

Legacy
REWRITTEN CHOOSING
A LIFE THAT
MATTERS

STUDY BOOK

EVERYTHING ABOUT
THE LEGACY INITIATIVE

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**A
MESSAGE
FROM PAUL**

“**There is a crisis in our culture.** It is a crisis that is hard to define or even notice. It is crippling to believers and unbelievers alike. It robs us of energy, focus and passion. It sets our life adrift. It is a crisis of meaning: Why am I here? What does it matter? Does anything matter? After I’m gone will anyone remember me? And if they do, so what?”

The Book of Ecclesiastes was written to address these very questions. Some contemporary scholars have described this as a postmodern book. Nothing could be further from the truth! Although the book is asking many of the same questions our current culture is asking, the ultimate conclusions are the complete opposite. After looking at the futility of a life without purpose and without God, the book returns to the authoritative voice of the narrator who concludes, **“Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near”** (Ecclesiastes 12:1a).

As Christians we believe that there is a God who steps into our reality and says: I am the Creator of this universe and **I designed everything for a masterful purpose.** I define by my nature and character what is noble, pure, right, good and beautiful. I have revealed myself through the design and order of the universe. I have further revealed myself through my Son Jesus as described in the Scriptures.

I made you on purpose and by design. This means: You are not alone. You do not need to face the very real terrors of this universe by yourself. God almighty is with you. I am with you and I have given you each other to love, support and fight together.

You are a creation of immeasurable worth. I have made you in my image and your value is seen in the effort I put forth to reveal myself to you and the price I paid for you by sending my Son.

You are created to be an agent of the good and beautiful. You have a purpose that is worth fighting for. You are to stand against the terror of this universe and the evil that has been unleashed. Your work will be remembered and built upon for all eternity. The small things you do now are the seeds that grow in eternity.

Ecclesiastes is raw and honest about the pains, disappointments, folly and evils of this life. This book is not a rant about the random chaos of this meaningless life. It is a call to stand against the chaos with God and each other because we believe there are good and beautiful things that are worth fighting for.

*The teacher says; “I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into humanities’ heart... **This is God’s gift to humanity”***
(Ecclesiastes 3:10-11b, 13b).



**GOD'S PLAN TO
ADVANCE THE
GOSPEL IS THROUGH
THE LOCAL CHURCH.**

**GOD'S PLAN TO
FUND THE LOCAL
CHURCH IS THROUGH
THE TITHES AND
OFFERINGS OF
THE PEOPLE.**

Legacy
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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

**EXERCISE AND REFLECTION TO DO AT
HOME PRIOR TO COMMITMENT WEEKEND**

HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THIS STUDY

We're so glad you've decided to join us in our journey towards Legacy. We want you to know that as an overseer team, staff and a church, we've been praying for this season for a long time and we truly believe God is going to move in our church body. We want to help you **fully engage** during this season of Legacy so that our legacy as a church, and your legacy as a family or individual, isn't just a season. This booklet is your best tool to do that and we've created it chronologically so you can track with us page by page. Here are four steps to follow to engage with us:

1. Join a Legacy Group

- a. We have dozens of groups running this fall that will be studying Ecclesiastes along with our weekend message series – there are women's, men's, mixed and couple's groups at various times and locations throughout the whole week.
- b. If joining a group feels intimidating right now, check out Legacy large group where we'll go through the group materials in a larger gathering. It's happening every Tuesday starting in November.
- c. The group materials are included in this booklet and are designed to prepare you for the weekend messages. That means you'll discuss an idea with your group and the following weekend, someone will preach about the same topic – expanding, responding to, and digging deeper with the group materials.
- d. Youth and children will be participating in Legacy so families could use devotion questions for family devotions as well.

2. Attend the Legacy Series

- a. Commit to attending weekend services where we'll be taking a deep dive into the book of Ecclesiastes and what it means to choose a life that matters – for the long haul!
- b. If you can't attend a weekend service, stick with us through the messages posted online every Sunday evening, at jacobsowellchurch.church/messages
- c. Space for notes is included in this booklet so you can follow along with the Scripture and keep track of everything you're learning and the ways God is speaking to you.

3. Commit to Daily Devotionals

- a. We've created devotionals that work along with this series and are designed to deepen your personal discernment around Legacy. To get the most out of Legacy, commit to doing these devotionals each day!
- b. The devotionals are included in this booklet and are made to respond to the weekend messages. That means your Legacy group study prepares you for the weekend message and the weekly devotional responds to the weekend message.

4. Attend the Legacy Night of Worship and Advance Commitment

- a. And Save the Date! Our Night of Worship and Advance Commitment is happening on Friday, November 8th from 7-9pm.

READING ECCLESIASTES WELL

The book of Ecclesiastes is at the center of our discovery of Legacy and it plays a critical role in how we define what matters in life. Ecclesiastes is all about meaning which means the way we study and receive from this book will have relevance everywhere we go. In our world today, we're always asking about meaning. Some people are shouting from every vantage point claiming what they have to say is the most meaningful. Others are turning their noses up claiming that nothing really has meaning. **What we study in this season will have a profound impact on ourselves, our families and the people around us.** It's an incredible opportunity to shape our lives around what has true meaning and share that with the people around us – talk about an opportunity to engage our culture with one of the most important and common questions people are asking!

However, Ecclesiastes is also a challenging book that deserves some good context before just diving in. Here are a few details that will help us in our exploration:

- **Wisdom Literature:** The literature of Ecclesiastes is part of the genre called “wisdom literature” (like Proverbs and Job). These books are all about how to live well. They are filled with images and metaphors that are used to convey general truths about life. The Holy Spirit gives us discernment to apply these truths to our everyday lives.
- **Author Unknown:** The author of Ecclesiastes is unknown. It is often attributed to Solomon and some scholars have educated guesses about who the author may be but what's important is to understand the two voices speaking in the book. The “author” is like a narrator who gets the first and last word in which he creates context and proper perspective. In between those first and last words are the words of the Qoheleth or the Preacher/Teacher. These two create a conversation that allows us to discover and express some of our deepest feelings and questions about the meaning of this life. This book is real, raw and honest.
- **Hevel:** Hevel is a word used over 40 times in the book of Ecclesiastes, which means it must be important. It will show up in our translations of Scripture as the word “vanity” or “meaningless.” The problem with these translations is that they don't accurately portray the meaning of Hevel. Hevel is actually metaphor that literally means smoke or vapor. In other words, life can seem fleeting, difficult to grasp or make sense of, chaotic or unpredictable. Has life ever felt that way for you? The book of Ecclesiastes is all about bringing meaning and purpose to a life that is inevitably filled with hevel.
- **Under the Sun:** This is a book about the path of wisdom while we are alive, or “under the sun.” What is the right way to live? *It's about living a life that faces the chaos and uncertainty, knowing that God reigns above the Hevel and lives before and after our time under the sun.* This is key to finding meaning. “Remember your Creator in the days when you are young” (Ecc. 12:1a).

For more information on the book of Ecclesiastes, check out *How to Read Ecclesiastes* by The Bible Project on RightNow Media. Don't have a RightNow Media account? Through Jacob's Well, you have FREE access to RightNow Media (think Netflix for Bible studies!). To create an account, visit jacobswellchurch.church/rightnow-media/

ON GROUPS: BEING A GOOD GROUP MEMBER

We're made to discover God and be in community with one another. With community comes diversity in experiences, opinions, personalities and more! Here are a few helpful tips on being a good group member and leader:

- **Don't Skip your Group:** If you miss a weekend message or a few devotionals, you might be tempted to skip out on your group – resist the urge! You won't feel out of place or left behind. We encourage you to commit to attending your group and engaging with Legacy as much as possible.
- **Encourage Everyone to Participate** – If you're a talker, this means you might need to reign it in from time to time. If you tend to listen more often, try to share a few more things than you might typically. All opinions and thoughts are valued so work to create a hospitable environment for sharing.
- **No "Hot Seat":** Don't put anyone on the spot! Make sure to ask for volunteers for reading Scripture or ask people ahead of time.
- **Validate, Don't Elevate:** The book of Ecclesiastes raises a lot of questions and dissonance. You might feel tempted to solve problems or give the "right" answer. Let us encourage you – sit in the tension and dissonance. Resist just answering for the sake of answering and instead, redirect with more questions! Resist the urge to resolve people's feelings and instead, validate their experiences. It will pay off in the long run.
- **Quality Over Quantity:** There are plenty of discussion questions provided in each of the weeks of group materials – don't feel the urge to answer all of them! Some questions may not resonate with your group while other questions might feel like you could discuss for hours! Feel free to dig deep and share honestly. There are helpful "bringing it all together" questions at the end of each week that will help you bring your conversations to a helpful endpoint. And remember, resolution isn't necessary!
- **Watch for Email Tips:** Group leaders, keep an eye out for weekly emails from Jenna Kaiser, Formation Director. She'll be in touch to give you weekly tips and weekly intro videos for your group to play. Keep track of attendance and record any helpful feedback, experiences or prayer requests so the Jacob's Well staff can walk alongside you.
- **Be Respectful:** It's important to listen well. Try hard not to give unsolicited advice. Make prayer a priority instead.

