

LESSON 4: GETTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER
A LEGACY OF SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT AWAITS THOSE
WHO WOULD STEWARD RIGHTEOUSLY.



The values we pass on to our children’s children, ad infinitum, are the acorns falling from the trees of our lives.(i) But unlike the fruit of an oak tree, into which God has hardwired everything needed to reproduce a forest giant, we have a choice regarding the spiritual DNA we pass on to those who follow. Furthermore, we can help to plant those seeds in the proper soil, and we can provide nourishment and protection to enable them to thrive. (ii)

The question of legacy forces the issue of attitude: what are we modeling, as visible in our actions? What giving and stewardship behavior will future generations imitate? Today we will focus on several passages that provide examples for us to follow; in so doing, we establish a pattern worth repeating by those endeavor to train.

THINK ABOUT IT: Consider how these six Biblical precedents help define faithful stewardship for the modern household.

- **Tithes.** Lev 27.30, Mal 3.8-10
- **Offerings.** 1 Chron 29:3, 1Cor 16:2, 2 Cor 8:3
- **First-fruits.** Prov 3.9, Lev 19.24, Num18.12-13, Exod 23.16, 19
- **Thanksgiving.** Ps 100.4, Phil 4.6, 1 Thess 5.16
- **Sacrifice.** 1 Chron 29
- **Submission.** 2 Chron 24.1-14

TALK ABOUT IT: What principles did the early church model for us?

2 Cor 8.2-3.....Sacrifice – giving up something you love to give to something or someone you love even more.

Mark 14.3-9.....Not legalistic, rather a reflection of the heart.

Acts 4.32-37.....Give according to your blessings.

2 Cor 9.7.....Giving regularly, deliberately (as each has decided in his heart), voluntarily, sacrificially, & cheerfully.

THINK ABOUT IT: You – not the church – are responsible for setting the tone in your household.

If you do not teach your kids, someone or something else will. Society and our culture offer plenty of counterfeit and substitutes. Training children remains the responsibility of the parent – not their Sunday school teacher, not their school teacher, not their grandparents, not their bosses, and certainly not their peers. And yet many “churched” families willingly abdicate this direct command of scripture. (iii)

LESSON 4: GETTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER

A LEGACY OF SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT AWAITS THOSE WHO WOULD STEWARD RIGHTEOUSLY.



Understand and accept that every day, our children will be taught something, somewhere. And while how they act on it is up to them, how they're trained to process it depends on the parents.

TALK ABOUT IT: What can you do as parents to anticipate – not avoid – the alternate influences & opinions that your child will (not might) encounter?

TALK ABOUT IT: Why does leaving a legacy matter? How does it define how we live today?

PERSONAL/FAMILY APPLICATION

DISCUSS What are you doing well, as a family? Where do you need to improve? Talk about the future with your kids (age appropriately) – do you have a will? Why/why not?

DECIDE Establish in your household the priority of passing on Godly wisdom and practices.

DO! Set measurable goals as a household in the area of growing in wisdom in this area. Practical ideas: start a savings account for your kids; set aside a dedicated fund to support overseas mission work

- (i) *Luke 6.44, Ezek 47.12, Ps 1.3*
- (ii) *Eph 5.15-17*
- (iii) *Ps 22.6*