

LEGACY: PASS THE FAITH ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION

Part 2 of LEGACY. Deuteronomy 6.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. January 14, 2024.

INTRODUCTION

We're in a crisis.

- Will the next generation have faith?
- 20% claim no faith at all. (<https://news.gallup.com/opinion/polling-matters/406544/slowdown-rise-religious-nones.aspx>)
- 2% of millennials have a biblical worldview. (<https://breakpoint.org/immunizing-students-from-bad-ideas-3>)
- But it doesn't have to be that way in our families.

We can change the crisis into a challenge.

- Christian parents are called by God to pass their faith along.
- It's why God gave us children.
- Deuteronomy gives us a template to follow.

DEUTERONOMY 6

The context of Deuteronomy 6.

- Preparation to enter the Promised Land.
- God's agenda: Pass the faith on to the next generation.
- The priority then and the priority now is to leave a legacy of faith: the God-loving, Jesus-following, Spirit-filled, biblical, Christian faith.

THREE DIRECTIONS FOR LEAVING A LEGACY OF FAITH

1. We must possess the faith - Deuteronomy 6:1-6.

“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, 2 that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, 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. 3 Hear 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. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

- We must have a living faith of our own.
- The hallmark of living faith is: loving, worshipping, and serving the LORD.
- The next generation will be drawn to a committed, living faith.

2. We must practice the faith - Deuteronomy 6:7-19.

7 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. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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, 11 and 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, 12 then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 13 It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. 14 You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— 15 for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

16 “You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. 17 You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you. 18 And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers 19 by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has promised.

- We practice the faith by remembering and not forgetting the LORD.
- Our walk must match our talk.

Ephesians 6:4 (ESV) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger (because our walk doesn't match our talk), but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- Bring Jesus home from church.

3. We must present the faith - Deuteronomy 6:20-25.

20 “When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?’ 21 then you shall say to your son, ‘We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. 22 And the LORD showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. 23 And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. 24 And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. 25 And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.’”

- We have a divine mandate to share the faith with the next generation.
- Don't apologize. Explain and defend the Christian faith.
- Point out what's wrong with the alternatives.
- Pray for teachable moments.

SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

GET STARTED

- Share your memories of being a kid at church - Sunday School, AWANA, scouts, guides, etc.

DIVE IN

- Review the study guide. What were Peter's main ideas, insights, or Bible passages related to friendship?
- Do you agree or disagree that passing the faith on to the next generation should be the priority? Explain your answer.
- Spend the remainder of your study discussing practical ways individuals, families, and the Cornerstone congregation can leave a legacy of faith. Be as practical and creative and visionary as you can. If anything really good surfaces in the discussion, please tell Peter about it.

PRAY TOGETHER

- Pray for the next generation - those inside and outside the church - to hear, believe, and receive the Gospel and to become committed members of the church.
- Pray for members of the small group, your pastors/elders, the Cornerstone family, and our outreach partners. And anything else.