

BIBLICAL FAMILY MODERN WORLD: A Lasting Legacyⁱ
Deuteronomy 6:1-10; 20-25

FAMILY DEDICATION:

Thank you, Candy! We are so excited to celebrate alongside these families in our church that are dedicating themselves to raise their children to know and love Jesus. How awesome, Church, is it to see this many parents choosing to raise their kids God's way?!

Scripture challenges us parents to be the primary spiritual educators of the home and God entrusts us as parents to raise our children in The Lord.

A celebration like family dedication is something that is Biblical. We read in 1 Samuel how Hannah dedicated Samuel to The Lord. She says in a prayer, "I prayed for this child and The Lord granted me what I asked. Therefore, I give him to The Lord. For his whole life, he will be given to The Lord." Isn't that an awesome prayer? We also know that Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the temple as a baby. Scripture said they went to the temple for the purpose of dedicating Jesus to The Lord. So, that's what these families come to do today, to dedicate, to give, their children to The Lord. And to surrender themselves to The Lord's lead as they parents these beautiful kids.

But church family, this isn't just something for these parents. The reason they stand here before the Lord and His Church is because we, the Church, are also making a commitment today. We are committing to join them by prayerfully supporting them, loving them and serving to help disciple them. Family dedication is a very sweet celebration for a church family. It is a two-way celebration and commitment.

So, with that understanding, parents, do you commit to raising your children in the nurture and admonition of The Lord by teaching them about God's great love and plan for their life? If this is your promise, state we will.

And church family, do you commit to coming alongside these parents, lifting them up in prayer, making yourself available to assist them, and to invest in their children as well? If this is your promise, state we will.

There you have it. Allow me to pray over these families this morning. [Pray]. Let's give these parents a hand of praise this morning...

9:30am Service

Sarah Boggs – Dodi; Kyle and Abby Stanley – Levi

11:00am Service

Caleb & Tori Baker – Mallory Kate; Aaron & Renee Blankenship – Katie Lee; Joseph & Kayla Bono – Kaden, Josie & Kody; Spencer & Andrea Clark – Dutton Lee; Brad & Lisa Fein – Meghann Mary; Eric & Jessika Jones – Trey, Eli, & Ethan; Tyler & Carrie Nolen – Jaycee Lynn; James and Erika Ponce de Leon – Ollie James; Stephen & Christiana Sinclair – Anna D'Leese; Garrett & Brittany Stephens – Graceson; Micah & Kaitlin Sullivan – Carter; Kevin & Samantha Whitaker – Stormi, Kamden, & Kyelon

OPENING:

I want to invite you to grab your bibles and turn with me to the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy. We are going to be in chapter 6 this morning.

INTRODUCTION:

Today, we wrap up our teaching series, "A Biblical Family in a Modern World." We have been studying the biblical principles of marriage and family. We've talked about God's design for marriage, building godly homes, differing roles of husband and wife, raising godly kids, money matters, intimacy, communication, and having conviction about how we lead our homes. Today we are going to be looking at "Leaving a Lasting Legacy."

In case you are wondering, next Sunday, we will kick off a brief series of sermons we are calling "The Core." We are going to be looking at the core values of our church. You know, we have a mission. It is to make disciples that make disciples. We also have a vision statement. We exist to become a gospel-centered community redeeming brokenness through hope in Jesus Christ. And we have a strategy. We are about trusting Jesus in worship, transforming lives through community and telling others by living on mission. But the underpinnings of those things, what drives us as a church, are our core values. That that teaching series will be walking through 4 core values.

I hope that will not only be informative but also unifying for us as a church. It is important for us all to know the driving passion behind us doing what we are called to do. God has a purpose for the church, and we must be motivated to fulfill that purpose. But today we are talking about leaving a lasting legacy. Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines legacy as, "something transmitted by or

received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past.”ⁱⁱ In other words, the impact we leave behind. What we will be remembered for.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION: Favorite Picture Reminds me of something

I have shared this picture before, but I wanted to show you again a couple of my favorite pictures from my office. **[Show boots picture]**. This picture sits on my desk. It reminds me of our family vacation to Sedona, Arizona. This picture was taken after we hiked a long trail. It was a misty day, and it was a few miles hike. I remember that the terrain was challenging, and I could barely walk after that hike. My legs were exhausted.

