



## GROUPS LESSON | WEEK 3

Sermon: January 25, 2026

### LEAVING A KINGDOM LEGACY: BUILDING BEYOND OURSELVES (PSALM 78:4-7)

*A true legacy is about gaining ground now for those who will come later.*

#### HOOK

**MAIN POINT:** *A true legacy is about gaining ground now for those who will come later.*

Building, and leaving, a legacy is a matter of stewardship. When legendary College Football Coach Mike Leach passed away in December 2022, he left behind a unique legacy. In the wake of his passing, many reporters, coaches, and players reflected on their favorite moments spent around one of the more charismatic and interesting coaches of the last few decades. Leach's tenure contained successful years of head coaching at Texas Tech, Washington State, and Mississippi State. His immediate legacy might have been a funny halftime interview or his intriguing coaching style, but Leach's long-term legacy is evident in the coaching tree he left behind. Leach's leadership style and innovative playbook continue to permeate football at collegiate and professional levels. At least six current college head coaches (Lincoln Riley: USC, Sonny Dykes: TCU, Josh Heupel: Tennessee, Dave Aranda: Baylor, Eric Morris: Oklahoma State, Sonny Cumbie: Louisiana Tech) can attribute their success in coaching to Leach, not to mention several assistant coaches in college and NFL.

Leach built a legacy through proactively stewarding the coaches and athletes entrusted to his leadership. Today we are going to look at building a godly legacy through proactive stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us.

#### BOOK

**MAIN POINT:** *A true legacy is about gaining ground now for those who will come later.*

**Talking Point 1:** A godly legacy transcends turnover

**Read:** Judges 2:6-12

The opening chapters to the book of Judges represent one of the most heartbreaking

moments in the story of Israel. Joshua was the remnant of those who were raised and reached adulthood enslaved in Egypt. He learned under Moses and carried on his legacy as he led the people into the land that had been promised by God to their forefather Abraham. If only the story had ended there.

Though God had carried the Israelites out of slavery by magnificent plagues, parted the red sea, provided endless quail and manna, gave them water from a rock, and so much more, Joshua's generation failed to see the Promised Land because of their fear and lack of trust in God. The next generation, whom Joshua led into the land, surely learned that lesson, right? Sort of. While they did inhabit the land, they never completed the conquest. Joshua's death represented a real test of their commitment to God. Still, the people remained largely faithful to the Lord under the leadership of the elders that outlived Joshua (v. 7).

Verse 10, though, is terrifying to think about. Two generations removed from the Exodus, and just one generation removed from crossing the Jordan into the Promised Land, we get these words: "And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel." And so they worshipped foreign gods, and the wicked period of the judges ensued. "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6).

In just one generation, a spiritual legacy can be ruined. A godly legacy, however, transcends turnover, because a godly legacy was never about the leader. A practical example of this that many of us have witnessed before is when a church finds its identity in its pastor, then struggles to survive when leadership turnover inevitably takes place. This same principle can be applied at a personal or family level, as well as at a global church or missions scale.

- Q: Who in the Bible did leave a strong, lasting legacy?
- Q: What would it take for the tragedy described in Judges 2:6-12 to take place today?

**Talking Point 2:** A godly legacy transforms the next generation

**Read:** Psalm 78:4-7

This beautiful psalm is all about passing on the knowledge of God and his providence to the next generation. Though written several centuries later, in context, we learn that the psalmist is specifically concerned with the days of Joshua. Psalm 78:8-53 rehashes the faithlessness of Joshua's generation, who rebelled against God in the wilderness. Then, in 78:54-67, the psalmist focuses in on the generations that followed Joshua, who turned their back on the Lord and worshipped false gods.

Verses 4-6 are a stern reminder of the importance of building a generational legacy through teaching about the goodness of God and his mighty works throughout history. Verse 7 is critical as it provides the purpose: that the next generation "should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God."

**Read:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9

This passage, often called the Shema ("hear" in Hebrew), represents the most important

prayer in the Jewish tradition. Its influence is evident in Jesus' decision to utilize it in his explanation of "the greatest commandment" (Mark 12:28-30). Practically, the Shema shows us how a godly legacy is built.

