

Week 6 – Legacy

Big idea: If we are flourishing Christians, we can leave a spiritual legacy that outlasts our lives and has eternal significance.

FORMING CONNECTIONS

Take a moment to recap on the previous weeks. What aspect of flourishing was most challenging to you?

Ask the group to share about any people that left a great impression on them or had a great influence in their lives. What nuggets of wisdom or advice did they share? What type of influence was this and why did they have such an influence?

BIBLE STUDY

READ: John 19:25-27 and 20:19-23

What was Jesus doing in this exchange with Mary?

What other legacy was really important to Jesus? How had he prepared for it?

1 Cor 11:23-26 talks of another legacy that Jesus left. How would you describe it? (a pattern or routine for all of us to follow).

The apostle Paul talked about passing it on from one generation to another.

1. LEAVING A LEGACY TO OUR FAMILY

Many people would say that the first priority for us is to leave a spiritual legacy to our children, our grandchildren, our nieces and nephews.

*Proverbs 13:22 A good man **leaves an inheritance** for his **children's children**...*

Psalms 145: 4; One generation commends your work to another.

2 Tim. 1:5, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

What are some things we can do to leave a spiritual legacy to our families? (Praying for them, reading the bible together, setting a good example or starting a new tradition that encourages them to focus on Jesus).

[Here are 7 ways, the Billy Graham foundation encourages us to live out the legacy you'll leave:

- **Pray often for your family.** Ask God to give your children and grandchildren a sense of purpose, direction and mission.

- **Share God's Word and its truths.** Study the Bible with them and let them see you studying on your own. For younger children, read stories from a children's Bible.
- **Leave a will and testament.** In his book *Nearing Home*, Billy Graham wrote: "My prayer is that you will be responsible for settling the business that must take place when living wills and last wills and final arrangements must be made ... and more than anything else, let them know [where you stand with the Lord Jesus Christ](#) for this will be your lasting legacy."
- **Lead by example and serve others.** Teach your family to be doers, not just hearers of God's Word. Take them along when serving in your community.
- **Be an influencer for Christ.** Do they see you sharing about God's saving grace with others? Also teach them about unconditional love toward those around you.
- **Buy a blank book and start writing.** Jot down significant life memories and how God has guided you. Give it to your grandchildren, who will appreciate it one day. As Moses told the Israelites, don't forget what God commands of us and what He's done for us, but share it with the next generation: "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children ..." (Deuteronomy 4:9).
- **Write your favourite Scripture on a stone.** Place it in a visible spot at work or home and when others ask you about it, share your faith story.]

2. LEGACIES TO OTHERS

Your legacy isn't limited to what your family remembers about you, but also other Christians, good friends, acquaintances and strangers.

What might we do in church to leave a spiritual legacy? (e.g. befriending, praying for or mentoring)

How can we leave a spiritual legacy for our friends or even strangers?

NEXT STEPS

How does the thought of legacy change the way you think about your life? Should we be more deliberate in thinking about legacy?

PERSONAL REFLECTION – EITHER TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO REFLECT OR DO IT DURING THE WEEK

We all have limited time and limited capacity to do God's work on earth. What will our legacy be? More importantly, who will our legacy be? Whom have we equipped to continue the work?

ACTION

Think of one thing that you could do that you are not currently doing to help you leave a spiritual legacy?