

Stewardship Legacy Guide

A legacy, leaves behind the story of a person so that they are not forgotten. Legacies are important pathways for the future to follow or to be guided by in order to make better decisions in life. Leaving behind a legacy gives us comfort in knowing that once we are gone, we will not be erased from the memories of others.

The Legacy of Faith

The greatest legacy you can leave is the gift of faith. Model your faith, letting them see what the Christian life looks like in real life. Talk about what faith in Jesus Christ means to you. Engage your family in discussion about spiritual issues. If you've been a believer for a long time, express to your family the ways your faith has changed, been challenged and has deepened over the years. Throughout the years, as your family matures in faith, they will develop an increasing gratitude of the heritage of faith that you have contributed!

The Legacy of Life

Make note in that the characteristics of real life are based on the fruits of the Spirit, which are found in Scripture in Galatians 5:22-25. The characteristics are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. In your interactions with your family, anything you can do to model, speak about or praise these characteristics invests in driving these principles deep into their hearts, creating a desire for a Spirit-led and Spirit-fed life.

The Legacy of Love

Loving your grandchildren now will have a powerful influence on the kind of people they will grow up to become. Loving your grandkids doesn't mean that you have to buy them expensive gifts! Ultimately, the best demonstration of love you can provide is by your presence and involvement in your grandchildren's lives. Give them the gift of yourself! This is possible even when you're not physically present through phone, notes, emails and the like. Love is powerful! Loving your grandchildren will make a lifelong difference! Never underestimate the power of a grandparent's love.

Legacy planning is anything handed down from one generation to the next. It can be heredity (green eyes), inheritance (dollars and cents), or heritage (spiritual). Spiritual legacy leavers are the most important, from my perspective:

Make time for family

Know actions teach louder than words.

It is never too soon to begin teaching salvation and stewardship.

The local church is an ally.

Be happy and laugh a lot.

The Legacy of Memories

Sharing or creating memories gives your family the gift of "you." Share stories about your life, about your childhood and teenage experiences. These stories let your family know about who you are and who you were. They create a sense of

history and heritage. Even if grandchildren don't fully appreciate your stories now, it's likely they will later in life, which thus creates that legacy of memories. Spending time with your family is also important – in a variety of life's settings – as these times will create memories that stick with your grandchildren, i.e. the "Power of Being There!"

How do you plan to be remembered?