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# Leaving a Legacy

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

~ Psalm 90:12

Most people, when they hear the word “legacy”, think that it is meant for retired people. It can even be equated with the thought of leaving an inheritance. And even though they are not the same thing, both concern treasures that are built up over a lifetime ~ not just built up in the last few years of your life. A significant legacy is built *today* by you, because what we are doing today is history tomorrow. And a legacy is built in the everyday moments of life as well as the large decisions and events.

Billy Graham, speaking in Madison Square Garden in New York, offered these fundamental suggestions to parents:

- Take time with your children.
- Set your children a good example.
- Give your children ideals for living.
- Discipline your children.
- Teach them about God.

These five suggestions, added together, equal a legacy. However, I want to focus on the second suggestion, “Set your children a good example.” For better or worse, our children are a reflection of everything about us ~ our speech, our mannerisms, our attitudes, our general pattern of living can all be seen in the children who grow up in our households. The older they grow, the more clearly you can see your own life patterns in them. Therefore, it is incumbent upon you as a parent to be the kind of person you want your children to become.

Biblical parenting and schooling occurs when a spiritual investment is made in the next generation. This happens through Christian worldview training and vital conversations about God’s Word. The richest legacy a parent can leave a child is a Godly example.

“Good Christians live a life, great Christians leave a legacy.” ~ Chip Ingram