

Legacy: What Will Continue After You?

A One Week Bible Study Guide

Primary Passage(s):

- Deuteronomy 6:5-6
- Proverbs 13:20
- 1 Corinthians 15:33
- John 21:15-19
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- 2 Timothy 2:2

Introduction

Every one of us is leaving something behind. Legacy is not something we begin thinking about at the end of our lives. It is being built right now through our ordinary moments, our words, our habits, our relationships, and the way we follow Jesus. The good news is that our past does not have to determine our future. Every legacy is imperfect, but the grace of Jesus is perfect. Christ can redeem our stories, redirect our lives, and use our faithfulness to influence people long after we are gone. During this study, we will explore what we have received, what we are passing on, who is shaping us, and how Jesus can use a surrendered life to influence what comes after us.

Day 1

Theme: Legacy Is Built Daily

Scripture(s):

- Deuteronomy 6:5-6

Key thought for this day:

Legacy is not primarily built through one great moment. It is formed through the ordinary moments we live over and over again.

In Deuteronomy 6, Moses tells God's people to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and strength. Then he tells them to teach these truths to their children throughout everyday life. Faith was not meant to be something taught only in a special lesson. It was to become part of everyday conversations, routines, and relationships. What you do repeatedly becomes what you leave behind.

Questions:

1. When you think about the word legacy, what comes to mind?
2. What are some ordinary habits, words, or attitudes that people around you may be learning from your life?
3. What does Deuteronomy 6:5-6 teach you about the connection between loving God and influencing others?
4. If someone watched your ordinary life for a week, what might they learn about what matters most to you?

Reflection:

The most meaningful parts of a legacy are often built when nobody is thinking about legacy at all. A conversation. A habit. A response when you are tired. A moment when you choose to listen. A decision to show up. These ordinary moments are shaping the people around you.

You are already building a legacy. The question is not whether you will leave one. The question is what kind of legacy you are building today.

Daily Prayer:

Lord, help me see the ordinary moments of my life differently. Teach me to love You with all that I am and to live in a way that points others toward You. Help my words, habits, reactions, and relationships become a faithful reflection of my love for You. Amen.

Day 2

Theme: Grace Redeems Imperfection

Scripture(s):

- John 21:15-19

Key thought for this day:

Your legacy will not be perfect, but your imperfections do not have to be the end of your story.

The Bible does not hide the failures of the people God used. Noah, Jacob, David, and Peter all had significant weaknesses and failures. Yet God continued to work through them.

Peter is a powerful example. He denied Jesus at his lowest moment, but Jesus did not discard him. Jesus restored him, recommissioned him, and gave him purpose again.

Grace does not deny what happened. Grace does not pretend our failures never existed. Grace says that our failures do not have to have the final word.

Questions:

1. When you look at your own story, are you more aware of your strengths or your failures?
2. What stands out to you about the way Jesus responded to Peter after his failure?
3. Are there parts of your past that you have been tempted to believe disqualify you from being used by God?
4. How does it change your perspective to remember that God works through imperfect people?

Reflection:

Every legacy is imperfect. You have probably received both good things and difficult things from the people who shaped you. You may also recognize things in your own life that you do not want to pass on.

You cannot go back and rewrite what has already happened. But you can allow the grace of Jesus to meet you where you are. Christ does not simply explain your story. He steps into it. He can restore what has been broken and redirect where your life is going.

Daily Prayer:

Jesus, thank You that my failures do not have the final word. Help me honestly acknowledge the good and the broken parts of my story. Give me the grace to receive Your forgiveness, trust Your work in me, and allow You to redirect my life for Your purposes. Amen.

Day 3

Theme: Choose Your Influences

Scripture(s):

- Proverbs 13:20
- 1 Corinthians 15:33

Key thought for this day:

While you cannot choose everything that has shaped you, you can choose what continues shaping you.

Proverbs says, “Walk with the wise and become wise.” Paul warns that bad company corrupts good character. These passages remind us that influence is not neutral.