But it was that experience that led to my absolute favorite picture in my office. **[Show Devils Bridge Picture]**. This is Cathy and I on what is called, the Devil’s Bridge! Such an awesome picture. In fact, that picture doesn’t do it justice.

These pictures cause me to remember fun events and times with my family. Well, in much the same way, God is big into remembering. There are many examples in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, where God asks us to remember something. In the Old Testament, God asked the Israelites to set up statues and establish traditions to remember specific ways He worked. In the New Testament, God calls us to remember the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus through the Lord’s Supper, Communion.

One of the major reasons God asks His people to remember things is so that key truths and traditions can be passed down to future generations. And that’s exactly what the Deuteronomy 6 passage is all about. It is a call to remember God’s faithfulness and to challenge the next generation to carry the torch. And we can leave a legacy by the way we live our lives that will echo for many generations.

There are key markers, decisions, my parents made that had profound impacts on me. For example, when I was 6 years old, my parents were out of the practice of attending church. But they made an intentional decision to make church a regular priority for our family. I often wonder if I’d be in ministry if my parents hadn’t made that decision. Now, I know that God is Sovereign and accomplishes His will, but I think you can track with my thought on that.

To leave a lasting legacy, we must create key moments in our family that anchors our kids and grandkids to remember God’s faithfulness. And here’s the

deal, there are many ways we can leave a legacy. An inheritance is one way, but usually, in one generation it’s gone. Right? But what if we were to leave a legacy that reverberates across many generations? Well, to leave that kind of lasting legacy, we have to consider the spiritual, the eternal. That’s what will outlast everything. And that is the focus of our study this morning.

We are going to see that legacy begins with a love for God, is developed by rhythms with God, and legacy reviews the works of God. That will serve as our outline this morning as we seek to build within our family’s a lasting legacy.

MESSAGE:

Let’s begin this morning by seeing that legacy, first, ...

1) Begins with a love for God.

In order to pass along a love for God, it must be something that is first in us. And that, I believe, is Moses’ point here. Read along with me in your copy of God’s Word in Deuteronomy, chapter 6, verses 1-5. *1“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, 2that you may **fear The Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son** [that’s legacy], by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. 3Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. 4“**Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.** 5**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.**”* A few things to mention here that points to a legacy of loving God.

First, this chapter begins the last of Moses’ speeches. Speeches that were given some 34-hundred years ago. He’s 120 years old here. He is addressing a new generation of Jews getting ready to enter the Promised Land. The previous generation had passed away and the people in the audience were babies and teenagers when they left Egypt. Most of them don’t remember events of the Exodus. It’s been 40 years. So, Moses perceives this next generation must hear The Law of God again.

In fact, Deuteronomy, the name of this book of the Bible, is actually a compound word. Deuterios meaning second. And Nomeon [Nom-E-om] means

law. So, the Book of Deuteronomy is a second giving of The Law. And this recap is vitally important for the next generation as they follow The Lord's lead. Here's the Law of God that your parents followed, and you are to follow, and you are to ensure that your children follow. It is a retelling of what is most important so that the next generation can live and lead by it.

This morning, I just want to point this out to us today. This morning, we've had parents dedicate their kids to The Lord, many are young families. We've been led in worship by young leaders. Everyone on stage this morning was in their 20s and 30s. Except me and Micah's Dad on Bass. I'm the old guy on stage this morning. I'm 46. How did this happen?! I don't know about you, but it does my soul well to see these young folks leading us in worship every week! Amen?

We are witnessing 2 Timothy 2:2 in action. *"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* That's what Moses is getting after in the retelling of the Law. And it is the key by which we create a legacy of faith.

Moses begins his speech, in verse 2, talking about fearing The Lord. That is an important theme throughout Scripture. It is not a fear like to be afraid of God. But it is a reverent awe, an honoring of God. That comes when we love and respect God for who He is. This is why I say that legacy begins with a love for God. You cannot pass down that which is not yours.

Then in verse 4 Moses says, *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.**"* In Hebrew, these verses are known as the Shema. It is a confession of faith. And this is something that devout Jews, to this very day. In fact, they say it every day, twice a day.

Now, what's interesting about verse 4 is the confession that The Lord is one. Many Jews have taken this passage and have said that this discredits the Christian teaching of the Trinity. God is not three, He is one.

