

Study #5

Tak Bhana

LEAVING A LEGACY

WARM UP

When we think of a legacy, often what comes to mind is a sum of money someone might leave us in their Will. That kind of legacy can be a great blessing, as those of us who've been on the receiving end can testify, and it's the kind of inheritance we hope we can leave for our children after we die. But we need to understand that we will all leave a legacy for future generations, maybe a financial inheritance, but also a spiritual legacy, which is far more important.



BACKGROUND

Most people greatly underestimate their influence on others and particularly the impact that the way they live has on others. Just by living on earth we influence hundreds of people, our wife, family, friends, relatives, workmates and so on. Significance is not just about what we do in this life but also the influence we leave behind. We need to understand the powerful truth that everything we do is a seed sown. On one hand we can sow things like sin, dishonesty, pornography and laziness. On the other hand we can sow things like godly living, prayer, diligence and church attendance, but whatever it is, that seed may well be reaped by future generations.

READ Psalm 112:1-2

QUESTIONS FOR INTERACTION

1. Discuss how God's law of sowing and reaping (Galatians 6:7-10) works in the lives of people today.
2. Share with the group a legacy (positive or negative) you have received from your parents.

3. Make a list of the "gifts" you would ideally like to leave for your children or family members.
4. Discuss what changes you would have to make in your life in order to leave that kind of legacy.
5. When we come into God's family what good things do we inherit from our new family line?



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

I recognise that I have the power to pass on a legacy of either righteousness or unrighteousness to the next generation, and I choose to do my best to order my life in such a way that those who come after me will continue to carry the flame of a love for God and a life that pleases Him.

CONSIDER THIS

In the 1700s a study was done of two households. Max Dukes and his wife were ungodly drunks, adulterers and thieves. Of their 1026 descendants who were traced, 300 died prematurely; 150 were known criminals; 100 averaged 13 years in jail; 17 were murderers; 60 were prostitutes; 100 were drunks and 310 died in absolute poverty. The other household consisted of Jonathan Edwards and his wife. They loved and honoured God and taught His Word to the family. Of their 1029 descendants who were traced, 300 were preachers; 65 were college professors; 13 were university presidents; 295 were college graduates; 16 wrote books; 30 were judges; 3 were US congressmen; 75 were navy officers; 60 were doctors; 100 were lawyers and 1 became a US vice-president.



WRAP UP

What kind of legacy do you want to leave? What kind of seeds are you sowing today?