- Q: What are the specific actions commanded in Deuteronomy 6?
- Q: What is the intent behind these commands?

Together, Psalm 78 and Deuteronomy 6 give us an image of transformative, generational legacy building. Each generation loses \*something\* that the previous generation had. In an ideal world, it's just Blockbuster or RadioShack, but it could be character traits, respect for authority, community, wisdom, or even a proper understanding of the Gospel.

Not only should we speak the truths of God to the next generation, we also need to internalize these truths individually. When we internalize and live out the truths of God, we begin to impact the next generation through the way we steward our time, our talents, and our finances, not just through the words that we speak.

- Q: What is a key difference between your generation and the generation of your parents?
- Q: What is the connection between stewardship and reaching the next generation?

**Talking Point 3:** A godly legacy is not about you

**Read:** Ephesians 3:1-3; Colossians 1:24-26

The legacy we leave is the outpouring of how we steward this life we have been gifted. Out of all the possessions, platforms, abilities, and relationships that we are responsible for stewarding, nothing is more important than how we steward our faith, which is rooted in the grace of God. The Apostle Paul writes with a similar purpose to the Corinthians, Ephesians, and Colossians regarding the idea of faithful stewardship. At a personal level, Paul firmly believes that he has been entrusted with stewarding the Gospel, because of the grace God has shown him and the mysteries revealed to him, namely salvation for the Gentiles (Eph. 3:2). In Colossians 1 he makes it clear what proper stewardship of the Gospel looks like: "to make the Gospel fully known" to his audience.

A prime example of Paul's legacy being built through the stewardship of his faith can be seen in the person of Timothy, who was disciplined under Paul. Timothy is loved dearly by Paul and is a clear successor to Paul's ministry. Paul trusted Timothy to provide guidance and oversight to churches where he could not be present. Paul even charges Timothy to point the Ephesians back toward stewardship (1 Tim. 1:3-5) But stewardship of the Gospel is not solely dependent upon the great Apostle, though it does become his legacy. We too have been entrusted with the Gospel, and in our own lives God has revealed the truth of his Word that was once a mystery to us. In 2 Corinthians Paul broadens the scope of who has been entrusted with the Gospel.

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Q: What does it mean to be "ambassadors for Christ"?

As ambassadors, we represent Christ everywhere that we go. The "message of reconciliation"

entrusted to the ambassadors is that Christ has bought us back from the bondage of sin to be in right fellowship with him. By using this language, Paul emphasizes that the Church is the vessel by which the message is to reach the world. Making an eternal impact is far more important than anything physical we can leave behind.

The story from the “hook” is applicable here. Mike Leach built a coaching tree that will carry on his legacy through those that played, trained, and coached under his leadership. In a secular sense, Leach properly stewarded the responsibility he had been given. His name could be erased from the history books, but his impact would still be felt. Now consider the early Church. The only way the Church could carry on was through the multiplication of believers. The Apostles discipled a new generation of Christ-followers, like Timothy. Timothy, through his leadership likely discipled another generation, and so on. The tree that may have started with Paul’s discipleship of Timothy and others in the early Church has carried on all the way to this generation. The legacies of Paul, Timothy, Apollos, and so on are still transforming lives today.

Paul was willing to sacrifice everything for the sake of a Gospel legacy. Are you? Or are you too concerned with the reputation you’ll leave behind, how you’ll be remembered, or if your legacy will elevate the family name? As Christians, we need to be content with being forgotten. Our legacy is about Christ. Not about us. Many of the greatest missionaries in history are nameless. Seek Christ, make him known, and live sacrificially for the kingdom.

- Q: Compare and contrast a legacy that is centered on the earthly family and a legacy that is centered on the spiritual family.
- Q: Who is someone in your life that left behind a legacy that elevated Christ rather than themselves?



***MAIN POINT: A true legacy is about gaining ground now for those who will come later.***

**Re-read** Psalm 78:4-7. Spend a few minutes discussing the practical applications of today’s passage:

- Q: Who is in your “discipleship tree”?
- Q: What is the connection between Gaining Ground and building a godly legacy?
- Q: What steps will you take towards leaving a godly legacy this week?