



Milestones





WHAT IS LEGACY?

Nothing you can give to the next generation is more valuable than a spiritual legacy. Many senior adults and empty nesters have children and grandchildren who live close and spend a lot of time together, and others live many miles apart and face challenges in spending time with their family. With all of the opportunities and challenges that face senior adults and empty nesters, one of the greatest challenges is leaving a spiritual legacy with your own children and grandchildren as well as with other families that God brings into your life. Your gifts, time, finances and other contributions to the next generation find their primary value when they are offered in the context of a spiritual heritage. Peninsula wants to walk beside you to encourage you to be very intentional about creating opportunities to nurture faith in younger generations and leave a spiritual legacy.

THE GOAL... INFLUENCING THE NEXT GENERATION

YOUR INFLUENCE MATTERS

The Search Institute conducted a national survey of Protestant congregations to determine people and things that influence children in their faith. The top two influencers were mom and dad, but grandparents was number three! You have the ability to influence your grandchildren to remember who God is and what He has done for them. If you don't have grandchildren, become an aunt, uncle, or "adoptive" grandparent of influence. Many children and teens in our church do not have grandparents living in our area. **If you do not have children living in your home on a fulltime basis, you are the perfect person to step in, walk beside parents, and become a spiritual champion in the life of a child or teenager at Peninsula.** Joshua 23-24 tells us that when Joshua was "old and well advanced in years", he assembled the tribes of Israel to remind them how God brought them out of Egypt and into the promised land. You have the ability to influence the younger generation to choose to obey and serve God. You have the ability to influence them to love God with their whole hearts.

YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THE YOUNGER GENERATION TO CHOOSE TO OBEY AND SERVE GOD.

YOU CAN OVERCOME THE ROADBLOCKS

Senior adults and empty nesters have shared that there are many obstacles in getting involved in the faith formation of the younger generation. Many feel guilty that they did not do well enough with their own children. Others experience fear that they are too old, outdated, and disconnected from their grandchildren. Some have strained relationships with their children, making it much more difficult to connect with their younger counterparts. And almost all grandparents report that their children and grandchildren are too busy, often leaving them feeling shut out of their lives. Cast aside the fear and doubt that Satan attempts to plant in your mind, and trust the God who called you to this task.

MEET THEM WHERE THEY ARE

If you truly desire to leave a legacy of faith in your family and church family for generations to come, you have to meet your adult children, grandchildren, and teens and children at Peninsula where they are. We live in an active, busy society. It's difficult to make time, but it's always possible to seize the time that's already there. Here are a few suggestions...

Figure out what your children and grandchildren are already doing and ask permission to be a part of it.	Go to games and school performances, help with driving them to their activities, bake brownies for the next class party. Don't ask them to clear out a space in their calendar, just jump in to what they are already doing.
Learn how to use technology.	The younger generation may not answer a phone call or an email, but they will probably respond to a text message. Ask one of them to teach you how to text if you don't know how. Use text messaging to encourage them, share scripture, ask how you can pray for them.
Share your gifts and talents with them.	Don't sell yourself short. You have valuable skills and hobbies that can be shared with teens and children that God places in your life. Teach them to sew and cook. Take them fishing and involve them in household projects. Not only will you be teaching them valuable skills, but through these activities your relationship will become even more precious.
Visit adult children and grandchildren or pay for them to visit you.	If you live far away from your children and grandchildren, invest the time and money that it takes to see them. If you are not able to travel, help foot the bill for them to come see you. If paying for travel is not an option, make use of technology such as Facetime and Skype to have virtual visits.
Maintain a good relationship with your adult children.	Offer forgiveness where it is needed. Ask forgiveness for your offenses. Try not to offend, and don't be easily offended. Your children are the gatekeepers to your grandchildren. Seek to restore, heal, and nurture your relationships with your adult children. Your efforts will reap dividends for generations to come.

I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.

Psalm 78:2-4

Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.

Psalm 71:18

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LEAVE A LEGACY.

Legacy can be defined as something being handed down from the past. You are leaving a legacy with your adult children, grandchildren, and the younger generations that God has placed in your life. You can choose what type of legacy that will be. Being there and making memories with them gives you the opportunity to impress your faith on them. You can leave a legacy of faith in your family and church family for generations to come.

He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Psalm 78:5-7



RESOURCES

Faith Begins @ Home Grandparents *by Mark Holmen*

Extreme Grandparenting *by Tim and Darcy Kimmel*

101 Ways to Love Your Grandkids *by Bob and Emilie Barnes*

Barbara and Susan's Guide to the Empty Nest *by Barbara Rainey and Susan Yates*