

4. BUT SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE!! Our children are God's best gift and the provision for our enduring legacy.

Reflection: Billy Graham

"The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is a legacy of character and faith."

### III. MENTORING LEGACY

Legacy is not leaving something

"beneficial for" people,

Legacy is leaving something "beneficial in" people.

#### A. A Definition of "Mentoring"

Mentoring is the intentional, relational process of providing knowledge, guidance, wise counsel and the like to a receptive, teachable person.

#### B. A Powerful Illustration: 2 Timothy 2:2 AMP

"The things [the doctrine, the precepts, the admonitions, the sum of my ministry] which you have heard me teach in the presence of many witnesses, entrust [as a treasure] to reliable and faithful men who will also be capable and qualified to teach others."

- To pass on as a legacy spiritual truth, one must be strengthened by Christ.
- To pass on as a legacy spiritual truth, one must know (be pursuing) those truths.
- To pass on as a legacy spiritual truth, one must seek (find or be found by) teachable younger men/women.

Reflection: Lisa Fain (CEO – Center for Mentoring Excellence)

"Your greatest legacy lives in the people you mentor."

## "INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION" (Passing on Our Legacy)

### I. FAMILY LEGACY: Part One

Legacy is not leaving something "for"  
(our children) or grandchildren,  
Legacy is leaving something "in" them.

#### A. The Dream: Proverbs 17:6 (NET)

"Grandchildren are like a crown to the elderly,  
and the glory of children is their parents."

- Family heritage is the "crowning glory" of life.
- My spiritual legacy is measured by my children, my grandchildren... and so on.

Illustration: The legacy of Jonathan Edwards and Max Jukes

#### B. The Method: Psalm 78:3-4 (NIV)

"What we have heard and known,  
what our fathers have told us,  
We will not hide them from our children;  
we will tell the next generation  
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,  
his powers, and the wonders he has  
done."

- Passing on a spiritual legacy includes telling our faith journey stories.
- We cannot pass on what we do not possess; if your faith is not real to you, it won't be real to them.
- A Warning: Proverbs 17:21 (NIV)  
"To have a fool for a child brings grief;  
there is no joy for the father of a fool."

(Therefore, invest in and train your son in the Biblical way of wisdom...“A wise son brings joy to his father.” - 10:1)

C. The Method (again): Psalm 71:18 (NIV)

“Even when I am old and gray,  
do not forsake me, my God,  
till I declare your power to the next generation,  
your mighty acts to all who are to come.”

- At the sunset of our lives, with whatever limitations of strength and health we might have, at best we can declare to our children/children’s children the power and majesty and greatness of our God.

Psalm 145:3-4 (NIV)

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
his greatness no one can fathom.  
One generation commends your works to another;  
they tell of your mighty acts.

D. The Memorials: Joshua 4:19-22 (NIV)

<sup>19</sup>On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. **20** And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. **21** He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ **22** tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’”

- Memorials serve the purpose of honoring and revealing the power of remembrance, of recalling significant events, people, and experiences that we value highly.

Illustration: RVC & Grandparents

- Spiritual memorials cause us to reflect and deeply remember significant milestones of the past.

Reflection: Spiritual Memorials

They could be verses recorded in Bibles or as plaques; meaningful pictures (photos). Memorials could be special places that spark deeper memories.

“See Table Talk” for further discussion.

II. FAMILY LEGACY: Part Two

A. Our Responsibility: Psalm 127 (MSG)

<sup>1-2</sup> If GOD doesn’t build the house,  
the builders only build shacks.  
If GOD doesn’t guard the city,  
the night watchman might as well nap.  
It’s useless to rise early and go to bed late,  
and work your worried fingers to the bone.  
Don’t you know he enjoys  
giving rest to those he loves?  
<sup>3-5</sup> Don’t you see that children are GOD’s best gift?  
the fruit of the womb his generous legacy?  
Like a warrior’s fistful of arrows  
are the children of a vigorous youth.  
Oh, how blessed are you parents,  
with your quivers full of children!  
Your enemies don’t stand a chance against you;  
you’ll sweep them right off your doorstep.

B. Our Practice

1. Unless the LORD is building our family dynasty (house), it won’t endure.
2. Unless the LORD is watching over the city (our society), it won’t last.
3. Unless the LORD is blessing our labor (work); our burning the candle at both ends will not bring rest.