

WATER·FIRE·STONE

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MOSES

Session 20 – Choose Life, Part Two | Deuteronomy Ch. 11

What legacy do you want to leave for your children? If you want it to be a rich one, start investing in it today. That was the message Moses wanted to drill down into every family and every tribe of Israel. Israel's tents spread far across Moab's grassy plain, but Moses wasn't looking at tents—he was looking to the future.



The book of Deuteronomy is a series of sermons Moses gave to prepare the people for life in the promised land. In this session of our four-part series, *Choose Life*, we focus on building a legacy of faith for future generations.

Icebreaker

Share a favorite activity and what makes it special for your family.

Goals for this Session

- Discover the vital connection between living our faith and leaving a legacy.
- Consider what kind of legacy you are building for your children and generations to come.
- Pray for the wisdom, creativity and resolve to live in ways that will outlive us.

This chapter reinforces what we studied in our last session (chapters 6-7). This week, we focus on building a legacy. That's what Moses had in mind when he prayed, "May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands" (Psalm 90:17 NIV).

1 Moses recalls significant events of the past forty years to remind the people how God has led them, and kept them along the way.

We tend to think more about the here-and-now, but legacy grows when we seek to live in ways that will outlive us. Consider what that looks like in ordinary, everyday life.

- a. **Personal testimony.** "Your eyes have seen" (verse 7). Moses speaks to the adults about what they saw and experienced as children and teens coming out of Egypt. The oldest among them would be in their late 50's by now.*

Raising their children to follow the Lord included sharing their own story: "We were slaves...and the Lord brought us out" (Deuteronomy 6:20).

Do your children know your personal testimony? Taking into consideration their age and stage of life, are you willing to be transparent about areas of struggle and how repentance works in your own life? Why or why not?

- b. **A consistent example.** "Take heed...lest you turn aside" (verse 16). Moses described the blessings of the promised land where life would be full of good things. But it came with a warning. Where blessings abound, it's easy to be comfortable. And when complacency sets in, compromise is sure to follow.

While it's true that spiritual values are more caught than taught, is it wise to assume that our children will simply follow the right path? Explain why being intentional about our priorities and consistent in our own life is so important for children to see. Use the verses below for help with your answer.

Proverbs 4:23-24

Titus 2:11-13

James 1:22-25

3 John 1:4

* See Numbers 14:28-33

2 “We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about His power and His mighty wonders” (Psalm 78:4 NLT).

One of the most natural questions out of a child’s mouth is *why*? As parents, we try to anticipate how we will answer. Raising our children to set their hope in God (Psalm 78:7) begins with setting *our hope* in God.

a. Where, in the daily rhythm of family life, can you build in times of teaching God’s Word and talking about God’s faithfulness with your children?

b. “Shelter in place” has become a new way of life for us all in recent weeks. In what ways has this made it easier to talk about God’s faithfulness with your children?

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If we don’t teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.

In what ways has it become more challenging?

3 Israel was frequently forgetful, but keeping memories was a strong part of their journey out of Egypt, through the wilderness and into the Promised Land. We think of Passover; the jar of manna kept in the holy place; and the stones of remembrance to mark where the Lord miraculously brought them through the Jordan River into the Promised Land (Joshua 3-4).

Looking back produces gratitude and helps us to remember difficult times and victories won. This is part of building a legacy for our children (or future children) and the generations to come.

Telling and retelling memories of God’s faithfulness in our own family is faith-building and identity-developing for children. It doesn’t have to be formal or solemn, just intentional. And fun is helpful too!

Share some ways that we can build “stones of remembrance” into our family.*

Stones of Remembrance

Children love to hear about the day they changed your life forever—how God gave them to you, and every special detail of the day they were born.

Photos: The story behind the pictures of people, places, and memories.

Family traditions: How they got started, who plans them, why they continue to be part of your family story.

Family History/ Bible stories: Listen and let your children recall the story and tell it through their own eyes.

* This applies to us all—parents, grandparents, spouses, siblings, children and friends-like-family!

Memory Verse

“Lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul . . .
teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house,
when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”
Deuteronomy 11:18–19 NKJV

Which part of this verse resonates most with you today? How or in what way?

Teaching our children and training the next generation does not stop when they are grown. Moses was 120 years old, and tirelessly remained focused on instilling devotion to the Lord into the 60-somethings in his life.

4 Deuteronomy 11:22-32 | Leaving a legacy is not a choice, but we can choose the *kind* of legacy we leave. That was the key point of the ceremony Moses instructed them to observe when they entered the land of Canaan.

The blessing on Mt. Gerizim and the curse on Mt. Ebal would be a renewal of their commitment to God.* Every blessing was theirs to claim, and every warning was theirs to heed.

- a. After each curse was read, the people responded with *amen* (“so be it”). Essentially, they were saying that they were willing to be chastened by God. Are we? How might the painful lessons we have learned from past mistakes enable us to leave a godly legacy? Use the verses below for help with your answer.

Psalm 119:65-67

Hebrews 12:10-11

Revelation 3:19

- b. Moses warned the people not to forget God once they were in the land, enjoying the blessings and reaping the benefits (Deuteronomy 8:11-18). God wanted them to be secure and prosperous, but the culture around them would have a different idea of what that looked like.

If you could share some hard learned lessons with your children or the next generation coming up behind you, what would it be? Give it some thought and finish the following:

- ✓ To be happy in life, our culture says . . .
- ✓ The way to truly be secure and prosperous is . . .
- ✓ My devotion to God is sometimes divided by . . .

* See Deuteronomy 27-28

Action Steps ►► As you think through this part of Moses' story, what is the most important takeaway point for you personally? How will you put what you've learned into action?

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

Adoration – Giving praise and honor to God for who He is and what He does.

Confession – Honestly deal with sin; acknowledge to God the ways (and whys) you fall short.

Thanksgiving – Verbalize your gratitude; express your praise and a thankful heart.

Supplication – Pray specifically for the needs of others, ourselves, our church, our nation.



Close your discussion time by praying together. Use the A·C·T·S pattern as a group focus and keep it simple. No need to be lengthy or profound—just authentic.