But the word that is translated "one" in the original language is a word that refers to a compound unity.ⁱⁱⁱ For example, it is the same word used in Genesis 2:24 when God said that a married couple is no longer two, but **one** flesh. So, the idea of the Trinity, 3 persons in one God is very compatible with this statement, the Shema.

Also, when he says, "The Lord our God," the word translated, "God," is used in much the same way. It is the word, Elohim. It is a plural word used as if it were singular.^{iv} The Trinity is one of the most challenging doctrines to teach and communicate, but we do serve one God, but He is triune in nature. One God in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

The command comes in verse 5. ***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*** The idea here is that we are to love God with the whole of who we are. To love Him with everything. The way we think, the way we speak, our passions, our time, our money, and our energy; everything. This is paramount in beginning a lasting legacy.

It's really important that we evaluate all aspects of our lives to ensure that we are loving God in each area. Do you know why this is important? It matters because kids tend to follow the passions of their parents.^v The degree to which we love God is caught more than it is taught. What we are passionate about rubs off on our kids and grandkids.

We see evidence of this truth all the time, don't we? **Our kids, when they are little, don't just love the Texas Rangers.** No, they see that we love the Texas Rangers so by virtue of seeing that, they love the Texas Rangers. And by the way, those of you that are Houston Astros fans need to repent. You are leading your children away from The Lord. It's in the Bible, look it up! Of course, I'm kidding. But the point is that if we truly love The Lord with everything, that becomes apparent to our kids and then is passed along to them. So, legacy begins with a love for God. Secondly, legacy is...

2) Developed by Rhythms with God.

You know, every home has a rhythm, a regularity by which we go about life. The question becomes what rhythms are we building into our families? Look at the rhythms Moses encourages us to build into our family. Verses 6-9. ***And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*** Do you see the rhythms? I want to make mention, of 4 areas of rhythms with God that develop a legacy of faith. First, ...

A) Dedicated

Moses says the commands of God are to first be on our hearts. That is we are to be dedicated to knowing God's commands. We live according to them. This comes from regular personal time with God. We are to be dedicated in spending time with The Lord. The second area of rhythm is what is...

B) Communicated

We are to be dedicated to God's truths, but we are to communicate them to our children. Moses says in verse 7 that we are to teach God's commandments diligently. We are to teach them to our kids when we sit in our house, around our dinner tables, hanging out with our family. We are to teach them when we walk, when we go about the business of our day. We are to teach our kids when we lay them down at bedtime and when they wake up.

Here's what I notice about these examples. Moses is urging us to teach our kids about God by leveraging the mundane routines of life. Listen, you gotta eat, talk about God. You have to go to bed, talk about God. You have to take your kids to school, talk about God. Redeem the mundane, the regular routines, of our lives and leverage them to pass along the faith.

So, we are to personally be dedicated to The Lord, and then communicate God's commands to our kids. The third rhythm is to be...

C) Reminded

We need to teach, but we also need to remind. In verse 8, Moses says that we are to bind them on your hand and to keep them before your eyes. This is the idea of immersing God's commands around us so that we remember them often.

You know, the Jews take this literally? They made what is called phylactery [Fa-Lact-O-Re] boxes. These are boxes that are attached to a leather strap that is this wrapped around their heads and tied in the back. And inside these boxes, they would put bible verses. This was so that The Scriptures could literally be frontlets between their eyes.^{vi}

Jesus eventually condemned the Pharisees for wearing these things. Not because they are a bad idea, but because they would make them as big as possible so as to show everyone how "holy" they were.

The idea, the heart, of what Moses is getting at is that we need to be constantly reminded of God's truths. Look for ways to remind our family about The Lord.

So, we are to be dedicated to God's laws, communicate them to our kids, and be reminded of them often. The fourth area of rhythm is for them to be...

D) Displayed

In verse 9, Moses says to write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. We are display the truths of God in our homes.

I remember as a kid that we had a family bible. Anyone else have a family bible? It was massive. The outside of our family bible was white and it sat on a table in the entry way of our house. The concept was to display God's Word. That we would know the foundation on which our family operates. Today, I see this achieved in wall frames or even stickers. Look for ways to display God's Word in your home.

So, a lasting legacy of faith begins with a love for God and is developed by rhythms with God. Thirdly, a legacy of faith...

