

Legacy: Living a Life that Outlives You! - Part Four

Scripture used: Deut. 6:4-8 (NIV)

OVERVIEW

We are in the fourth part of five of our series on Legacy. Moses exhorted the Israelites to remember who God was in the story of their lives and to make Him central in the stories of their children's lives. Moses reminds us that God is our God and the only true God. We first must learn it, and then we can teach it to others, for it is the springboard for the core values each family must build on and be sustained by. Pastor Hurmon drew a picture of the demands all of us face: career, love life, recreation, and family needs. We must choose what must be central at the intersection (or cross) where all those demands converge.

KEY POINTS

Big Ideas:

- God's story unfolds through the stories of families.
- To be a part of God's story is to be a part of God's legacy.

Our challenge today: How do we make God's story the center of your family's story? Do you desire a big impact in your family's lives? Then make small investments of time consistently. Deut. 6:7 asks us to impress (God's Word) on our children and talk about His Word when at home, when traveling, when you get up & when you go to bed. Moses makes the "how" simple for all of us: Look to the natural rhythm of our own lives and look to God's role in our lives today, yesterday and tomorrow.

How: Use the natural rhythm of life to invest in our families lives

1. **MEAL TIME:** Every family has meal times, but not all meals are taken together these days. With our work schedules, school schedules, and activities schedules, we are often over-committed, and family meals together seem to be lost in the schedule shuffle. Choose at least 2x per week to sit together to visit. Use the time together to share stories with each other and see how God is moving in each person's life. It is not a time for a lecture about God from you. Rather, it is a time for focused discussion and stories which reinforce your family's core values. Your role as adult then becomes Teacher/ Facilitator.
2. **DRIVE TIME:** So often the role of parent morphs into that of taxi driver: the one who is constantly providing the transportation to meet the demands of schedules. Driving can be the opportunity for Informal talk - a time of chatting and visiting about what is going on in the individual family members lives. That time driving and chatting can serve you as a time for interpreting life for your children or even for each other. Your role as adult then becomes Friend.
3. **BED TIME:** Moses said lying down was a good time to speak to our children. Bed time is a time of winding down, and a time when reflection and examination of the day occurs. As you all reflect on the day, all hearts are open to reflecting on how God has moved throughout each of our days. Lying down time becomes a time of intimate conversation - a time for listening to the child's heart. Your role as adult then becomes Counselor.
4. **MORNING TIME:** Ah, the morning rush to get ready for the new day! This is a time for mad scrambles but can still be a time for experiencing God's active presence in each others' lives. It is a time for sharing encouraging words which build up and strengthen each family member as they face their day. Encouragement can thus serve as a time of instilling value and purpose. Your role as adult then becomes Coach.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - When you heard, "Is God the center of your focus or is He pushed aside to certain times and places?" what was your reaction? Do you see God at the center of that cross drawn or has He been pushed to the outer edges of that cross, where you typically find the crucifixion nails?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Who has God brought into your life from the younger generation? How are you serving God as their friend, facilitator, counselor and coach?
- 3) **DO** - After you have chosen your family values, please discuss them as a family. This week pick one value to discuss as a family about what it means to each of you, how you see it being lived out in each others' lives, and what you can do differently, if needed. Continue to pray to God with the following request: "Lord, help show me how I can be used by You to bless the next generation!"