



Faith Adventures for Children Together



Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

*Committed to URC Children Together:
enabling everyone to grow more like Jesus
together in the home, church and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: www.bit.ly/FACT-how-to-sheet

Title: Psalm 78: 1 - 7

Theme: Intergenerational sharing

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

This week our focus is on Psalm 78:1–7. This session would be great to use as a café church.

Today's a passage that beautifully reminds us of the importance of passing on the stories of God's faithfulness from one generation to the next.

Children inherit many things from their families – genes that shape their appearance, habits that influence their daily routines and, most meaningfully, traditions that form their values and beliefs. These traditions can be biological, passed down through family lines, or spiritual, shared within the wider faith community. Yet traditions can change and be adapted, we don't have to continue in the same way we always have, the world is constantly changing. Can we empower people to adapt traditions and/or create new ones?

Psalm 78 calls us to be intentional about what we pass on. It's not just about telling stories – it's about building a legacy of faith. Today's session will help young people begin to understand that they are part of something bigger: a spiritual family that stretches across generations.

We all have a part to play in sharing our faith, not just with those younger than us, but across the ages. Don't think of a straight line between generations but more like a spider's web, all sharing

with each other. By sharing our experiences, modelling faith, and creating space to ask questions and explore, we help everyone grow roots in God's truth.

Let's encourage everyone today to listen, wonder, and begin to tell their own stories of faith. And let's remember: the seeds we plant now will grow into the faith of the future.

Together – prayer and games

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

Gathering prayer

Jesus, our friend

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

And get to know you better,

(point up with one hand)

As children together in your family

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

AMEN

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.

Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.

Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,

Adventuring together with you wherever we may go.

Amen

Active game – “I went to church and...”

“These are things we learned from our ancestors,
and we will tell them to the next generation.”

This game is all about passing on information – and it being remembered. It can be played with all ages, and any size of group.

Split into two groups and stand in a line (one behind the other) at opposite ends of your meeting space.

Player one runs across the room to the first person in line at the opposite side (player two) and says, “I went to church and I saw a ...” They can insert something that they saw at church (e.g. a hymn book). They then join the back of the line.

Player two then runs to the other line and says, “I went to church and I saw a hymn book and ... (e.g. candle)”, and then joins the back of that line.

The game continues with each player adding to the list of things that were seen at church and having to remember all the things that went before.

Variation: Instead of ‘church’ you could go to the zoo – and list animals in alphabetical order (e.g. anteater, beaver, camel, etc.).

If a person forgets an item, they go to the back of their own line.

The game ends when people have had enough.

Quieter game - Pass it on

No equipment needed.

A simple game of passing on a whisper to see if the message is changed by the end of the line.

Encourage everyone to sit in a circle or line. Begin by whispering the message into the ear of the first person, who then whispers it to the next and so on until it gets to the end of the line. The final person says the message out loud. Did it change at all? The group will want to play it again and again sending their own messages.

If you have different ages in the room, intersperse the ages along the line to make the generational point.

Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

For this story we recommend using the Contemporary English version <https://bit.ly/PsalM78>

Where can I find the story online?

Under fives: Psalm 78:1 NIV song by Memory Mary

https://youtu.be/5C3vCL_QIKY?si=B73k46PYvEYtgDQB

Five to elevens: Psalm 78: 1-7 Read by TravelingwiththeFather

<https://youtu.be/z2z-2HttZdl?si=NvpPy96KJBDGOuk2>

Songs to support the story

Under fives: Big Family of God (Makaton Version) by Nick and Becky Drake

Worship for Everyone, Count Everyone in
<https://youtu.be/wq7pj6OB8nU?si=uiNnn327vxFPhLlg>

Five to elevens: One Shall Tell Another – Graham Kendrick, by Steve Davis
<https://youtu.be/um3twugRg6Q?si=A6wqJE3maz9ShYkn>

Explore – ways into the theme

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

Explain that this passage speaks about generations sharing stories and reminding each other of the things God has done for and with God's people. It reminds us that when we share faith stories with each other it encourages us all to follow God and live lives of faith. Explain that we are going to create something that can continue to be added to, that will tell our stories and the stories of how God has been with this church. It's a method called Story Scrapbooking.