3) Reviews the Works of God.

I want you to follow me here. Look at verses 10 through 12. *10"And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, 11and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant — and when you eat and are full, 12then **take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.***

Moses says, you are about to enter a land of prosperity. And you're gonna live in great cities that a previous generation built. And you are going to benefit from the foundation that another generation laid. You will have a booming economy that was built on the hard work and hard times of others. So, be careful, he says. There is a temptation in that environment to, verse 12, **forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

You know, we live in the greatest country the world has ever known. But make no mistake. Our country was founded a built on a faith in Almighty God. By people who trusted The Lord at every turn to provide for their every need.

Forefathers who saw and witnessed God's provision firsthand. And we gather in this place today on the backs of their faith in The Lord. And I feel it. Words that are never truer today. "Take care lest you forget The Lord, who blessed you with a life of abundance." Listen, Beloved, we have to review the works of God often so that we don't forget. So that future generations don't forget.

Do you know what happened to Israel in just a short period of time after they entered the Promised Land? They forgot the Lord. In fact, the book of Judges outlines a cycle that has often been repeated throughout history. God blessed obedient Israel, they would prosper, they would then begin to set their hearts on the blessing instead of God, God would then allow them to suffer the consequences, He would bring a prophet to proclaim the truth, they would repent, and God would again bless, and they would prosper. And that cycle was repeated time and time again.

What is that saying? Those who fail to study history are doomed to repeat it. We need to review God's goodness often, lest we fall into the temptation to forget The Lord. And it's so fragile. Christianity is just one generation away from extinction. Judges 2:10-12 says, *"¹⁰And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers [that is they died]. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel. ¹¹And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. ¹²And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them.*

Church Family, can I tell you that we cannot let a generation rise up after us that does not know The Lord. And it's up to us. And here's the deal, so long as we have breath, we must work to influence the next generation. What are we doing to leverage our influence to pass on a legacy of faith?

Legacy begins with a love for God. It is developed in rhythms with God. And in reviews the works of God.

CONCLUSION

As we close this morning, I want to ask you a question. Where are you in the process of leaving a legacy of faith? For those of you that are from the generations before mine, how are you investing in me and the generation behind me?

For those of us that are raising kids, what rhythms are you developing in your family to teach the commands of God diligently?

Maybe some of you here are at the first step. Do you have a love for God? And maybe you're here this morning and you are asking questions about what you even think about God. I'm glad you're here. Maybe others of you are ready to make a faith decision by trusting Jesus as your Lord and Savior. If you'd like to visit with one of our elders about what that means, we would love to talk to you this morning.

In a moment, I'm going to pray, our worship team will lead us, but let's all respond to the prompting of God. If you need Jesus or would like to talk to someone about what that means, you come this morning. These steps will also serve as an altar for you to come and pray to The Lord if you so choose. Let's do business with God this morning. [Pray].

ENDNOTES:

ⁱ Works consulted in preparation for this message: Sean McDowell, “*Passing on the Faith to the Next Generation*,” sermon preached at Calvary Albuquerque, May 22, 2011, accessed online: <https://calvarynm.church/connectwithskip/teachings/#/series/305/sermon/4218>; Skip Heitzig, “*Expound: Deuteronomy 6:1-7:3*,” message taught at Calvary Albuquerque, August 12, 2015, accessed online: <https://calvarynm.church/connectwithskip/teachings/#/series/248/sermon/3442>; Matt Chandler, “*Modeling*,” sermon preached at Village Church, April 17, 2016, accessed online: <https://www.thevillagechurch.net/resources/sermons/modeling/>; Steven J. Cole, “*10. Raising Godly Generations (Deuteronomy 6:1-25)*,” article published by Bible.org, 2017, accessed online: <https://bible.org/seriespage/10-raising-godly-generations-deuteronomy-61-25>; David Guzik, “*Deuteronomy 6 – Moses Reminds Israel of the Commandment and The Warning*,” published by Enduring Word Commentary, 2018, accessed online: <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/deuteronomy-6>.

ⁱⁱ Merriam-Webster Dictionary, accessed online: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/legacy>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Taken from Strong’s Concordance, 259, echad.

^{iv} Strong’s Concordance, 430, elohim.

^v Taken from Sean McDowell.

^{vi} Pointed out by David Guzik in The Enduring Word Commentary.