TIPS FOR DAILY DEVOTIONALS

You may already know our vision at Jacob's Well – **"Wherever we are on our journey, we will take next steps together to know and become like Jesus."** The "together" part happens in community, weekend services and groups – but "knowing and becoming" like Jesus also happens individually. We believe in order to know and become more like Jesus, we must know Jesus in relationship. One of the best ways to achieve this is through the practice of a daily devotional – intentional time devoted to being with God every day. Everybody is unique. We all communicate with and receive from God in different ways. So there's no "right" way to do daily devotionals. But if you need some help getting started or you're looking for a refresher, here are some tips for the journey:

- **Plan Ahead:** Plan a time that you can commit to. Do you use a planner or online calendar? Schedule your devotional time and stick to it – this will help you prioritize it.
- **Find the Right Spot:** Choose a place that will help you commit. Some people need a quiet space in their home while others need to be out in nature – try a few places to figure out what works best for you.
- **Remove Distractions:** Turn off media, set your cell phone aside and set it to "Do Not Disturb" if you are able. Let your family or roommates know when you are doing your devotional so they can help keep you accountable and know when you might be unavailable.
- **Write it Down:** Sometimes it can help to have a journal or paper with you – either to keep track of the things you're experiencing or to write down distractions (like when those pesky to-do's start trickling in, write them down so you remember to attend to them later!).
- **Pray First:** Start with prayer, asking God to help you be attentive to Him.
- **Pace Yourself:** Work through the devotionals in this book slowly. Everything else in this world tells you to rush. Instead, take this time to be thoughtful and patient, careful not to miss what you're experiencing or how God might be speaking to you.
- **Be Flexible:** There's no perfect time limit for devotionals. You might find that some days, you only have fifteen minutes to spare, while other days you might be tempted to spend nearly an hour in thought and conversation with God! The goal is intentional engagement.
- **Keep Coming Back:** Continue your daily devotionals even when you miss a day or when you feel apathetic. There will be days that the devotional provided might not speak to you and there will be days when you feel like you don't have time to spare. Keep at it anyway!
- **Take it to God:** When in doubt, spend time in prayer and ask God to make Himself abundantly clear to you. He will honor your requests!



JACOB'S WELL HISTORY

A BREIF HISTORY, THAT IS.

2000

6 FAMILIES MET IN
BERTHIAUME'S
LIVING ROOM

2001

JACOB'S WELL WAS OFFICIALLY
LAUNCHED, MEETING IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

2003

2 WORSHIP SERVICES
WERE OFFERED PER
WEEKEND

500

2003

PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE
PER WEEKEND

66 ACRES OF LAND WERE PURCHASED 2004

2006

FIRST JACOB'S WELL BUILDING WAS OPENED

2006

**3RD SERVICE
WAS ADDED
ON SATURDAY
NIGHTS**

2006

1,000

PEOPLE WERE ATTENDING
JACOB'S WELL PER WEEKEND

2008

100

STUDENTS ATTENDED
THE FIRST JACOB'S
WELL YOUTH GROUP

1,500

PEOPLE WERE ATTENDING
JACOB'S WELL PER WEEKEND

2009

2009

24

PEOPLE BAPTIZED AT
1ST SPLASH BAPTISM
EVENT AT RIVERVIEW
PARK IN EAU CLAIRE

2010

RUSH WAS LAUNCHED

2011 2,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

2012
300 MORE ADULTS
WELCOMED PER
SERVICE WITH
NORTH VENUE

2015
500
KIDS ATTENDING
JW KIDS PER WEEKEND

2015
250 STUDENTS ATTENDING
YOUTH MINISTRY

2016
2,000 PEOPLE ATTENDING
JACOB'S WELL EVERY WEEKEND

2016
93 BAPTISMS
AT SPLASH

2018
700
MORE ADULTS
WELCOMED PER
SERVICE WITH
WORSHIP
CENTER

2018
3,500
PEOPLE ATTENDED CHRISTMAS
EVE SERVICE

Jacob's Well



2000-2007

Jacob's Well

2007-2016



JACOB'S WELL
CHURCH

2016-PRESENT

Legacy
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CHALLENGES
and
OPPORTUNITIES

THE FOUR CHALLENGES AT JACOB'S WELL TODAY

A CRISIS OF MEANING & PURPOSE

Our culture has a crisis of meaning today: Why am I here? What really matters?

OUR MINISTRIES MUST ADAPT

Our ministries must be maximized to better serve the changing needs of our people.

A LARGE CAMPUS TO MANAGE

As our 80,000 sq.ft. campus ages, we must keep it in great working order.

WE MUST PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

We must build a foundation for future generations and leadership transitions.

TO FACE THESE CHALLENGES, WE NEED

100%

ENGAGEMENT

Our primary goal through Legacy is that 100% of people at Jacob's Well would engage in this initiative to experience a life-changing encounter with God.

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

We are asking you to go on a spiritual journey with God and your family—to take the biggest steps of stewardship and giving that you've ever taken.

1. ENGAGE IN MESSAGES & DEVOTIONS

My engagement in weekend messages and devotions will be:

2. ENGAGE IN GROUPS

My Legacy group is:

3. ENGAGE IN CHEERING

My way to Cheer for Legacy is:

4. ENGAGE IN PRAYING

My Prayer for Legacy is:

5. ENGAGE IN COMMITMENT

My commitment to Legacy is:

FOUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESPONSE:

1 GIVE A CALL TO A LIFE THAT MATTERS

We will challenge every family to reject the myth of ownership, and embrace Biblical stewardship as the cornerstone of discipleship. We will study the book of Ecclesiastes and discover the real meaning we can have in life, when we truly make God the owner.

2 MAXIMIZE OUR CURRENT MINISTRIES

Our pastors, staff and volunteers will work to update, improve and maximize our existing ministries to meet the changing needs of our growing church. This will include strategies to engage and reach our younger "20-something" adults.

3 MANAGE OUR LARGE CAMPUS

We will develop a comprehensive equipment replacement schedule. We will then start a capital replacement fund and contribute to it each year from our operations budget.

4 STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATION OF OUR CORE MISSION

The mission and vision of our church has not changed: We will continue to meet people wherever they are on their spiritual journey and help them take steps to know and become more like Jesus. However, it is wise and responsible stewardship to be prepared for the difficult times that will likely come. In order to prepare for expansion and future leadership transitions in the next 5-10 years, we will deepen our emergency fund and further reduce our debt.

"Remember your Creator in the days of your youth."

ECCLESIASTES 12:1a

Legacy
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GROUPS
MESSAGES
and
DEVOS

GROUPS, MESSAGES, & DEVOS CALENDAR

Groups start off the week of Oct. 7-11 with GROUP INTRO. After that, every group study is designed to lead up to the corresponding message and its devotionals. For example, GROUP CURRICULUM 1 (anytime during the week of Oct. 13-19) leads you into MESSAGE 1 (Oct. 19/20) which then is followed by Daily Devos 1 (Oct. 21-25).

OCTOBER 2019

		1	2	3	4	5
6	GROUP INTRO WEEK					12
13	GROUP CURRICULUM WEEK 1					19
20	GROUP CURRICULUM WEEK 2					26
				DAILY DEVOS 1		
27	GROUP CURRICULUM WEEK 3					
				DAILY DEVOS 2		

NOVEMBER 2019

					1	2
3	GROUP CURRICULUM WEEK 4					9
				DAILY DEVOS 3		
10	GROUP CURRICULUM WEEK 5					16
				DAILY DEVOS 4		
17	GROUP CURRICULUM WEEK 6					23
				DAILY DEVOS 5		
24	DAILY DEVOS 6					30

LEGACY MESSAGES

OCTOBER 19/20: Hevel

OCTOBER 26/27: Under the Sun

NOVEMBER 2/3: Eternity in Your Hearts

NOVEMBER 9/10: Time & Seasons

NOVEMBER 16/17: Cast Your Bread

NOVEMBER 23/24: Concert of Prayer

WORSHIP NIGHT

NOVEMBER 8: 7pm - 9pm

GROUP INTRO



GROUP INTRO WEEK

FOR THE WEEK of
OCTOBER 6-12, 2019

GROUP INTRO

GROUP CURRICULUM INTRO WEEK OF OCTOBER 6-12, 2019

FIRST OF ALL...

Hey, You! (Yes, **you.**) Is this the first time your group has ever met? Are there new people who have joined your group? Spend the first 15 minutes introducing yourselves, sharing about your job, family, and what brought you to Jacob's Well.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTION

If someone younger than you came and asked, "How do I have a meaningful life?" How would you respond?

WATCH

Watch Groups Intro Video



READ TOGETHER: Matthew 7:7-11

⁷“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

GROUP INTRO

DISCUSS

This passage comes from the Sermon on the Mount, a larger series of statements that Jesus made to give a picture of what it would look like to follow Him. What do you notice about Jesus' statements? What do you find surprising? What about it, if anything, seems confusing or mysterious?

1. "Ask, and it will be given to you..."—has that statement been true in your life?
2. What have you asked God for? What has He given you in return?
3. What do you expect God will give you when you ask for something? Does He usually meet those expectations?
4. In general, do you tend to ask "What do I think about that?" or "What does God think about that?" What leads to you asking one more than the other?
5. Where do you tend to seek? What do you think Jesus means when He tells the people to seek? How were you taught to seek God?
6. How do you know when you are seeking/learning well? What has seeking taught you about yourself, others and God?
7. Do you feel comfortable knocking on God's door (initiating with God)? Is there an area of your life where God might be leading you to knock in this season? What barrier, if any, is keeping you from knocking?

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

How does the practice of **asking**, **seeking** and **knocking** contribute to a meaningful life?

NEXT STEPS

Engage with Legacy—What will help you ask, seek, and knock in this season?

- Commit to your group gathering
- Commit to daily devotionals
- Commit to asking, seeking, knocking and making changes as God leads.



GROUP CURRICULUM

FOR THE WEEK of
OCTOBER 13-19, 2019

WEEK

1

GROUP CURRICULUM

WEEK OF OCTOBER 13-19, 2019

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTION

If someone younger than you asked, "How do I live in light of chaos and uncertainty?" How would you respond?

WATCH

Week One Introduction Video



READ TOGETHER: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

²*Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.*

³*What does man gain by all the toil
at which he toils under the sun?*

⁴*A generation goes, and a generation comes,
but the earth remains forever.*

⁵*The sun rises, and the sun goes down,
and hastens to the place where it rises.*

⁶*The wind blows to the south
and goes around to the north;
around and around goes the wind,
and on its circuits the wind returns.*

⁷*All streams run to the sea,
but the sea is not full;
to the place where the streams flow,
there they flow again.*

⁸*All things are full of weariness;
a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing,
nor the ear filled with hearing.*

⁹*What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be done, and there is
nothing new under the sun.*

¹⁰*Is there a thing of which it is said,
"See, this is new"?*

It has been already in the ages before us.

