



Passing the Baton of Faith

June 16, 2019

#newpointechurch

Bottom Line: No one has more potential to influence a child's life and relationship with God than a parent.

Icebreaker: What is a personality trait that has been passed on to you? What is a tangible legacy item you have received? What part of your spirit or personality would you like to pass on? What tangible legacy item do you wish to leave, and to whom?

Key Verse: *Another generation arose after them who did not **know** the Lord nor the **work** which He had done for Israel.*
Judges 2:10 NKJV

No one has more potential to influence a child's life and relationship with God than a parent. There is not a more strategic or powerful influence in all the world on a child's life and relationship with God than a father. Fathers have a huge impact on all of us by either their absence or presence. All of us have been influenced by our fathers in both positive and negative ways because no parent is perfect. Focusing on the positive is an expression of gratitude. The fact remains, however, that the negative influence of a parent is difficult to overcome.

What happens at home is far more important than what happens at church. There is no more important or greater calling than passing your faith on to the next generation, particularly those in your own family. Every adult believer is in one of three locations or chairs regarding the ability to positively pass on the faith to their own family. The **first chair** is a solid **commitment** and resolute action to follow the Lord, no matter what. This 100% commitment is loving, persistent, consistent, and contagious. The people in the first chair have an uncompromised "Jesus first" perspective and follow through in everything. They have solid convictions, a first-hand knowledge of God, and a whole heart for God. People who grow up in a first-chair home must make a personal decision to live that way themselves, however, or their commitment becomes diluted. Something must take place in their own heart, or they move into the **second chair of compromise**. Here their knowledge of God is second-hand, they believe a few selected beliefs, and have a divided heart. They are half-hearted, easily compromise and pull away. The worst thing is the impact on their children. Children who grow up in a "Christian home" but not a committed home most often sit in the **third chair of conflict**. They have no knowledge of God, live by their own opinions, not Scripture, have no heart for God, and reject wise counsel.

Listen to the Spirit. If you have discomfort that is speaking to you of your compromise, your luke-warmness toward God; for your sake and the next generation, listen. *"I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference."* Revelation 3:19

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today's message?

Consider your family history for three generations. What chair were your grandparents in? Your parents? What chair is yours?

Which is your first question in decisions: What does God think? What do people think? What do I think? What people's opinions matter to you?

Do you know miraculous works of God in your family's history? Do you have any firsthand stories of the work of God that you recount today for others?

What would you say are the evidences of a divided heart?

"I grew up in a contagious Christian home." What do you think makes that kind of home? How do you recognize one when you see one?

Talk about compromise. What makes it good or bad?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

The way a person views God tells you what chair they are in. If He is seen as a loving but sure Father authority, that's a first-chair view. A second-chair view sees Him positively as a good friend but less authority. A third-chair view sees God as an obstacle, a foe, someone who blocks their desires and progress, if they view Him as valid or real at all. Reflect. Discuss.

A person who is easily or often angry with God is definitely a third-chair resident. Agree or disagree? Why?

It's interesting and enlightening to see a person's view of their job as an indicator of relationship with God.

1st = Calling: "God has me here for His purposes."

2nd = Career: "This is a way to leave my mark."

3rd = Cash: "This job is a moneymaker; the way to get the things I want in life." Discuss.

A person with a first-chair parent CAN choose to walk away without firsthand commitment. How can we help our children without trying to control them?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Pray for yourself and repent in any areas needed.
- 2) Pray for your children, or the ones you will have. Purposefully share the working of God in your lives.
- 3) Pray for your grandchildren, or the ones you will have. Ask God for a simple strategy of influence.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

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Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Deuteronomy 6:5-9, 20-25

Tuesday: Judges 2:7-8,10

Wednesday: Psalm 145:4

Thursday: 2 Timothy 1:5

Friday: Psalm 78:2-8

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)