

**GROWING FAITH
FAMILY &
FRIENDS**

**North
Shore**

May 1, 2017

Greetings!

LEGACY

AS PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS, nothing is more important than building strong faith and character in those who come after us. But you know the grim statistics. Only about half of those kids raised in church remain active in their faith as adults. Half! Think about that. In a day when churches are more active and creative than ever in their children and youth ministries, faith is not grabbing hold in 50% of the kids who are there. This indicates two things.

ONE; it indicates how powerful our secular culture is in pulling our kids away from the Lord. Our culture is like a black hole that sucks our young people away from their childhood faith. I think you will agree with me that we live in a spiritually toxic culture. Today, the leading idols in America are materialism and secularism. Together, these two philosophies teach our kids:

Faith does not matter because God is not real.

THAT IS THE BATTLE WE FACE, and that is the lie that is being sent by Satan to our children and grandchildren. We are in a war - a faith war. In 1st Timothy 6:12, Paul tells us to **FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH**. Our war is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of wickedness that dwell in heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12). So as parents and grandparents, we need to do everything we can to help the next generation resist the gravitational pull that moves them away from God.

TWO; the 50% statistic indicates the church is not enough to pass on a heritage of faith. It has to begin in the home. How many hours does the church have with youth each week? The answer is: One to two hours a week. That's not enough exposure to the truth to build godly character. We need the home because character is homemade. The church can assist, but there is only so much we can do. Faith building starts at home. This is where faith needs to be rooted and cultivated. So the problem isn't at church. It is what desperately needs to happen in our homes.

STARTING THIS MONTH, I will be teaching a series called **LEGACY**: Passing on our faith to the next generation. In this series we will look at biblical and practical ways to impact our youth today.

Topics include:

- * Faith: It Starts At Home
- * Marriage: It Takes Three

- * Church: It Is A Family
- * Discipleship: It Includes Grandkids
- * Truth: It Sets Us Free
- * Communication: It Requires Wisdom
- * Character: It's Homemade

So this will be a series that *focuses on the family*, and how we can have a spiritual impact on those who come after us. I encourage you to join us each Sunday @ 9:30am.

THIS MONTH IS ALSO THE MONTH WE CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY. When I think of my Mom, I think of the heritage of faith she gave me. My Mom encouraged my faith by taking me to church each Sunday. She even got me involved in a children's choir - which I hated. But my Mom did everything she could to encourage my faith. She was a good example to me; and I am forever thankful for her influence.

Never underestimate the influence you can have as a parent or grandparent.

Deuteronomy 4:9 says:

Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them [your faith values] known to your children and your grandchildren.

God wants us to have a spiritual impact on those who come after us. Join us on Sundays to find out how. Hopefully April showers will bring May flowers. Have a great month!

Sincerely,
Pastor Craig

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