¹¹*There is no remembrance of former things,
nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be
among those who come after.*

WEEK

1

GROUP CURRICULUM
WEEK OF OCTOBER 13-19, 2019

DISCUSS

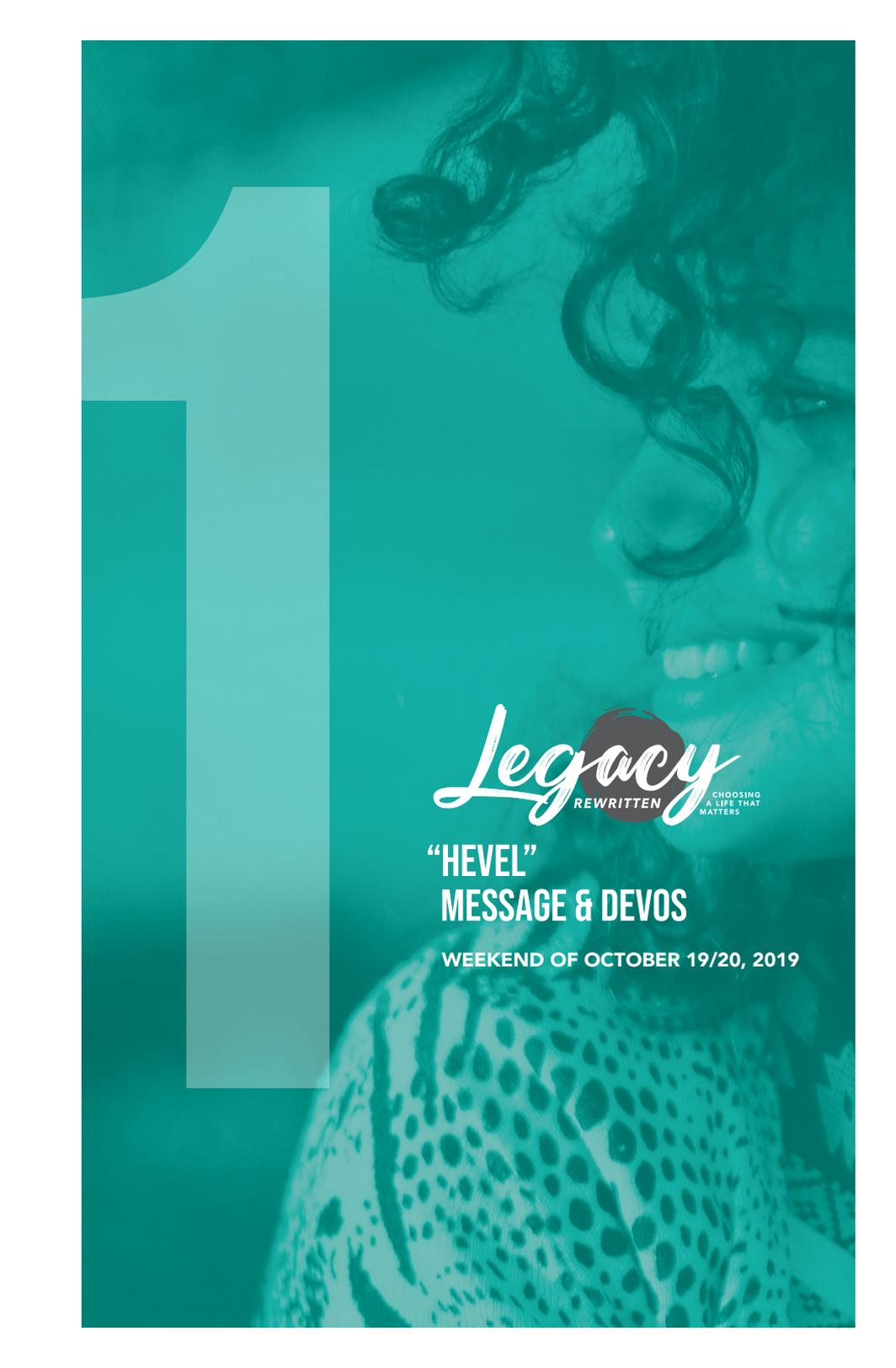
1. In the introduction video, we learned that vanity is more accurately translated as smoke or vapor. In what way does life seem like smoke or vapor?
2. How would you answer the question in verse 3: *“What does a man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?”* Does this mean work is meaningless or a waste of time? Why or why not?
3. What is the difference between work that has meaning, purpose and value and toil that is empty and meaningless?
4. The book of Ecclesiastes is wisdom literature, which means it shares general truths. Look at verses 4-6 and 9-10, What general truth are these verses explaining? What has been different from generation to generation?
5. In verse 8, the teacher is expressing the way we often feel. When have you felt similarly? What does the world say about taking care of dissatisfaction? What does Jesus say about it?
6. Read verse 11. Why do you think the teacher feels this way? Have you ever thought are we really that important in the scheme of things? How does that make you feel? This seems to be the predominant view of many today. What are the implications if we believe this?

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Ecclesiastes 1 validates that we often feel without control—life is like smoke or vapor. How can we respond to life when it feels like hevel? What is God’s response to hevel?

NEXT STEPS

- Pay attention to the ways you react to hevel—that is, what feels like vapor or smoke and what is difficult to control and often feels uncertain.
 - o What areas of your life do you try to manage or control? What would it take to start acknowledging you don’t have control?
 - o Take the things that feel difficult to control or where a lack of control frightens you and give them to God.



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**“HEVEL”
MESSAGE & DEVOS**

WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 19/20, 2019

WEEK

1

“HEVEL” MESSAGE
WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 19/20, 2019

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019

Ecclesiastes 1:1-4

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. ²Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. ³What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? ⁴A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.

- The word vanity here is the Hebrew word *hevel*, which translates to smoke or vapor. Life is chaotic and hard to grasp. When has life felt like hevel?
- What do you gain in your toil or work? What legacy is your work leaving? How does your work bring meaning to your life?

WEEK

1

“HEVEL” MESSAGE
WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 19/20, 2019

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019

John 4:13-14

¹³Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

- Sometimes when we try to understand that which can't be grasped, we're just expressing the things we're thirsting for. What do you thirst for? (Money, better behaved/performing kids, image, career, etc.)

- When has Jesus quenched your thirsts with Living Water? Do you think he could quench your thirsts?

- What has satisfied you during your time on earth? Why was it satisfying?

Ephesians 2:4-10

⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- In the midst of hevel/chaos, what hope does this passage offer us?
- As we think about what is meaningful, what does this passage say we are created for? How might your life need to change to honor what you are created for as Christ’s workmanship?
- How can we live in response to God’s good gifts, pursuing His goals? How might that begin to rewrite your idea of legacy?

WEEK

1

“HEVEL” MESSAGE
WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 19/20, 2019

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

- What work is God doing in the midst of hevel/chaos?
Where have you seen him working in uncertainty in your life?

- What does it mean for God to subject all things to himself?
Does that include hevel and what can feel hard to grasp?
What encouragement does that offer you?

- If our citizenship is in heaven, how should we spend our time waiting for Jesus? How does this hope encourage you to choose a life that matters?

WEEK

1

“HEVEL” MESSAGE

WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 19/20, 2019

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable.

²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

- In the race of life, what goal are you running towards? Do you find yourself running aimlessly or running on a consistent path towards Jesus' transformation? What legacy are you leaving behind you?
- When have you strived to reach a perishable prize (something that can't last like money, jobs, pleasure, etc.) instead of something imperishable (people, transformation, legacy etc.). Why do you choose one over the other?
- What disciplines might you need in your life to help you run and live with meaning and purpose so that you leave a legacy?



Legacy
REWRITTEN

CHOOSING
A LIFE THAT
MATTERS

GROUP CURRICULUM

FOR THE WEEK of
OCTOBER 20-26, 2019

WEEK

2

GROUP CURRICULUM
WEEK OF OCTOBER 20-26, 2019

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTION

If someone younger than you asked, "Life is short, how do I make the things I do matter?" How would you respond?

WATCH

Week Two Introduction Video



READ TOGETHER: Ecclesiastes 2:20-26

²⁰So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? ²³For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity. ²⁴There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? ²⁶For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

DISCUSS

1. What is the teacher's view of work? Do you feel similarly? Why or why not?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:58 and Colossians 3:17—What is the difference between these verses and Ecclesiastes 2:20?
 - a. **1 Corinthians 15:58** ⁵⁸*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*
 - b. **Colossians 3:17** ¹⁷*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*
3. Have you ever committed to something that looked enjoyable or like it would give benefits but later you found it stole your sleep and rest? What did you learn?
4. Have you ever felt satisfied with God? How did you get to that point? How could you find satisfaction with God?
5. Read verses 25-26—What is the difference between someone who is following God and someone who is not?
6. What are characteristics of a life that matters? What does the way you toil/work say about how you are living? Are you living for your time on earth (under the sun) or are you living for your Creator?

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

How often do you find yourself going through the motions of life? How can you bring meaning to the things you are doing under the sun? What's the why behind your toil?

NEXT STEPS

- Think about what you do every day—do you consider it meaningful work or empty toil? What would have to change for it to become more meaningful?
 - o What is one thing you can do this week to bring meaning to your work? (Change an attitude, ask God to help you view your work differently, gain perspective, see opportunities for impacting others, etc.)



Legacy
REWRITTEN

CHOOSING
A LIFE THAT
MATTERS

**“UNDER THE SUN”
MESSAGE & DEVOS**

WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 26/27, 2019

WEEK

2

“UNDER THE SUN” MESSAGE
WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 26/27, 2019

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019

Galatians 6:8-10

⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

- What is the difference between sowing flesh (planting what doesn't last) and sowing the Spirit (planting what lasts forever)? Where have you seen evidence of both in your life?

- When have you grown weary from sowing the Spirit or of "doing good"? What tired you?

- What impact would sowing the Spirit have on the people around you? Your family, your coworkers, the retail workers you come face to face with, etc. What is one thing you can do this week to sow the Spirit?

WEEK

2

“UNDER THE SUN” MESSAGE
WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 26/27, 2019

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019

Psalm 90:12-17

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. ¹³Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! ¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. ¹⁵Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. ¹⁶Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. ¹⁷Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

- What does it mean to number our days? How would numbering our days help us gain wisdom?
- When have you felt satisfied by God’s love? Do you think that’s possible? Why or why not?
- Why would we want to be glad for the days that have afflicted us?
- How can we be part of showing God’s work to His people and leaving a legacy? What work has God established for your hands?

