

³ Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. ⁴ One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. ⁵ They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works. ⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds. ⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. ¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

We've talked a lot about "building connections" here at Good Shepherd lately, so much so that you may not even have noticed that the graphic on the bulletin cover doesn't say building "connections." It says, Building Connectors. Today I want to talk to you about building connectors. If you pursue the career goals noted in the school yearbook and go off to college, it is likely that your connection to Good Shepherd will last from 4 to 6, or maybe 8 years.

But there are other connections that will last much longer, to your friends here, yes, but especially to your family. We need to build those connections up. Parents, grandparents, God-parents, aunts and uncles, your role in the spiritual life of these young people dare not end today. Be connectors. Many of you are already connectors whom I respect as such. And some of you need to stop and consider what message you are sending about whether the LORD is most worthy of praise. Parents, are you equipped to guide them through the challenges of the coming years with timeless, spiritual truths, spoken with love? You are called to that role.

When the Psalmist Asaph says, **We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD**, we almost automatically think of things that happen at church in our elementary school and at KML. And not of Timothy being encouraged to remember learning the Scriptures from his mother and grandmother, those two generations. His grandmother Lois and mother Eunice were connectors, who did their job well for him from infancy, and who had no idea what the LORD would do through Timothy when he grew up.

CONNECTORS ARE PEOPLE WHO PRAISE.

⁴ **One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.** They point to God's mighty acts, wonderful works, great deeds. They point to his majesty, goodness and righteousness.

The connector speaking in this Psalm is King David. First he sees himself on the receiving end of blessings. They speak. They tell. His role, to ponder, to meditate on God's work, to latch firmly onto these truths and then to proclaim them. They... I... They... I...

⁵ **They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works. ⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds.**

CONNECTORS ARE PEOPLE WHO MEDITATE.

They spend quiet time in the Word. They work at fitting together the pieces of what they have been told about God. The meaning of what He has done. They connect with other Christians in worship to make sure they are making the right connections.

CONNECTORS ARE PEOPLE WHO REMEMBER.

⁷ **They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.** Celebration and joy are two important concepts we'll come back to. The new EHV translation accurately conveys David's meaning. This gives us a better picture of their celebration. The verb he uses is to remember. **They pour forth the memory of your abundant goodness.** They remember.

CONNECTORS ARE PEOPLE WHO WORSHIP.

I want to take you back to a verse I skipped over, the first of our text: ³ **Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.** Worship is expressing the LORD's worth to us. This is something we come to do whether the hymns or liturgies are our favorites. No one else can do this for you, to proclaim the worth of your Savior. Connectors worship.

C. S. Lewis, in writing about the Psalms, described how, before he became a Christian, he was put off by the God of the Bible's constant demands for praise. Until he came to realize something that is always connected to praise. If, for example, you come across a Buck's fan who is praising Giannis, the Greek freak, what emotion will be present? What emotion is there when you are praising something or someone? Is it not joy? And so Lewis wrote, "God commands us to praise him, because he wants us to enjoy him."

Praise and worship flow from seeing what He has done for us so that we can enjoy him forever. ¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations.**

You need connectors in your life. There will be people in your life who need you to be connectors.

CONNECTORS ARE PEOPLE WHO CONNECT THE WORD OF LIFE TO LIFE'S CHALLENGES.

Connectors point to how the LORD always keeps his promises, just as he kept the promise to send a Redeemer. They speak with a steady voice: **The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.** Connectors speak with a steadying voice in times of challenge. In your battle against sin, you may fall shamefully. And the burdens of life will push you down. But connectors know: ¹⁴ **The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.** After he had fallen terribly, David wrote **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and give me a willing spirit to sustain me.** He was not done being a connector. **Then I will teach transgressors your ways and sinners will turn back to you.**

I think David would have understood how blessed we are when...

CONNECTORS ARE FAMILY.

And I hope you do, too. One generation to another... Parents to children; grandparents to children. Could you name any one of your great-grandfathers and grandmothers? I'd be surprised if you could. I had to look mine up to be sure. I don't know any stories connected to them by name. Yet, you do know the name of one of David's great-grandfathers and his wife. More than that, you know their story. David's great-grandfather married a foreigner, a widow from Moab. Told in the Bible; told in David's home.

In the Hebrew Old Testament, the story of Ruth follows the end of the book of Proverbs, with Solomon's description of the wife of noble character. The book of Ruth tells the story of a wife of noble character who just happens to have been Solomon's great-great-grandmother. And the story of a husband of noble character named Boaz. At the very middle of the book is the recognition that he was a kinsman redeemer.

Their story could easily have been completely different. Orpah, Naomi's other daughter in law, could have made the same astounding choice as Ruth. But, true to her name, which means back of the neck, she turned tail and left. There was a nearer relative than Boaz, who could have taken on the role of kinsman redeemer. He's referred to as "peloni almoni," as "a certain so and so." He goes unnamed. He will not take the role of redeemer, afraid it will cost too much. But nothing could stop Boaz. And so the story of Ruth became **the story of what it looks like to be redeemed.**

That's the spiritual history of David's family. Their noble character was reflected in the generations that followed.

In your family tree, who are the people whose stories are the story of what it looks like to be redeemed?

As you write the story of your life, I hope and pray that it will be such a story, of what it looks like to be redeemed. That's fitting. You, too, have a Redeemer, who is forever worthy of your praise.