What you need:

- quality paper and a way of bringing them together to create a 'book'
- pens and pencils for drawing and writing
- if you are able, it might be useful to offer a way to take photos and print them

What you do:

Invite people to think about a story that tells part of your own faith story or the story of your church. Give examples and provide space to bat around some ideas before people get busy creating their scrapbook page. Examples might include a favourite part of the year in your church such as Christmas day services, or Christmas fêtes, or perhaps the story of the first memory you have of being part of the church. It might be a story about when you were married/baptised or became a member at the church. It really could be anything.

Once everyone has a story to share, help them to create a page for the scrapbook that tells that story. It could include a picture and a brief narrative as well as a Bible verse linked to the story. It is useful if the author signs and dates their page too. (The date is the date of the story e.g. "1995 when I got married at the church".)

This session is about celebrating generations sharing their stories with each other, so it would be a brilliant opportunity to invite a few other ages into the session to add a page. Perhaps you could extend the invitation to the rest of the church to get involved and bring their pages in over the coming weeks to add into the scrapbook.

It could be good to use this session if you are celebrating a church anniversary.

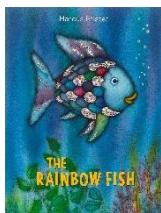
At the end of the session, gather the pages together and have a look at them all. It is a reminder that we only get the full faith picture of our church when everyone is given a chance to contribute.

How could your group share the book and the stories with others?

This activity is perfect for those who may have technical skills to offer to create a digital version of the scrapbook.

Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others too. If you are to use the modern parable, consider buying a copy or borrowing it from the library so children see the actual book and can explore the illustrations more (and support the author).



The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister (2007: NorthSouth Books)

All the other fish in the ocean admire him and want to play, but Rainbow Fish is too proud to play with them; nor will he share his sparkling scales. Alone and friendless, Rainbow Fish soon learns that generosity is far more rewarding than vanity.

- When have you felt alone?

Talking together: How might we talk about the Bible story together?

- What's the best piece of advice you've been given by someone from a different generation?
- If in our communities we could remove one generation, which would it be?
- What story of God's faithfulness has shaped your life?
- What do you hope the next generation remembers about God?

Wondering reflect on the theme

- I wonder which everyday sayings come from the Bible
- I wonder what new tradition you would introduce at church
- I wonder who told you about God when you were young

What's in the box (for under fives)

Use the special box or bag and sing, "What's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag" (to the tune of The Farmer's in the Dell). Pull out the things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

This week's box could include:

- Ask in advance for two or three people from the congregation of different generations to contribute to the box with a short sentence about their item and why it is important to them. After they have been shared, say, "These are our stories we share with you."
- Ask the children to find something to put in the box and say why they like it. After they have shared, say to them, "These are our stories to share with everyone."
- Some play figures to represent families, Talk about all the generation. I wonder what stories they share together.
- A photo album. Look at these photos they all have a story to share with us. Maybe the story of a wedding, a family holiday, a special time in church.

- A set of play people to act out the story, or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (e.g. stones, felt, twigs etc)
- A tactile cross of wood or fabric (a cross shape reminds us of Jesus. Jesus/God loves us and it's always in the box because Jesus/God always loves us!)

Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Prayerful activity - Cereal Box Domino Prayers

You will need:

- cereal boxes – one per person, or one per group for larger gatherings or if using in an intergenerational service
- plain paper
- pens or colouring pencils
- glue sticks

Ask individuals, or group members, to choose people and places that they would like to pray for. Allow time for group members to write their prayers, or draw pictures of the prayer topics on the plain paper provided, then stick them on one side of their cereal box thus making “prayer dominoes”. (You could play some quiet music while the prayers are being written.)



The prayer dominoes can then be arranged carefully, where all can see. You might like to use this week's spoken prayer, initiating the domino rally as all join in with the **Amen**. Alternatively, you could use a simple prayer (like the example below) to start and close the domino prayers – remembering to start the domino rally as the prayer ends.

God,

we bring you our prayers,

remembering that you are a God of hope,

and a God who remembers.

Amen

Spoken prayer

Under 5s

Dear God,
thank you for loving us so much.
Help us listen to your stories,
and share your love with everyone we meet.
Help us tell our friends,
and our families,

how kind and good you are.

Amen.

5-11s

Loving God,
thank you for all the stories of your love –
stories that help us know who you are.

Thank you for the people who told us about you –
our families, our friends, our church.

Help us to listen carefully to your words,
to remember your goodness,
and to share your love with others,
so that everyone can know you too.

Amen.