WEEK

2

“UNDER THE SUN” MESSAGE
WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 26/27, 2019

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2019

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

- What does it look like to live in the world, minister to the world, but not love the things of the world?

- How can we assure we are doing the will of God during our time on earth? What does it mean that it will last forever?

- What are you choosing in your life to ensure that your life matters? What steps do you need to take this week to rewrite your legacy?



GROUP CURRICULUM

FOR THE WEEK of
OCTOBER 27 -
NOVEMBER 2, 2019

WEEK

3

GROUP CURRICULUM

WEEK OF OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 2, 2019

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTION

If someone younger than you asked, "How do you know what is beautiful?" How would you respond?

WATCH

Week Three Introduction Video



READ TOGETHER: Ecclesiastes 3:9-14

⁹What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. ¹⁴I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. ¹⁵That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

WEEK

3

GROUP CURRICULUM
WEEK OF OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 2, 2019

DISCUSS

1. What is something in your life that God has made beautiful through time?
2. Look at verse 11—what is set within us? What thoughts or associations do you have with eternity—mystery, fear, joy, anticipation, etc.?
3. The teacher says God has put eternity in our hearts. What does that mean? Eternity tells us that death isn't right—that this world doesn't fulfill, and we can never fully understand God—how might that increase our faith? How should we live our lives in honor of eternity?
4. Verse 13 talks about taking pleasure in life—this seems drastically different than the meaningless that the teacher was talking about earlier in the book. Why did that change occur?
5. Look at verse 14—what three things are characteristic of God's will?
6. Consider **Genesis 1:2** *The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*
 - a. Spirit of God hovers over the depths of darkness and chaos—God doesn't struggle with chaos, He controls it!
 - b. In light of this, how can we move towards the acceptance of hevel? How can our perspective of eternity help us remember that God is beyond hevel?

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

What challenges are you facing in order to participate in Legacy? Do you see yourself as an owner of all that life offers or a steward, charged with using your time on earth for eternal purposes?

NEXT STEPS

- Think through how you will engage with Legacy. What is God inviting you into? What challenges might He make beautiful? How could Legacy change your experience of God and of hevel?
- Use some of the group materials from this week and discuss the questions with your family or friend group. How is your community pursuing and modeling eternity together?

**Attend the Advance Commitment Night on November 8.
Consider attending as a group.**

3

Legacy
REWRITTEN CHOOSING
A LIFE THAT
MATTERS

**“ETERNITY IN YOUR HEARTS”
MESSAGE & DEVOS**

WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 2/3, 2019

WEEK

3

“ETERNITY IN YOUR HEARTS” MESSAGE
WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 2/3, 2019

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019

Matthew 6:19-21, 24

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²⁴“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

- What treasures on earth are you tempted to store? What does it look like to store treasures in heaven?
- What does it look like to bring meaning to the things on earth, viewing them with an eternal purpose/perspective?
- When do you find yourself most tempted to serve the master of money? How does it change your relationship with God?
- How can Legacy help you assure that you are serving God with your resources? What opportunity lies before you? (Check out Making a Legacy Commitment section. Pg 107)

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

⁷Again, I saw vanity under the sun: ⁸one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, “For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?” This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

- Why do you think the teacher is so adamant that people build relationships with one another? When have you experienced good community? What beauty comes from community?
- When have you found yourself dissatisfied with pleasure, toil or knowledge? When have you found yourself satisfied in relationships and community? What difference does the investment in something eternal (people) make?
- How can you prioritize important relationships in a world that says the secret to success is toil, pleasure and knowledge?

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- The people in Acts were part of the first church after Jesus had come to earth—everything had changed for them and they made people their priority. They lived in community because they had eternity in their hearts.
- What did the people in Acts do that had eternal purpose? What kind of Legacy do you think they left? Do you believe that we followed in their footsteps?
- What in your life might you want to model after the first church in Acts? What is God calling you to be a steward of?
- Legacy is about a community of people coming together to be the church. What part might God be inviting you to play? (Check out Making a Legacy Commitment section. Pg 107)

Deuteronomy 26:1-2

¹“When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there.

- Do you believe that everything you have has been given to you by God?
- Why would God instruct His people to give the first and best of all God had given them?
- What kind of legacy would be left from this practice?
- How can you incorporate tithing his into your own life? How can Legacy help you take that next step?
- Take some time to pray over the Commitment Card you received at church. Review the Making a Legacy Commitment section, pg 107. Discuss with a friend or as a family how you think you should participate.

John 14:1-7, 12

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

- When things feel like hevel, unable to grasp and chaotic, what encouragement does it give you that God has prepared a place for you?
- How has Jesus shown you the way in your journey? What role has the Holy Spirit played? How has the Holy Spirit been a reminder of the promise and eternity that awaits?
- Has your choice to follow Jesus changed the way you live your life and the works you do? Do you believe that you could do greater works? What does that say about the legacy you could leave?



GROUP CURRICULUM

FOR THE WEEK of
NOVEMBER 3-9, 2019

WEEK

4

GROUP CURRICULUM
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 3-9, 2019

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTION

If someone younger than you came and asked, "When will I have it figured out?" How would you respond?

WATCH

Week Four Introduction Video



READ TOGETHER: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

¹For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

²a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

WEEK

4

GROUP CURRICULUM WEEK OF NOVEMBER 3-9, 2019

DISCUSS

1. Have you ever felt controlled or trapped by a season of your life? How did you get through it? How can we stop that from happening?
2. What have you learned from previous seasons of your life? What work do you think God has called you to in this season of life?
3. If there's a season for everything, how can we experience more meaning and presence in our lives? Where can we find the constant things and make choices that matter?
4. If this passage is true, it means that there's always another season around the corner (good or bad). How might that truth reframe your priorities or what to act on in your life? Are there legacies that have been left for you, patterns of origin or cycles you could be a part of breaking?
5. Where in your life have you been waiting for the next season instead of taking action while accepting life's changes?
6. How would you describe this season of life you're in? In this season, what would it take for you to bring something meaningful and beautiful forward?

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

How would you describe God's beauty and meaning in your life? Is there a place in your life that has been especially painful or chaotic that you need to process? What would it look like to bring those areas forward to God, so He can bring meaning and beauty to it?

NEXT STEPS

- Commit to working through an area of your life. Consider meeting with someone to help you.
- Name the places where you need to embrace change, instead of wallowing in it or controlling it.



Legacy
REWRITTEN CHOOSING
A LIFE THAT
MATTERS

**“TIME & SEASONS”
MESSAGE & DEVOS**

WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 9/10, 2019

Romans 5:6-8

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- Christ came at just the right time—how have you found that to be true in your own life?
- God’s timing is always right. What season is it in your life? Imagine your life five years from now—what beautiful, right and good thing do you want to come out of your life?
- If you were to write an obituary for your life, what would you want said? What plans do you need to make to achieve that reality?
- How would having a plan or direction for the next five years focus your life? What plans do you need to make with Legacy to achieve that plan?
- If you commit to Legacy, what will you see happen in this season? Is this just the right time for you to make a change? What positive things could you be doing that honors what Christ has done for you?

WEEK

4

“TIMES & SEASONS” MESSAGE
WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 9/10, 2019

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019

James 1:2-4

²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- It's not uncommon for us to try and get out of trials as quickly as possible. According to James, what good comes out of trials?

- When have you found a trial to produce something good in you? Do you think that was by your own efforts or by God? A combination?

- How has God been helping you lack in nothing?

Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

⁷Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do. ⁸Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head. ⁹Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. ¹⁰Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

- Why do you think the teacher is such a big advocate for enjoying life in the midst of hevel?
- Have you been taught to enjoy life? Why or why not?
- Why would God desire for us to enjoy life, making the most of every time and season?
- How can you incorporate this into your own life, bringing meaning to every moment?
- God exists and reigns above the chaos and the hevel how can this help us apply the wisdom of these verses?

WEEK

4

“TIMES & SEASONS” MESSAGE
WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 9/10, 2019

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

2 Peter 3:8-9

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

- How do you view time? Does your view of time match God’s view of time? Why or why not? How do you know?
- How can you take responsibility for your own growth in this season? What steps do you need to take? Do you need to be more patient with your progress?
- In five years will you respect the person you are today? Why or why not? What needs to change in order to make that a reality?
- How can you make time to process and reflect on your life?



GROUP CURRICULUM

FOR THE WEEK of
NOVEMBER 10-16, 2019

OPENING
DISCUSSION
QUESTION

If someone younger than you asked, "In a world full of uncertainty, should I play safe or take the risk?" How would you respond?

WATCH

Week Five Introduction Video



READ TOGETHER: Ecclesiastes 11:1-10

- ¹Cast your bread upon the waters,
for you will find it after many days.
- ²Give a portion to seven, or even to eight,
for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.
- ³If the clouds are full of rain,
they empty themselves on the earth,
and if a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.
- ⁴He who observes the wind will not sow,
and he who regards the clouds will not reap.
- ⁵As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in
the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work
of God who makes everything.
- ⁶In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your
hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or
whether both alike will be good.
- ⁷Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.
- ⁸So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but
let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All
that comes is vanity.
- ⁹Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer
you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart
and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things
God will bring you into judgment.
- ¹⁰Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your
body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

WEEK

5

GROUP CURRICULUM
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10-16, 2019

DISCUSS

1. What do you think the phrase “cast your bread” means? What is the heart of this passage?
2. Theologian Charles Spurgeon once said, “If we keep on observing circumstances instead of trusting God, we shall be guilty of disobedience.” What do you think this quote has to do with Ecclesiastes 11?
3. What excuses do we make for not casting our bread or acting in the moment? Where might you need to sow and trust God for the harvest?
4. Why might it be important that we don’t wait to act? How should a follower of Jesus’ life be risky? What kind of life is the teacher advocating that we live?
5. What warning is given in verses 9-10? How should it affect our thinking and actions?
6. Where in your life are you tempted to say, “I’ll do that when...”
 - a. When I have enough money... the right job... more time... when my kids are grown...
 - b. What if God is asking you now? What might He be asking you? Will you make the bold action?
7. This weekend is Commitment Weekend. Take time to pray for the church and all those considering making a financial commitment to the church as part of Legacy. Pray for each other.

