s Faithfulness through Generations.” Our readings have shown us that God's faithfulness must be remembered and taught at home, that the Church must welcome and nurture children, and that faith must be modelled and passed on through the example of parents, grandparents and teachers. On this World Sunday School Sunday, let us renew our commitment to children's spiritual formation. Let every Christian home become a place of prayer and Bible reading. Let every church become a welcoming community for children. Let every Sunday School teacher recognise the sacred importance of their ministry. Let every parent and grandparent understand that their faith-filled example can influence generations to come. Let us not leave the spiritual development of our children entirely to Sunday School teachers or church leaders. Let us take responsibility in our own homes. Let us make time to pray with our children, read the Bible together, share our testimonies and demonstrate the love of Christ through our actions. Let us also remember the children who do not have the support of a Christian family, those who are neglected or vulnerable, and those who struggle to find love and acceptance. As the Church, we are called to become a spiritual family where every child is welcomed, protected, encouraged and given opportunities to grow. The greatest gift we can offer the next generation is not merely a comfortable life, but a living faith in Jesus Christ. Our children may inherit our homes, our possessions and our traditions, but what they most need is to discover the God who has been faithful to us. May the words of Psalm 145:4 become our commitment: “One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.” May our children know the Lord, may their children know Him after them, and may the generations yet to come continue to proclaim the goodness and faithfulness of God. May the Lord help us to be faithful witnesses today, so that the next generation may walk with Christ tomorrow. Amen.