

## Small Group Guide: FATHERS' DAY - Leaving A Legacy

**Opening Question** What is one funny or memorable “dad moment” (from your dad, a father figure, or yourself) that still makes you smile or laugh?

*(If someone didn't have a positive father figure, they can share a lighthearted story about any adult who influenced them.)*

**Opening Prayer** *Father God, thank You for being our perfect heavenly Father! As we discuss this message about legacy and godly character, would You open our hearts and minds? Help us to listen to Your Spirit, encourage one another, and see clearly what You're inviting each of us into this week. Lead our conversation and be honored in it. In Jesus' name, amen.*

### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

**Legacy is more than a last name.** Our true legacy is not about passing on our family name or success; it's about passing on a life centered on Jesus and His glory.

**Godly men (and women) care deeply about people.** Like Timothy, a godly person puts people before personal agenda and shares Christ's heart for others.

**Integrity matters more than image.** God cares more about our character than our public image. Integrity means telling the truth, keeping our word, and living what we say we believe.

**Faithfulness through hard seasons builds lasting legacy.** Epaphroditus modeled perseverance and commitment, even when it was costly and dangerous.

**Purpose over conformity.** A legacy-building life risks comfort and reputation to obey Christ, choosing God's purpose over cultural expectations and convenience.

**Our families are watching.** Respect from those closest to us (spouse, children, friends) is one of the clearest signs of genuine integrity and spiritual impact.

## Discussion Questions

### 1. Read Philippians 2:20–21.

- Paul says of Timothy, *“I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare.”*
- What stands out to you about Timothy’s example?
- In practical terms, what does it look like today to “care more about others” and about “the cause of Christ” than our own affairs?

### 2. Read Philippians 2:29–30.

- What do we learn from Epaphroditus about commitment and sacrifice for the work of Christ?
- How is his “risking his life” for the gospel different from being reckless or unwise?

### 3. Read Proverbs 20:7 in the New Living Translation:

*“The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them.”*

- How do you think a parent’s integrity (or lack of it) shapes the next generation?

### 4. Read James 2:17. Pastor John said, *“I only really believe the parts of the Bible I actually do.”*

- How does that challenge the way we think about faith?
- What are some everyday examples of “living what we believe”?

### 5. Pastor John contrasted **chasing success** with **shepherding people**.

- Where do you see our culture pushing us to chase success?
- What might it look like in your everyday context (work, home, school, friendships) to “*shepherd people*” instead?

### 6. A big idea from the sermon was **integrity: telling the truth, keeping your word, and practicing what you say you believe**.

- Without getting too personal, where do you think it’s hardest in our culture to consistently keep our word?
- What helps you follow through when you’d rather back out or choose comfort?

### 7. Pastor John talked about **choosing purpose over conformity** and being willing to “risk” for Jesus.

- What are some common fears or risks that hold Christians back from living boldly for Christ (at work, in family, online, etc.)?
- What is one small, concrete way a follower of Jesus could take a step of courage this week?

### 8. Thinking about “legacy of the heart”:

- When people look back on your life one day, what are one or two **Christlike qualities** you hope they will remember?
- What is one step you could begin taking now to move in that direction?

**Practical Applications** (Choose one or two.)

1. **Practice one intentional act of care.**  
Choose one person (family member, coworker, neighbor) and do something concrete to show Christ-like care—listen deeply, help with a task, encourage them, or pray with/for them.
2. **Keep one “small” promise on purpose.**  
Identify a specific promise or commitment you’ve made recently (to your spouse, kids, friend, or at church) and make sure you follow through, even if it’s inconvenient.
3. **Do a quick integrity check with Scripture.**  
Sometime this week, read and reflect on Philippians 2:19–30 and James 2:14–18. Ask: “Where is my faith not yet matching my actions?”  
Write down one area and pray for strength to change.
4. **Prioritize gathering with God’s people.**  
If attending weekend service or Community Group easily gets bumped by “other things,” intentionally choose to keep at least one of those commitments this week as an act of faithfulness.
5. **Start a simple “legacy habit” at home.**  
For those with families: begin one small, repeatable spiritual practice—e.g., a short prayer at dinner, a weekly family verse on the mirror, or sharing “where did you see God today?” at the end of the day.

**Memory Verse for This Week**

Psalm 112:6 (NIV)

*“Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever.”*

**Closing Prayer** *Lord, thank You for the examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus, and for Pastor John’s reminder that our legacy is about You, not us. Help us to care deeply for people—especially our kids and family members, to walk in integrity, to stay faithful in hard seasons, and to choose Your purpose over comfort. Show each of us one clear step to take this week, and give us the courage to follow through. We entrust our lives and our legacy to You. In Jesus’ name, amen.*