NEXT STEPS

What steps can you take this week in order to steward all that God has given you, make bold choices and leave a legacy that will show a life of meaning?

NEXT STEPS:

- Think through all the things you are a steward of: time, money, gifts, privilege, experiences, etc. How is God asking you to steward those plans well in this season?
 - o Make an action plan to make bold choices within the next year.



Legacy
REWRITTEN CHOOSING
A LIFE THAT
MATTERS

**“CAST YOUR BREAD”
MESSAGE & DEVOS**

WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 16/17, 2019

WEEK

5

“CAST YOUR BREAD” MESSAGE
WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 16/17, 2019

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Galatians 6:7-9

⁷Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

- When do you find yourself weary of doing good? What encouragement do you find in verse 9?

- What are you sowing in your life? What have you been reaping? What will the life you are living today produce for you in the future? Is it in line with God's will?

- What actions do you need to take to ensure that what you are sowing today will leave a legacy that speaks of God's goodness?

WEEK 5

“CAST YOUR BREAD” MESSAGE
WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 16/17, 2019

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

- How do you measure what you sow? What have you reaped?
- Where is God leading you to sow? What level might He be inviting you into?
- What security is there in knowing there is all sufficiency in all things at all times? How does that inform your decision making?

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- How do your actions cast bread into the water?
- What kind of legacy would a person like this leave? How might you want to rewrite your legacy so you could guarantee a similar legacy?
- Name one or two things modeled in this passage that you would like to implement in your own life. How will you ensure you follow through?



GROUP CURRICULUM

FOR THE WEEK of
NOVEMBER 17-23, 2019

OPENING
DISCUSSION
QUESTION

If someone younger than you came and asked, "Of what time I have left, how can I bring meaning to what I do?" How would you respond?

WATCH

Week Six Introduction Video



READ TOGETHER: Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them";²before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain,³in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed,⁴and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—⁵they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—⁶before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern,⁷and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.⁸Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

⁹Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. ¹⁰The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth. ¹¹The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. ¹²My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. ¹³The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

DISCUSS

1. What does it mean to remember our Creator? Why is this the teacher's advice? Why do you think he refers to God as Creator?
2. Verses 2-7 speak about what it will be like to reach the end of life and in verse 5, he mentions the eternal home—clear confidence of life with the Creator after death in the Old Testament. It's a final plea to remember the Creator, because everyone will return to the God who gave all things.
 - a. But, the line "vanities of vanities" comes back—the word hevel. Life is still hard to grasp, chaotic and unpredictable. What has the teacher discovered in all of Ecclesiastes?
 - b. What have you discovered about a life of meaning? How are you choosing to rewrite your legacy?
3. What does it mean to fear God and keep His commandments? Why are those the preacher's final words of advice?
4. What needs to change in your life to make sure you are moving towards a truly meaningful life?
5. Take time to pray for overseers, staff and all the leaders and volunteers at the church. Pray for the next generation to rise up and be the church. Pray we will stay in step with the Spirit of God.

NEXT STEPS

- Take a step this week that will help you remember your Creator—commit to the practice of solitude, reflection, Scripture study, living out commandments, or taking actions that communicate who God is.
- Will your life communicate that you feared God and kept His commandments? Consider what things you need to start, continue, or stop doing in the next year to make sure your life communicates that you remembered your Creator.



Legacy
REWRITTEN CHOOSING
A LIFE THAT
MATTERS

**“CONCERT OF PRAYER”
MESSAGE & DEVOS**

WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 23/24, 2019

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019

John 4:23-24

²³Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Pray over the ways we worship God as a church. Spend time praying that our offerings to God would be filled with worship and would be worthy of all God has given us. Ask God to lead us boldly in the decisions we make with Legacy. Pray that our congregation would be able to move towards being unrestricted in our worship of God, expanding our hearts and minds to know more of Him and that our actions would follow suit. Ask that God would lead us to worshipping with our whole selves and that the things that restrict us would be lifted.

“*Lord, direct our hearts to understand the fullness of your character, your heart and your truth. Open us up to fully love out of our adoration of you as a church. Help us to honor you with our lives and within the life of the ministry of the church. Teach us how to worship you in Spirit and in truth. Help us become open to what whole worship would look like—from our minds, bodies and souls—and help us to glorify you.*”

2 Timothy 4:1-2

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ²Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

Pray that the church stays true to God’s message and we proclaim it whether or not it is convenient. Pray that our response to Legacy and Ecclesiastes would come with correction, rebuke and encouragement. Pray for protection over those who preach and teach the scriptures (pastors, staff, and leaders), both on weekends and during the week. Pray that our church would become people who are equally careful, patient and prepared.

“*Jesus, compel us to proclaim your truth and preach your message. Remind us that your words are life even when it isn’t easy or convenient. Use your words to rebuke us, correct us and encourage us—and let us follow you as we hold each other accountable. Only you can give us great patience and the words to teach.*”

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2019

Colossians 4:2-3a

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ.

Pray that we would be a people of prayer—that our new prayer room would be a catalyst. That we would become a people quick to pray and continually invite God into all that happens in the walls of the church. Ask that we as a people would grow in prayer and that we would see transformation because of it. Pray that you would be able to see your next steps through and that each step would be guarded by thoughtful prayer, guided by the Holy Spirit alone.

“*Jesus, help us to not take the gift of prayer—communication with you—lightly. Direct us to our knees and continue to help us desire to be devoted to communing with you in prayer. Keep us awake and alert. Fill our hearts with the compulsion to pray no matter the circumstance and help us to see the ways we look more like you as a result. Help us see what steps you are asking us to take and protect us from selfish motivations. Move us into action with your Spirit, that our prayers to you would instill confidence in all decision making.*”

Acts 4:11-12

¹¹Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.” ¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Spend time praying that the church would proclaim Jesus as Savior from every vantage point. Pray that our whole lives would leave a legacy that declares who God is. Ask for the removal of things that are not of God. Pray over our conversations, our mingling, actions, decisions and attitudes—that all would lead us to Jesus as the only source of life.

“ Jesus, may our resources, culture and building proclaim that you are the Savior. Fill us with your Spirit to boldly proclaim there is salvation in no one else but you. Anoint our tools and conversations to deliver the same messages, that people would walk through our doors and encounter your salvation. Keep us committed to sharing your salvation through our resources, messages and conversations. Remove the things that are not of you and help us build the things that leave a legacy that proclaims Your goodness. ”

Ephesians 4:1-6

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Pray that the church might be a place where people have unity amid diversity—loving those with whom we have nothing in common but the gospel. Pray specifically for faithful and equipped leaders who model a godly legacy—that the unity of the church would be felt from every ministry, leader and person.

“ May we be a people who walk in a manner worthy of our calling. May our overseers, staff, leaders, members and attendees pursue and grow in humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another in love. Holy Spirit, would you bring us unity among one another—would our church proclaim as one body and one Spirit in one hope. Preserve the witness of our leadership and give our overseers and staff the capacity to showcase your love, mercy and forgiveness. Would our journey through Legacy come with accountability and would it compel us to be faithful to You. Lord, would you be glorified as the Father who is over all and through all and in all. ”

Legacy
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A LIFE THAT
MATTERS

LEGACY EXPLAINED

THE JOURNEY OF LEGACY

Legacy is first and foremost a discipleship initiative. We're all at different points moving toward restoration.

We want to learn new things about God and about ourselves. We want every single person at Jacob's Well to be willing to take a next step of growth in this area of giving.

Whether you've never given anything before, whether you're an infrequent contributor, or whether you're a consistent and thoughtful giver, there is a next step God is asking you to take in this journey.

100%
ENGAGEMENT

HOW FAR CAN WE JOURNEY IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="text-align: center;"> Maximize operation and ministry for the next two years <li style="text-align: center;"> Rebuild our emergency Fund <li style="text-align: center;"> Completely pay off the North Venue mortgage from 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="text-align: center;"> Commission a relevant new "20-somethings" ministry <li style="text-align: center;"> Add to the emergency fund <li style="text-align: center;"> Build capital replacement fund <li style="text-align: center;"> Complete and renovate key areas of our existing facility <li style="text-align: center;"> Pay off 20% of the 2006 mortgage for The Theater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="text-align: center;"> Completely pay off the 2006 Theater mortgage lowering our debt by 45-50% <li style="text-align: center;"> Begin to prepare the north 96 acres for future ministries <li style="text-align: center;"> Ministry expansion, Add to emergency fund & Capital replacement fund
<p>STEP 1 IS COMPLETE WHEN WE RAISE: \$7.7M</p>	<p>STEPS 1 & 2 ARE COMPLETE WHEN WE RAISE: \$8.4M</p>	<p>STEPS 1, 2 & 3 ARE COMPLETE WHEN WE RAISE: \$10M</p>

TURN THE PAGE TO UNPACK THESE 3 STEPS

Here's what's possible with 100% Engagement in Legacy

STEP 1: WHEN WE RAISE \$7.7M OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS

Maximize Operations and Ministry: In this step we will continue to fund the operations and the excellent ministries that Jacob's Well offers. This means paying salaries and expenses associated with JW Kids, Student Ministry, JW Care, Worship, Teaching, Discipleship and Groups; and paying for things like utilities, snow removal, janitorial, insurance and all of the expenses it takes to run and maintain the Jacob's Well campus. During this time, we will be maximizing every ministry system and process we have in place to ensure they are all the best they can be. Effective, streamlined ministry systems will lead to scalability and will help others who come to Jacob's Well join in, wherever they are on their journey.

Rebuild our Emergency Fund: We believe, having an emergency fund is part of stewarding the resources of the church wisely. Over the years, Jacob's Well has always had an emergency fund which has allowed the church to continue offering great ministry even in tougher economic times. We have never needed to lay off staff because our emergency fund helps us through those leaner times. Recently as we closed on the loan for the new Worship Center, we pulled the emergency fund to allow for a larger down-payment on the loan at closing. In Step 1 we will replenish these monies used from the emergency fund.

