

Passing It On – Impacting the 2nd and 3rd Generations

There are many references in the bible where we are challenged to “Pass it On” to the next generation. (See list on reverse side.)

Four Types of Generations Emphasized in the Scriptures.

1) Family or Physical Generations

- Train, teach, warn, and correct our children and grandchildren
- 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 1 Kings 2:1-3; 2 Chronicles 9:31

2) Positional Generations

- Mentor, encourage, and equip our co-workers or those that we lead (apprentice) in wisdom and specific life skills
- 1 Thessalonians 2:8; Hebrews 3:13; Hebrews 10:24; Philippians 4:9 Deuteronomy 31:23; Deuteronomy 34:9-10; Joshua 1:1-9; 1 Samuel 3:20; 1 Samuel 4:18

3) Relational or Spiritual Generations

- Disciple those that God has entrusted to our care
- Usually 1-on-1 or small group relationships
- 1 Thessalonians 2:11, 12; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Luke 6:40; 2 Kings 2:9, 10; 2 Timothy 2:2

4) Social or Societal Generations

- Influence and model to the next generation in our community and in our nation
- Normally done in our daily actions
- Done in large groups by writing or using the media
- People learn more by example than other means
- Judges 2:10; Isaiah 30:8; Luke 6:44,45

Which is most important to God?

- 1) Spiritual or Relational (Mark 3:32-35; John 1:42; John 21:15; Acts 9; Acts 13; Acts 4:36)
- 2) Family (shift from physical family to spiritual family in the New Testament)
- 3) Positional
- 4) Society

How do we do this?

- Being intentional in every relationship
- Start with family, co-workers, others
- Personal interaction
- Grow in your own walk
- Write, speak, touch lives around you
- Be involved
- Follow the model of Jesus (John 13:15)

Conclusion

- Start where you are!
- Do what you can.
- Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit

Biblical Challenges for us to “Pass it On”

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after then.
Deuteronomy 4:9-10 (NIV)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
Deuteronomy 6:5-7 (NIV)

Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.
Deuteronomy 3:13 (NIV)

After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord or what he had done for Israel.
Judges 2:10-11 (NIV)

Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Psalm 34:11 (NASU)

And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come.
Psalm 71:18 (NASU)

We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power and the wonders he has done. 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 78:4-7

Let this be written for a future generation that a people not yet created may praise the Lord.
Psalm 102:18 (NIV)

One generation shall praise Your works to another. And shall declare Your mighty acts.
Psalm 145:4 (NASU)

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.
Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

The living, the living – they praise you, as I am doing today; fathers tell their children about your faithfulness.
Isaiah 38:19 (NIV)

Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children and their children to the next generation.
Joel 1:3 (NIV)

Ten Suggestions for Leaving a Legacy Through Letters

1. Write to your children, grand-children, peers, co-workers, neighbors, and other friends and family.
2. Keep the letter short - one, to one and a half pages. You can write as many as you want, limit each letter to one subject or character quality for brevity.
3. Write at special occasions like birthdays (especially key ones like 12, 16, or 21), holidays, graduation, marriage, or at intervals (annually, monthly, or weekly).
4. Write about subjects that are important to you like your faith, your country, life and death, your values, your passions, money, your hobbies, work and rest, vacations, friends and family.
5. Write about specific character qualities. See the *Character First* website and their 49 character qualities for suggestions.
6. Use a scripture verse, printing it out at the top or bottom of the letter. Use an easy to read translation or paraphrase like *The Living Bible* or *The Message*.
7. Use personal examples, stories, and people from your own life and family in order to make your point. Make it fun. Share about everyday life.
8. Keep it positive. Do not put negative things in writing – you will regret it.
9. Send the letters one at a time by mail, email, or hand them to the person over a meal. Spread them out over days, or weeks, or years. I sent our son 21 letters in 21 days, our daughters got them over 21 weeks, my co-workers received them monthly, my peers got a weekly email, and our customers and friends were mailed an annual Christmas letter. (See examples from any of our *My Heart to Yours* series of books.)
10. **Do it now!** Life is brief! You do not know how long you have to share what is important to you. Do not worry about your writing skills. YOU are the only mother or father or special friend that that person needs to hear from; share your heart with them *now!*

Passing it On!

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- 1) In addition to your father or mother, who is or was one person in your family that has dramatically impacted your life?

- 2) Who are your children, grandchildren, or others in your family that you want to influence in a positive way?

- 3) Who are some key leaders in your workplace or in other positions of leadership or organizations that you are in that have really impacted your life?

- 4) Who are some of the key people in your workplace, or in other organizations that you have a leadership position in, that you would like to have a special deposit into their lives?

- 5) Who are key mentors in your life that have helped you spiritually?

- 6) Who are 2 or 3 people in which God wants you to invest in spiritually?

- 7) Who are 2 or 3 leaders in our nation or community that have influenced your life greatly?

- 8) Who are the individuals or groups in your community that God has asked you to make an investment into their lives
