

life groups' sermon guide

picture perfect – your family portrait



Life Groups exist at Kingsway to provide authentic relationships for the life application of the Core 4 elements of worship, grow, serve, and share.

Introduction

This is the true joy in life...being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one....being a force of nature instead of a feverish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die. For the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It's a sort of splendid torch which I've got to hold up for the moment and I want to make it burn brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations. (George Bernard Shaw)

Discussion

A busy official took a day off to go fishing with his young son. The official recorded in his journal, "Complete waste of a day; went fishing." The son wrote in his journal, "Greatest day of my life, went fishing with Dad."

Share a positive family experience from your childhood.

- Was it a "big event"?
- What made it so memorable to you?

God's promises

Then the Lord passed by in front of him [Moses] and proclaimed, "The Lord, The Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generation." (Ex 34:7)

This promise of the effects of sin continuing throughout generations is repeated in Exodus 20:5 (in the midst of the 10 Commandments), Numbers 14:17-19, and Deut 5:9.

- Do these verses create a new outlook on sin and its effects? In what way?
- Have you seen evidence of this in your family? Community? Our nation? The world?
- What can the church do to help individuals suffering from the effects of sin by other family members?
- What can you (or your Life Group) do?

These verses show the effect of a negative legacy. Let's look at a positive example.

I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Tim 1:5-7)

Here we see Paul writing to Timothy regarding the positive legacy of Timothy's mother and grandmother.

- What was the legacy that Timothy's relatives left him?
- What was the result of this legacy in the life and character of Timothy?
- What are Paul's instructions for Timothy to do with the legacy given to him?

Application

The Clock and the Compass

The clock represents our commitments, appointments, schedules, goals and activities—what we do with, and how we manage our time. The compass represents our vision, values, principles, mission, conscience, direction—what we feel is important and how we lead our lives.

- Is there a gap between your clock and your compass?
- What is the **one** activity that you know if you did well and consistently would have a significant positive result in your walk with God?
- What is the **one** activity that you know if you did well and consistently would have a significant positive result in your family (and contribute to a positive legacy)?
- Are you doing these things now?

Pastor Matt directed each of us to write down our top 5 priorities.

- What changes, if any, have you made to your calendar (clock) to reflect your priorities (compass)?
- What change will you make this week? (i.e., translate intentions into direction)
- Do those priorities reflect the legacy you would like to leave?

Choose three words, a phrase or one brief sentence that you would want to define your legacy. Share that with the group. Write it down and post it where you can see it daily.

Habits have a tremendous gravity pull. Our day-to-day habits build our legacy, just as a house is built brick-by-brick. Breaking deeply embedded habitual tendencies such as procrastination, impatience, criticalness and selfishness involve more than willpower. We

must rely on the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and Biblical principles such as accountability.

- Are there habits in your life that need to be broken or modified?
- Is there a positive habit you need to begin?
- How can each of these affect a legacy?
 - Sin, such as pornography
 - Hobbies, such as golf
 - Use of media: Facebook/texting/social networks

Will you allow the group (or accountability partner) to help you establish the positive habits—or eliminate the negative habits—to ensure the legacy you desire?