Pay off the North Venue Mortgage: With pledges reaching \$7.7M in Step 1, we'll be able to pay off the remainder of the mortgage on the North Venue. Paying off this mortgage will result in \$75k per year in savings which can be directed right back into new ministries. This would represent an 18% reduction in our overall debt.

STEP 2: WHEN WE RAISE \$8.4M OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS

Everything in Step 1: With \$8.4M pledged over the next two years, everything in Step 1 will be funded as well as the Step 2 Items listed below

Commission a New "20-Somethings" Ministry: Truth is, we have a crisis of meaning in our culture today. People are asking, "Why am I here", "What really matters", and "What is my purpose"? In no age group is this more prevalent with those who fall between high school graduation and getting married/having children. Traditionally, the wander years have lasted for a period of 5 years or less, but we now see a trend where young people are getting married later in their 20s or even into their 30s and waiting to have children until their early to mid 30s. Since "marriage" and "having children" are two major life events that draw young people back to church, that gap in time could be as much as 10-15 years.

Not to mention more people are remaining single, growing the need to minister to singles well. We think it is critical to engage this group in wisdom and truth, closing the gap so people can experience Jesus at every life stage. Generational impact is a cornerstone of what Legacy is all about.

Add to the Emergency Fund: In Step 2 we'll expand the emergency fund by another \$300k. As our Ministry and Operations budget has grown over the last few years, we need to expand the emergency fund to match that growth.

Build a Capital Replacement Fund: God has blessed Jacob's Well with an amazing 80,000 sq. ft. campus with which to do impactful ministry. We are the caretakers of this facility and all the property that goes along with it. Parts of the campus will soon be fifteen years old. Many of the components and systems in the facility will begin to show their age and may need repair or replacement soon. By "seeding" a capital replacement fund, we will be sure to have the funds set aside to make repairs or replacements as needed in the future and avoid being "surprised" when something breaks down.

Complete and Renovate Key Areas of our Existing Facility: Several smaller projects remain around our campus including:

- Additional preschool bathrooms
- Building out the upper video control room
- Replacing the main Jacob's Well entrance sign
- Completing the interior and exterior building signage
- Completing campus landscaping
- Completing the JW Kids security plan

Pay off 20% of the 2006 Mortgage: With \$8.4M pledged, we'll be able to pay off 20% of the remaining mortgage from the original building in 2006; resulting in \$1.5M of overall debt reduction from paying off the North Venue mortgage and paying down 20% of the 2006 mortgage. After Steps 1 and 2, we will have reduced our overall debt by 25%

STEP 3: WHEN WE RAISE \$10M OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS

Everything in Step 1 and Step 2: When we raise \$10M over the next two years, we will be able to fund all of the items in Steps 1 and 2. In addition, we will be able to accomplish the following items:

Completely Pay Off the Remainder of the 2006 Mortgage:

Paying off both the first and the second mortgages represents a 45-50% reduction in the overall debt of the church. This move will free up almost \$250K per year in savings.

Begin to Prepare the 96 Acres: In this step, we'll set aside funds to begin cleaning up the land and preparing for future ministry opportunities God has planned for that site.

Legacy
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MATTERS

MAKING
a
LEGACY
COMMITMENT

EXERCISE AND REFLECTION TO DO AT
HOME PRIOR TO COMMITMENT WEEKEND

MAKE A PLAN

1. List out the financial commitments you currently have—those that go beyond a one-time payment and have a time duration to them. Examples would be a home mortgage, a lease agreement, a car loan, a cell phone contract, your child's tuition for school, your own tuition for school, etc.
2. Now, write out the commitment you are planning to make for Legacy. Where does it fall in the priority of these other commitments? Do you need to change or modify one or more of these other commitments in order to be able to fulfill your Legacy commitment? What if you wanted to raise your Legacy commitment? What would that require? Is there a financial commitment you currently have that appears to be prioritized above your ability to make a truly surrendered giving commitment? With your current priorities, are you fully engaged with God's mission of helping people take their next step with Christ?
3. If someone who didn't know you looked at your financial commitments, what would they say you value?
4. Would that statement be true about you? Or, is there something that needs to be explained or modified?
5. If you keep this commitment over the next two years, what spiritual transformation will occur in you?
6. How will you leverage this change to influence others such as your children, your co-workers, your friends, your family, or others in your circles of influence?

PRAY

Pray over your commitment as you prepare to lay your card at the altar on Commitment Weekend November 17/18. Prayer is the most important thing in this whole process, and prayer is what gives us the bold heart of Christ within us.

LET'S DO THIS!

Let's be people who boldly surrender ourselves to God in every area of our lives.

LET'S CHECK OUT THE COMMITMENT CARD!

WE ARE 100% ENGAGED IN CHOOSING A LIFE THAT MATTERS

Legacy

COMMITMENT CARD

WHAT WE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR

\$ _____ MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING AS I INCREASE MY GIVING TO A TITLE OF MY INCOME

\$ _____ MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING FOR LEGACY ABOVE OUR REGULAR TITLE

\$ _____ x2 YEARS = \$ _____

MY/OUR GIFTS FROM STORED RESOURCES (stocks, real estate, savings, etc) \$ _____

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR LEGACY COMMITMENT (Dec. 2019 - Dec. 2021) \$ _____

CONTACT INFO

NAME: _____ PHONE #1: _____
ADDRESS: _____ PHONE #2: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ EMAIL: _____

COMMITMENT CARD

1 \$ WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR

2 \$ MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING AS I INCREASE MY GIVING TO A TITHE OF MY INCOME

3 \$ MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING FOR LEGACY ABOVE OUR REGULAR TITHE

4 \$ X2 YEARS = \$ 5

MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES (stocks, real estate, savings, etc) \$ 6

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR LEGACY COMMITMENT (Dec. 2019 - Dec. 2021) \$ 7

8

CONTACT INFO

NAME: _____ PHONE #1: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE #2: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ EMAIL: _____

TRY IT OUT!

1. Write down what you normally give in one year.
2. Not giving a full tithe of 10%? Write down the amount it would take to increase your giving to 10% of your yearly income.
3. If God is leading you to do so, write down the amount you want to give OVER your tithe
4. Add up lines 1–3
5. Double the amount in line 4 to see how much your giving will amount to over two years.
6. If God has blessed you over and above, and you have any stored resources (stocks, real estate, savings, etc.) you wanted to give, write down the value of these resources here.
7. Write the total of lines 5 & 6 here.
8. Make sure you write down your contact info!

GIFT LEVEL CHART

# OF GIFTS NEEDED	2-YR GIFT OF...	MONTHLY GIFT OF...	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$1,000,000	\$41,667	\$1,000,000
1	\$750,000	\$31,250	\$750,000
1	\$500,000	\$20,833	\$500,000
2	\$250,000	\$10,417	\$500,000
8	\$100,000	\$4,167	\$800,000
12	\$75,000	\$3,125	\$900,000
20	\$50,000	\$2,083	\$1,000,000
40	\$25,000	\$1,042	\$1,000,000
60	\$10,000	\$417	\$600,000
100	\$7,500	\$313	\$750,000
150	\$4,800	\$200	\$720,000
200	\$3,600	\$150	\$720,000
200	\$2,400	\$100	\$480,000
MANY	\$1,200	\$50	\$280,000
TOTAL GIFT			\$10,000,000

HOW DO WE DO THIS? WITH 100% ENGAGEMENT

You may think your gift doesn't matter when compared to our total goal for Legacy. You're wrong! Every gift matters to God. It's not about the amount, but what that amount means to you. (Matt 12: 41-44) Use this table to see how your monthly gift adds up over two years!



GIVING SCENARIOS

WE ARE 100% ENGAGED IN CHOOSING A LIFE THAT MATTERS

Legacy

COMMITMENT CARD

WHAT LIFE SCENARIO YOU CARE BY ONE YEAR

\$ _____

WHAT OUR ENHANCED ANNUAL GIVING WILL PROVIDE BY GIVING TO OTHER OF MY INCOME

\$ _____

WHAT OUR ENHANCED ANNUAL GIVING FOR LEGACY PROVIDES OVER OUR LIFETIME

\$ _____

x2 YEARS = \$ _____

MY OUR OPTIMAL FUNDING STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS (PLEASE SEE WEBSITE: WWW.LEGACYMATTERS.ORG)

\$ _____

MY OUR 2-YEAR LEGACY COMMITMENT (2017-2018, 2019-2020)

NAME: _____ FIRST: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ COUNTRY: _____

OUR GENEROSITY JOURNEYS

STEWARDSHIP PATHWAY

5 Next Steps in a Life of Stewardship

These stages focus on behaviors and attitudes of our hearts—our discipleship—rather than on amounts or percentages. Each step represents growth in a lifestyle of giving and sacrifice that transforms us into the likeness of Christ who gave up everything.

INITIAL GIVER

An Initial Giver is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift.

CONSISTENT GIVER

A Consistent Giver is someone who commits to give something on a regular basis. Consistent Givers start to think of their giving in the same way they think about other budget expenses that are always paid, regardless of seasons of plenty or want. They often set up an online recurring gift to help.

INTENTIONAL GIVER

Intentional Givers think about giving in relation to other things they spend their money on: "Why do I give the cable company or my cell provider more money than I give to God?" They consider a percentage or amount they want to commit to in order to consciously grow in their giving. Intentional Givers look at their budget and consider how their giving reflects their view of God and commitment to His Kingdom. This may also be the point when someone begins to tithe, which is being intentional about a certain amount or percentage that they want to give to God.

SURRENDERED GIVER

A Surrendered Giver is someone who recognizes the cost Christ paid on the cross for us and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. A Surrendered Giver gives in a way that changes them. Their giving governs their spending/saving rather than their spending/saving governing their giving. A Surrendered Giver isn't concerned with what they ARE giving but more concerned with what they're NOT giving and why. They seek to honor God with 100% of what He has given them, whether direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource like a home or a vehicle.