Responding together

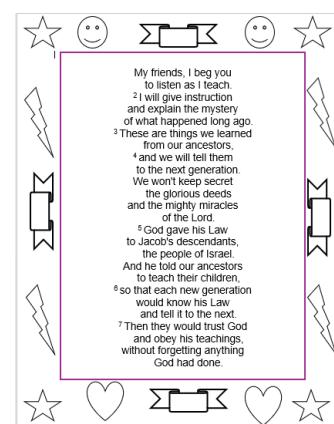
Here are some suggested crafts and activities, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond.

With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage them to use what they've got to hand in their response.

However you do it, it is good for the adults to engage in the response too, and all chat together.

Illustrations

If you followed the “Explore” session, then you may have many different stories. Each person is to take one story and draw a picture to illustrate it. Or they could decorate the edge of the story, like a picture frame. Could your group create a postcard with an encouragement of faith to send to another person or to pass to someone else from within the church?



Everyday with Jesus – Walking the Way

What could we do this week to carry on what we've learned? Maybe members of the group could come up with a suggestion. If not, get them to choose from these two challenges:

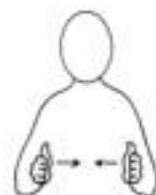
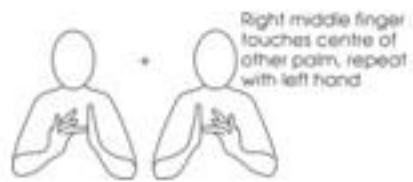
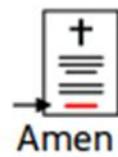
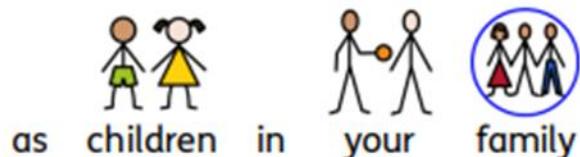
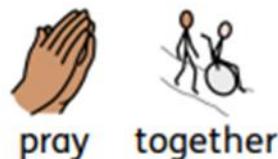
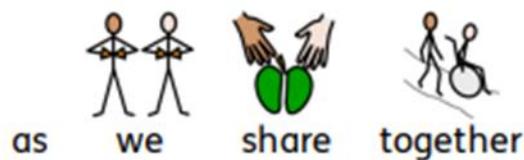
- Talk to someone older or younger than you and ask them to tell you the best advice they have been given.
- Imagine a conversation taking place with someone else. They are asking you advice about something – perhaps they don't know how to tell others about God, or they might be having trouble with a friend or maybe they are scared of something. Write them a letter or record a voice message as a response.

We hope you enjoyed exploring the story of **intergenerational sharing** with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing
sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk

Please join the Faith Adventures Facebook Group **bit.ly/FACT_FB**

Why not have a look at next week's resource on **Wise words**






The Lord's Prayer









Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.








Thy kingdom come, thy will be done






on earth as it is in heaven.