The people we spend time with, the voices we listen to, the books we read, the music we hear, and the entertainment we consume can all affect the direction of our lives. Influence is often quiet. We may not notice it happening, but what we consistently stay close to can slowly shape the way we think, respond, and live.

Questions:

1. Who or what has the strongest influence on the way you think and live right now?
2. Are there influences in your life that are consistently moving you closer to Christ?
3. Are there influences that may be pulling your heart or behavior in another direction?
4. What does it mean to you that you may not be able to choose what shaped you in the past, but you can choose what continues shaping you?

Reflection:

Grace is not only about what Jesus has forgiven in your past. Grace is also at work in your present.

You have a choice about what voices you allow to continue forming you. This does not mean withdrawing from everyone who does not believe as you do. It means becoming aware of the influences that are consistently shaping your heart and direction.

The most important question is not simply, “Who am I walking with?” It is, “Am I walking with Christ?”

Daily Prayer:

Jesus, show me the influences that are shaping my life. Give me wisdom to recognize what is helping me follow You and courage to make changes where necessary. Help me stay close to You so that my life is shaped by Your presence and Your direction. Amen.

Day 4

Theme: Christ Changes Generations

Scripture(s):

- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- John 21:15-19

Key thought for this day:

When Christ changes a person, the impact of that transformation can reach far beyond that person.

Paul says that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. This is more than simply becoming a better version of yourself. Christ changes the direction of your life.

Peter's story shows us this clearly. Jesus did not simply forgive Peter for denying Him. He restored him and gave him a new assignment. Peter's redirected life would go on to affect other people and the future of the church.

Christ does not simply repair broken moments. He redirects broken lives.

Questions:

1. What does it mean to you personally that you are a "new creation" in Christ?
2. What is the difference between simply changing your behavior and allowing Christ to change you?
3. Are there patterns or habits from your past that you do not want to continue through your life?
4. What might God be doing in you now that could affect the people who come after you?

Reflection:

You are not only the product of where you came from. If you are in Christ, God is doing something new in you.

Your past may explain some of your struggles, but it does not have to determine your destination. Christ is not intimidated by the patterns, failures, or brokenness you inherited. He can begin something new.

And when Christ changes a person, that change does not have to stop with that person. Transformed lives can produce transformed futures.

Daily Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for making me new. Help me surrender the patterns and habits that do not reflect You. Continue transforming my heart and redirecting my life. Use what You are doing in me to bless and influence the people around me and those who come after me. Amen.

Day 5

Theme: Faithfulness Multiplies

Scripture(s):

- 2 Timothy 2:2
- Deuteronomy 6:5-6

Key thought for this day:

A faithful life can continue speaking long after you are gone.

Paul tells Timothy to take what he has received and entrust it to faithful people who will teach others. There is a picture of multiplication in these words. What Timothy received was not supposed to stop with him.

That is the heart of a Christ-centered legacy.

Your life is already influencing other people. Your words, habits, relationships, responses, and faithfulness are leaving something behind. You cannot control

everything that happens after you are gone, but you can be faithful with what God has placed in your hands today.

The goal is not to become impressive. The goal is to become faithful.

Questions:

1. Who has invested something in your life that continues to influence you today?
2. What are you currently investing in the lives of other people?
3. If your influence continued beyond you, what would you want it to continue producing?
4. What is one decision you can make today that would help build a legacy that consistently points people toward Jesus?

Reflection:

One day every chair will sit empty. Every title will be passed on. Every accomplishment will eventually fade. But a life surrendered to Christ can continue to influence people long after that life is finished.

Your legacy is not ultimately about what people remember about you. It is about whether people can see Jesus more clearly because you were here.

You cannot change what has already been written. But by the grace of God, you can influence what gets written next.

So the question is not simply, "What kind of legacy will I leave?"

Ask instead:

"What kind of life am I living right now that God can multiply beyond me?"

Daily Prayer:

Jesus, help me become faithful with what You have placed in my hands. Thank You for the people whose faithfulness has shaped my life. Help me carry forward what is good, release what is broken, and live in such a way that others can see You more clearly because of my life. May faith, hope, love, and Christ remain when my chapter is finished. Amen.**