LIFETIME GIVER

A Lifetime Giver is someone who thinks about the long-term effects of stewardship rather than month-to-month, or even year-to-year, giving. A Lifetime Giver makes decisions in the short-term that have longer-term effects as it relates to their giving capacity. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, and how much savings they choose to keep all in relation to their giving capacity. A Lifetime Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal that governs their larger-ticket decisions. Much like a Surrendered Giver makes a commitment that will govern his/her monthly and annual decisions, a Lifetime Giver makes a lifetime or longer-term giving commitment that governs his/her larger-item purchases like homes, cars, investments, and the like.

INITIAL GIVER

COMMITMENT CARD	
\$ 0	WHAT I'VE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR
+	
\$ 2,500	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING AS I INCREASE MY GIVING TO A TITHE OF MY INCOME
+	
\$ 0	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING FOR LEGACY ABOVE OUR REGULAR TITHE
=	
\$ 2,500	x2 YEARS = \$ 5,000
+	
	MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES (stocks, real estate, savings, etc)
	\$ 500
=	
	MY/OUR TWO-YEAR LEGACY COMMITMENT (Dec. 2019 - Dec. 2021)
	\$ 5,500

Michael is a new believer and has never given before. He is now starting several spiritual disciplines, including stewardship. It's a huge step of faith, but Michael plans to commit 5% of his \$50,000 income (\$2,500) each year, plus \$500 from his savings, for a total two-year contribution of \$5,500 to the Legacy Initiative.

CONSISTENT GIVER

COMMITMENT CARD	
\$ 500	WHAT I'VE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR
+	
\$ 1,250	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING AS I INCREASE MY GIVING TO A TITHE OF MY INCOME
+	
\$ 0	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING FOR LEGACY ABOVE OUR REGULAR TITHE
=	
\$ 1,750	x2 YEARS = \$ 3,500
+	
	MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES (stocks, real estate, savings, etc)
	\$ 500
=	
	MY/OUR TWO-YEAR LEGACY COMMITMENT (Dec. 2019 - Dec. 2021)
	\$ 4,000

Jennifer has recently witnessed radical changes in people's lives through the ministry of the church. So far, she has been giving casually, if she has extra cash on hand during offering time. However, she now feels led to become more consistent in her giving. Her plan is to increase her usual annual giving of \$500 by \$1,250, bringing her to a total of \$1,750 a year, or 5% of her \$35,000 income. With the addition of \$500 from a vacation savings fund, in two years she will have given \$4,000 to the Legacy Initiative.

INTENTIONAL GIVER

COMMITMENT CARD	
\$ 6,000	WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR
\$ 6,000	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING AS I INCREASE MY GIVING TO A TITHE OF MY INCOME
\$ 0	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING FOR LEGACY ABOVE OUR REGULAR TITHE
\$ 12,000	x2 YEARS = \$ 24,000
	MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES (stocks, real estate, savings, etc) \$ 2,000
	MY/OUR TWO-YEAR LEGACY COMMITMENT (Dec. 2019 - Dec. 2021) \$ 26,000

Peter and Rebecca have given consistently to the church at a steady 5%. With a combined income of \$120,000, they contribute \$6,000 each year. Legacy, however, has prompted them to tithe a full 10%. It will require some lifestyle adjustments to give \$12,000 a year, but they know it's what God is calling them to do. Also, they've been saving for a boat, but have decided to give the \$2,000 in that account as well. They are now planning to give \$26,000 to the church over the next two years.

SACRIFICIAL GIVER

COMMITMENT CARD	
\$ 7,000	WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR
\$ 1,400	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING AS I INCREASE MY GIVING TO A TITHE OF MY INCOME
\$ 0	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING FOR LEGACY ABOVE OUR REGULAR TITHE
\$ 8,400	x2 YEARS = \$ 16,800
	MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES (stocks, real estate, savings, etc) \$ 2,000
	MY/OUR TWO-YEAR LEGACY COMMITMENT (Dec. 2019 - Dec. 2021) \$ 18,800

Anthony developed the discipline of tithing years ago and has seen God's provision again and again. He feels blessed to be at a church that shares his passion for missions and helping those in need. Anthony will increase his giving percentage from 10% to 12% of his annual income of \$70,000, or \$8,400 a year. Over two years, with the addition of \$2,000 from the sale of a motorcycle, he looks forward to giving \$18,800 to the Legacy Initiative.

LIFETIME GIVER

COMMITMENT CARD	
\$ 13,500	WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR
+	
\$ 1,500	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING AS I INCREASE MY GIVING TO A TITHE OF MY INCOME
+	
\$ 0	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING FOR LEGACY ABOVE OUR REGULAR TITHE
=	
\$ 15,000	x2 YEARS = \$ 30,000
+	
MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES (stocks, real estate, savings, etc)	\$ 10,000
=	
MY/OUR TWO-YEAR LEGACY COMMITMENT (Dec. 2019 - Dec. 2021)	\$ 40,000

Judith loves to give of her time, talents, and resources. She has given 15% of her \$90,000 income (\$13,500) to the church in recent years, but is inspired to increase the annual amount to \$15,000. A company she invested in years ago is no longer of interest to her, so she is arranging to transfer those shares to the church. Judith can't wait to give \$40,000 to the Legacy Initiative.





ONE FUND

EXPLANATION OF THE ONE FUND APPROACH



You may have been part of church campaigns in the past where you were asked to give a second gift “above and beyond” your usual gifts to complete special projects. At Jacob’s Well these have been used to make new buildings and ministries possible. Normally, you gave that gift to the “Building Fund” and you also continued to give to the “General Fund.” This type of giving is potentially confusing to people who either don’t have a baseline for their “usual giving” or who aren’t able to really celebrate the total giving at Jacob’s Well in one single number. We believe we’re all on ONE MISSION—to passionately share the message of Jesus Christ and lead people to follow Him.

The Legacy Initiative will last two years. In those two years, every gift given to Jacob’s Well will go to the Legacy Initiative.

We’ve included a sample Commitment Card (pg 110) so you can see how a “One Fund Initiative” works. Please take the time to fill this out, but don’t worry, you’ll get a shiny new one to submit on Commitment Weekend, November 17/18.



CREATIVE
WAYS TO
GIVE MORE
DEEPLY

LIFESTYLE STEWARDSHIP

CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE MORE DEEPLY

Legacy relies on church members making gifts that expand and accelerate their current level of giving. The best path to increased giving is the spiritual path, where you set your heart on things above. Financial priorities then take shape from the spiritual priorities. One way of defining this is “Lifestyle Stewardship,” a term used to describe a level of giving that affects one’s living. The challenge of Lifestyle Stewardship is to find ways, boldly and prayerfully, to let your giving impact your life! *King David declared, “I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” (2 Samuel 24:24 NIV)* David understood the gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the heart of the giver! This is the spirit of Lifestyle Stewardship: If it is for my God, my gift must have value and meaning to me. Often, Lifestyle Giving means giving up something in one area so that you can give more of yourself in another. The three keys to effectiveness in Lifestyle Stewardship are:

- Reassess lifestyle
- Rearrange priorities
- Reallocate resources

Many believers have been amazed at their ability to give more generously to their church.

The following seven steps are offered to help you in this regard.

1. Practice Priority Budgeting

Many families will choose to rearrange their priorities and give up something in their current budget in order to give more to a stewardship initiative. Priority budgeting may mean postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation, home remodeling, or other major purchase. Many Christians giving to capital stewardship campaigns find a way to give through sacrificial commitments made in faith and coupled with priority budgeting.

2. Redirect Present Expenditures

Often, families have significant short-term expenditures for special needs. One example is the large expenditure a family incurs for a child to attend college. A family realized that their daughters would be graduating from college during the two years of the stewardship initiative and, as a result, they were able to increase their commitment to the second year of the campaign by thousands of dollars by giving what they had been spending on their daughters’ tuition. Another example would be the cash flow that is freed up when a loan is paid off.

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3. Increased Giving with Increased Income

Some people receive periodic increases in salary or bonuses from their employers. The temptation for many of us is to increase our lifestyle to fit the higher income. In many instances, families have decided that they will commit the full amount of salary increases.

4. Give from Your Excess

A young man decided that two collectors' baseball cards worth over \$20,000 he had been holding for a number of years would be the most appropriate means of touching sacrifice for his family. Some families save money over a period of years for a special project. A couple had saved \$80,000 to build a lake cabin. When their church entered a stewardship initiative, they decided the needs of the church were greater than their need for a second home.

5. Commit Unexpected Cash

Often, people pray for God to show them a way they can give beyond what they can presently see or afford. Sometimes, the answers come unexpectedly. A couple had been praying for weeks about their commitment to the church stewardship initiative. Much to their surprise, they received an inheritance of several thousand dollars. They gave the entire amount to their church as part of their two-year commitment, in addition to a commitment from their regular income.

6. Sacrifice Your Extra Time

Some family members have extra time they would be willing to use in a part-time job to be able to give more to the church. This is particularly true for families whose children are grown and away from home and for semi-retired or retired couples. A man was in the process of retiring when his church entered a campaign. He and his wife secured new jobs and gave the first two years of their retirement income to the stewardship initiative.

7. Donate Appreciated Assets (Stored Resources)

Many people own stocks that are worth significantly more than the original purchase price. That is good news. The bad news is that if these stocks are sold, a significant portion of the gain would be lost to taxation. Gifts of appreciated assets—typically investment securities or real estate—can be very advantageous to both the donor and to the church. By transferring ownership of the asset to the church, the donor avoids capital gains taxes on the sale of the asset. In addition, the donor receives an income tax charitable deduction for the full market value of the asset. That, in effect, makes these gifts less costly to make. **BELOW IS A TABLE SHOWING YOU THE BENEFIT WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR GIFT GO FURTHER WITH PRE-TAX GIVING.**

SELL APPRECIATED ASSETS AND GIFT THE NET PROCEEDS

VALUE OF ASSET
\$12,000
ORIGINAL PURCHASE PRICE
\$3,000
AMOUNT OF APPRECIATION
\$9,000
CAPITAL GAINS TAX*
\$2,340
PROCEEDS TO CHURCH
\$9,660

*ASSUMES 12-MONTH HOLDING PERIOD,
15% CAPITAL GAINS TAX,
6% STATE INCOME TAX RATE.