Give us this day our daily bread











and forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us










Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil







For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory






For ever and ever. Amen

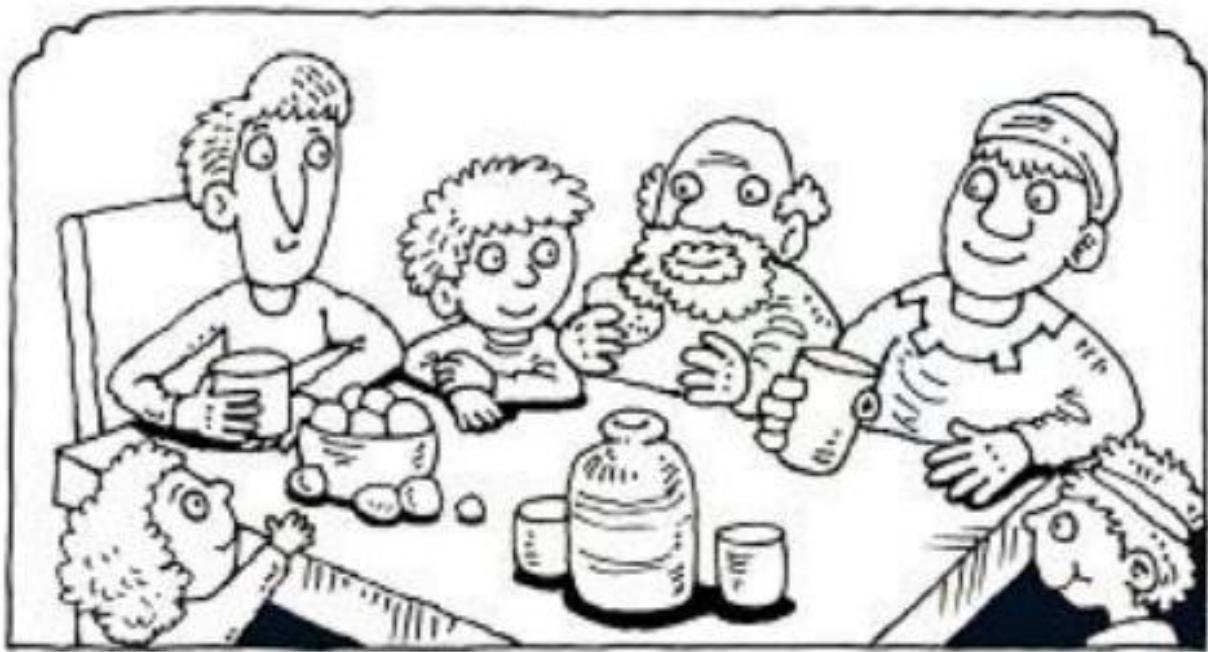
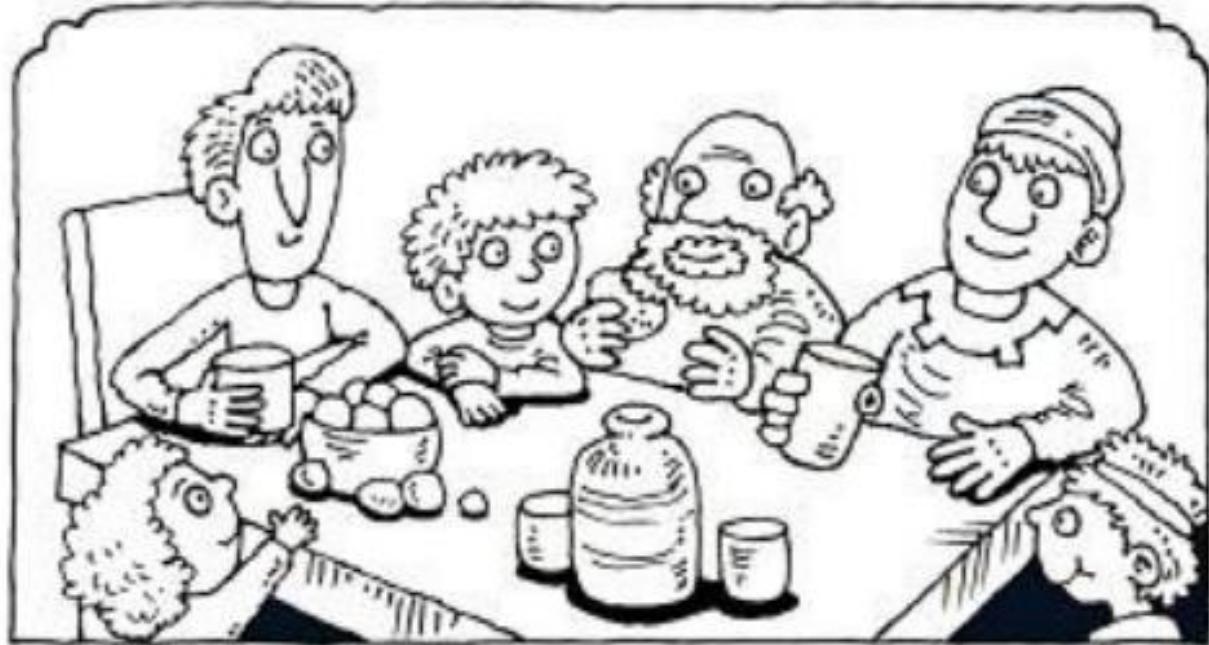
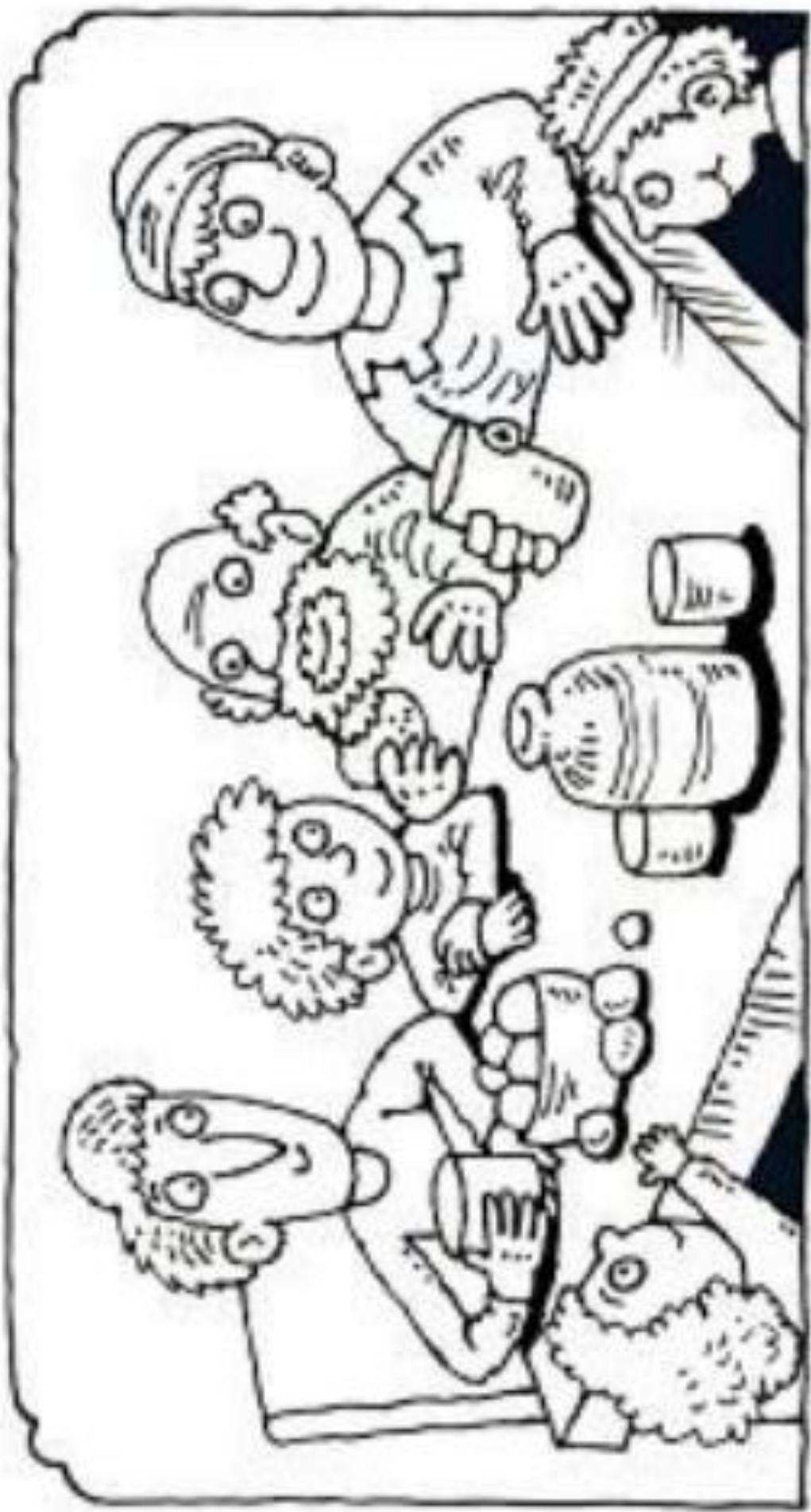
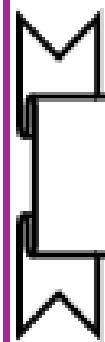
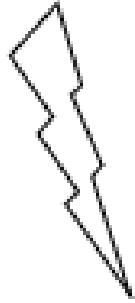


Illustration by lambsons.co.nz via freebibleimages.com







My friends, I beg you
to listen as I teach.

² I will give instruction
and explain the mystery
of what happened long ago.

³ These are things we learned
from our ancestors,

⁴ and we will tell them
to the next generation.
We won't keep secret
the glorious deeds
and the mighty miracles
of the Lord.

⁵ God gave his Law
to Jacob's descendants,
the people of Israel.

And he told our ancestors
to teach their children,

⁶ so that each new generation
would know his Law
and tell it to the next.

⁷ Then they would trust God
and obey his teachings,
without forgetting anything
God had done.