GIVE APPRECIATED ASSET DIRECTLY

VALUE OF ASSET
\$12,000
ORIGINAL PURCHASE PRICE
\$3,000
AMOUNT OF APPRECIATION
\$9,000
CAPITAL GAINS TAX
\$0
PROCEEDS TO CHURCH
\$12,000

THOUGH IT IS IMPORTANT TO INVEST YOUR GIVING TO FURTHER THE MISSION OF THE MINISTRY GOD HAS LAID ON YOUR HEART, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER THE TAX IMPLICATIONS OF MAKING A GIFT TO THE CHURCH. BEFORE MAKING A COMMITMENT OF THIS TYPE, PLEASE CONSULT YOUR CPA, TAX ATTORNEY, OR OTHER FINANCIAL ADVISOR.

AND NOW, A FINAL WORD.

Giving does not have to be in equal increments over the two-year period of the campaign. You might be able to give more in the second year than in the first. As you think about your financial commitment to the campaign, think not just of your potential to give right now, but also of your potential to give in the future. It might be that you can make a two-year commitment in which 35-40% is given in the first year, and 60-65% is given in the second year.

Finally, as you consider your financial commitment to the Lord's work, you might want to consider estate planning. Many sincere, committed Christian people have not made provision for God in their wills and estate planning. Now might be a good time to do that. It might be as simple as including a provision in your will that 10% of the value of your estate will be donated to the church holding your letter of membership at the time of your passing. Or, it could involve a planned gift such as a charitable remainder trust. While such gifts do not provide immediate financial benefit to a stewardship initiative, they are marvelous gifts of faith commitment to carry on the work of the church for future generations.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

IS JACOB'S WELL TRYING TO BECOME A MEGA-CHURCH?

This emphasis is not about growth as much as it is about impacting our community and calling our people to know and become like Jesus. Every week lives are being changed and new people want to become part of what we have experienced. Our goal has never been to increase in size or numbers, but to meet people wherever they are on their journey and to take steps together to know and become like Jesus. As we continue to get better at helping people and families do this, we will continue to grow. Healthy things grow. We know it is irresponsible not to plan and prepare for those God will send.

ISN'T THE PRACTICE OF TITHING AN OLD-TESTAMENT THING?

Tithing is a Biblical concept. We believe the practice of tithing is based on the principle of First Fruits which teaches us to bring God our first and our best. Giving of First Fruits was practiced by giving the tithe from the very beginning of Biblical history with Abel, Abraham and the Patriarchs. This practice predates the Law of Moses, but is continued as an act of worship in the teaching of Moses. The practice was continued through David, Solomon, the Prophets, the Kings and throughout the Old Testament. The principle of First Fruits is referenced by Jesus, Paul and other New Testament writers. First Fruits and the tithe were practiced by the church from the earliest times and all through church history.

So, what changed in the New Testament? The New Testament emphasizes that the practice of giving should be an act of worship done from the heart. There are warnings about bringing the tithe in a legalistic manner or in such a way to create personal self-righteousness or to create an image of "generosity" to be seen by people. Such abuse of the tithe is condemned, but the practice is never abandoned and is in fact still commanded. Jesus himself corrected the abuses of the tithe he saw in the religious leaders while being quick to still honor and require the tithe. See Matt 23:23. Since the practice of First Fruits and the tithe predate the law and is practiced after the time of the law, we understand it to be a fundamental principle of spiritual formation and worship. See Malachi 3:6-10. In addition, because the scripture teaches us to make tithing a matter of the heart, the tithe is a starting point. Believers are often called to give above our tithe. This is called an offering and can be given to the poor, ministries outside the church and other benevolent causes. Ultimately bringing a tithe is an act of worship for those who have been freed from sin and are seeking to know and become like Jesus. When done well it comes as an overflow of the heart and response to God who gave us his first and his best in Jesus.

SHOULD I ONLY GIVE TO THE LOCAL CHURCH?

No. We believe that people should not limit their giving to the local church.

However, we do believe that the tithe is God's plan to advance the Gospel through the local church. God's plan is to fund the local church through the tithes and offerings of the people. Taking the tithe away from the local church to give to another ministry, cause, or need not only limits the work of the local church, but also keeps the person giving in control. When a person uses the tithe in this way, they are acting as an owner of the resource rather than a steward who is returning to God what belongs to him as an act of worship and surrender. That is why the scripture teaches us to bring the tithe into the storehouse of God which is the local church. The local church is the practical expression of the Kingdom of God in present time and in a specific place. We do believe that God's plan for the expansion of His Church and the spread of the Gospel is accomplished first through the local church. We strongly encourage people to give above their tithe as they are able and feel God directing them, not only to special needs at the church, but to other ministries, causes, and needs in the community and world. Your convictions may lead you to give additionally outside the church which we wholeheartedly support.

SHOULD MY GIVING CHANGE AT THE END OF THE 2 YEAR LEGACY INITIATIVE?

The commitment you are making is for two years. After that time, you will have an opportunity to continue or change your commitment. It is our hope that the practice of tithing will continue. We also hope that the life change you make in all areas of your life will continue beyond Legacy and will indeed shape the rest of your life.

SHOULD MY GIVING BE BASED ON MY GROSS PAY OR MY TAKE HOME PAY?

Practicing First Fruits giving would lead us to base off of gross pay as everything comes from God. However, we believe you should follow God in your convictions as a steward. Legacy is truly about life change and stewarding everything we have been given by God.

WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?

First and foremost, we are asking that you pray and seek God's direction on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him and then listen to what He says. Take your next step. Engage in personal reflection with God in this guide. Talk with your spouse, your family, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life.

We are asking that you make a sacrificial commitment to gospel-centered giving—whatever it is that God leads you to do. Follow His leading.

Finally, we ask that you prepare to be amazed. We serve an awesome God, and He is going to move in huge ways. We anticipate an unprecedented impact from our collective Legacy commitments—something only God can do. Please mark your calendar for Commitment Weekend, November 17/18 and prepare to experience a life-changing worship service that will forever be remembered as a defining moment for our church and our own faith.

HOW IS LEGACY DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES?

We are more focused on everyone at JW seeing their giving as an integral part of the discipleship process and then being challenged by God to take a next step. The bulk of this notebook is focused on helping us dig into some key Biblical principles that guide us in this area as we follow Jesus. This is our first priority—100% engagement in the process. Even if someone wrote us a check today for \$10 million, we would still do this initiative. Whether we're just starting in our giving journey or we're very committed givers, we all have a next step to take and room to grow in this area.

HOW DOES \$10 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS COMPARE TO CURRENT GIVING AT JACOB'S WELL?

Our current annual giving is approximately \$3.1M, multiplied by two years is \$6.2M. So, in essence, we're trusting God to grow our resources by a little more than \$1.9 million per year for a total of \$10 million.

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL WAYS BESIDES CASH THAT I CAN GIVE TOWARD LEGACY?

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give toward Legacy. You might have some stocks, property, or other items of that nature. Or you may have stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He just might be calling you to give during this time. Please let us know if you need assistance with facilitating gifts of property or stock, and we would be happy to help you. Amy Maziarka is able to assist with all such gifts. amaziarka@jacobswellchurch.church

WHAT IF I HAVE NEVER EVEN GIVEN TO JACOB'S WELL BEFORE?

Legacy was crafted specifically with you in mind. Legacy is a “one fund” stewardship initiative. It’s different from a traditional capital campaign where you are called to give an extra gift above and beyond your normal giving, thus creating two steps for people who aren’t yet giving. Legacy is a call to sacrificial, gospel-centered giving for absolutely everyone at Jacob’s Well. If you have never given before, this is your chance to get in the game with a committed sacrifice. We really hope you will.

HOW LONG IS MY COMMITMENT?

We are asking that everyone make a two-year (24-month) commitment. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with Celebration Weekend and our First Fruits Weekend offering on December 15/16 and it will culminate December 31, 2021.

WHAT IF I AM NEW AROUND HERE?

Legacy is about the vision for our church and our personal discipleship in giving as followers of Jesus. We believe that the local church is one of the most compelling missions to give toward, and we would really love for you to make Jacob’s Well your home and join us in Legacy. If you are ready for it, this is a perfect time for you to put a stake in the ground and make this your church.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A JOB RIGHT NOW?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR MY LEGACY COMMITMENT?

Legacy is about your total, radical, sacrificial giving to God’s mission at Jacob’s Well. We believe that God calls us to action in times of hardship just as much as He does in times of abundance, and that looks different for every person. Legacy is about a heart change—one that is only accomplished by surrendering our lives completely over to God in this area of giving and declaring that we are a people who are unfinished. That may mean that you are being challenged to sell things, to pick up odd jobs, or even to trust God in faith by making a commitment that you don’t quite know how to fulfill right now but that you believe God will provide for, as you seek for ways to work towards that commitment. We would like for 100% of us to be a part of Legacy so that we can all be supporting, loving, encouraging, and praying for one another through this spiritually-stretching season at Jacob’s Well.

WHAT IF I AM SEVERELY IN DEBT RIGHT NOW? AM I STILL SUPPOSED TO GIVE?

If you are someone currently seeking to make payments to pay off debt right now, we commend you for making progress on that. And you should continue to do so. We would be happy to help you in this journey and/or to recommend a budgeting class that might minister to you. Being in debt does not, however, “excuse” someone from giving. Giving isn’t about what God wants *from* you; rather, it’s about what God wants *for* you. It should be our joy and privilege to give at all times.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY will be offered January 2020
Contact Jenna Kaiser for more info: jkaiser@jacobswellchurch.church

WHY SHOULD I ACTUALLY FILL OUT AND TURN IN A COMMITMENT CARD?

As you look at what it means to move from being an Owner to a Steward, allow God to lead you to the place of commitment He has for you and your family. While the decision and the process of deciding is certainly between you and God, the physical act of filling out and turning in your commitment card is actually a very important piece of communication for us. Turning in your card allows us to most accurately project and plan, as we look at moving forward in paying down debt, funding ministries, establishing replacement funds and more-- to coordinate all of the moving parts associated with Legacy.

To keep up to date on The Legacy Initiative, go to
www.jacobswellchurch.church/Legacy



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Legacy
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MATTERS



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