

BGCC Community Group Guide



Where It Starts

September 13th

It Can End Here

Judges 2:7-11, Deut. 6:4-9, Proverbs 18:20-21, Matthew 3:13-17, 2 Tim. 1:5, Joshua 24:15

Introduction

Every family passes something on to the next generation. Our children—and the people who look up to us—learn from what we say, what we celebrate, how we respond when life gets difficult, and what we make normal in our homes. A godly legacy does not happen accidentally. What we **live, speak, and model today** becomes part of what others carry tomorrow.

Judges 2 gives us a sobering picture of what happens when faith is not intentionally passed on. Joshua's generation knew the Lord and had experienced His works, but another generation eventually arose that "knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel." Their relationship with God had faded within a single generation.

But the answer is not perfection. Scripture points us toward something much simpler: **intentional faithfulness in ordinary moments**. We cannot guarantee what our children—or anyone we influence—will ultimately choose. But we can decide what kind of faith they see modeled in us.

What You Don't Intentionally Pass Down Will Be Lost

Judges 2:7–10 shows how quickly knowledge of God can disappear when it is not intentionally carried forward. Joshua and the elders who had experienced God's faithfulness were gone, and another generation arose that did not know the Lord or what He had done.

The passage does not explicitly say that the parents failed to teach their children. But it clearly demonstrates how quickly faith can erode when it is no longer known, practiced, and

experienced relationally. Knowing *about* God is different from actually *knowing* God. The next generation needs more than stories about what God has done. They need to see people who genuinely know Him, trust Him, and live as though He matters.

"After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel." — Judges 2:10

Summary

Faith is not something we can assume the next generation will simply inherit. It has to be intentionally taught, lived, and demonstrated. The people around us need to see that following Jesus is more than something we talk about at church—it is something that shapes who we are.

Group Question: Why do you think faith can fade so quickly from one generation to the next?

Personal Relevance

It is easy to assume that the people we influence will simply pick up our faith because they attend church, hear sermons, or know Bible stories. But our influence goes much deeper than that. People watch what actually matters to us.

Our lives answer questions for them: Is God important? Is prayer real? Does forgiveness matter? Do we trust God when life becomes difficult?

Flow Question: What are some things about your faith that the people around you can actually see in your everyday life?

Reflection Question: If someone closely watched your life for a week, what would they conclude is most important to you?

Faith Is Passed Down in Ordinary Moments

Deuteronomy 6 gives a remarkably practical picture of discipleship. God tells His people to impress His commands (which he just shared through the ten commandments a chapter or two earlier) on their children and to talk about them **"when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."**

The point is not that every moment has to become a Bible lesson. It is that faith becomes part of ordinary life. Breakfast. The drive to school. A conversation after a difficult game. Bedtime. A disagreement between parents. A stressful day at work. A moment when someone needs forgiveness. These ordinary moments give people the opportunity to see what faith looks like when it becomes real.

We don't need perfect circumstances or elaborate spiritual programs. We need a faith that is genuine enough to naturally come out of our lives.

Summary

Discipleship happens in ordinary moments when people see our faith being lived out. Prayer, Scripture, forgiveness, worship, service, and dependence on God become powerful when they are normal parts of everyday life.

Group Question: What ordinary moments in your life could become opportunities to naturally demonstrate or talk about your faith?

Personal Relevance

Sometimes we put pressure on ourselves to create the "perfect" spiritual environment. But the goal is not to manufacture impressive spiritual moments. It is to make following Jesus normal.

Someone might see you stop and pray when you're frustrated. They might see you open your Bible instead of reaching for your phone. They might see you apologize when you're wrong or forgive someone who hurt you. Those moments may seem small, but they communicate something powerful: **"Jesus actually changes the way I live."**

Flow Question: What is one ordinary situation where you could more intentionally let your faith become visible?

Reflection Question: What would it look like for following Jesus to become more naturally integrated into your everyday life?

Our Words and Actions Shape Identity

Proverbs 18:20–21 reminds us that our words carry weight. Words can wound or heal, tear down or build up, create fear or give courage. Matthew describes our words like an axe: heavy, sharp, and capable of either destruction or construction. Over time, the repeated words people hear from us become part of how they understand themselves.

A child may not remember every sentence a parent ever said, but they can remember the message:

"Dad believes in me."

"I can always go to Mom."

Or:

"Dad is always disappointed in me."

"I better not tell Mom."

The words we repeatedly speak help shape identity.

Jesus gives us the ultimate picture of this in Matthew 3. Before Jesus performed miracles, preached sermons, or began His public ministry, the Father declared, **"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."** Identity came before performance.

That gives us a model for how we speak to those we influence. We can remind them that their ultimate identity is not determined by grades, athletic ability, popularity, mistakes, failure, sin, or the opinions of other people. Their identity is found in being loved by God.

Summary

Our words have power because they communicate what we believe about the people we influence. We can use them to define people by their failures, or we can consistently remind them of truth, identity, grace, and God's love.

Group Question: What messages do people tend to carry with them from the repeated words of parents, mentors, or other influential people?

Personal Relevance

Speaking identity does not mean ignoring sin or avoiding discipline. We can correct someone while still reminding them who they are. "This is not who we are." "This is not what God has called you to." "You made a mistake, but this mistake does not define you." "God loves you, and He is not finished with you."

Our correction can point people toward grace rather than shame.

Flow Question: How can we become more intentional about using our words to build up the people God has placed under our influence?

Reflection Question: Are there words you need to start saying—or stop saying—to someone you influence?

You Don't Have to Be Perfect, But You Do Have to Be Intentional

Paul reminds Timothy that his sincere faith first lived in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice before it lived in him. Their faith had become part of what Timothy saw and experienced. That is what modeling does. It makes something normal.

Loving Jesus becomes normal because Mom and Dad love Jesus. Prayer becomes normal because they pray. Serving becomes normal because they serve. Worship becomes normal because they worship. Forgiveness becomes normal because they forgive. Joshua 24:15 captures this kind of intentionality:

"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua wasn't claiming that he could guarantee the spiritual decisions of everyone in his household. He was declaring what his household would be about. We cannot guarantee the outcome. **But we can build the culture.** We can decide what gets celebrated, what gets talked about, what gets watched and listened to, what gets modeled, and what becomes **normal**.

Maybe it means apologizing. Maybe it means asking for forgiveness. Maybe it means praying together. Maybe it means changing what your home prioritizes. Maybe it means simply becoming the person you want the people around you to see.

Summary

He calls us to be intentional people who genuinely follow Him. We cannot control whether someone else chooses Jesus, but we can make following Jesus visible and normal in our own lives.

Group Question: What is the difference between trying to be a perfect spiritual example and intentionally living out your faith?

Personal Relevance

The most important thing we can pass on is not a list of religious behaviors. It is a genuine relationship with Jesus. We cannot pass on something we don't have. The best thing a parent, grandparent, mentor, or person of influence can do is love Jesus deeply and allow that relationship to overflow into everyday life.

Flow Question: What is one intentional change you could make this week that would help make following Jesus more normal in your home or relationships?

Reflection Question: What needs to start today in your own relationship with Jesus before you can effectively pass your faith on to someone else?

Conclusion

A godly legacy does not require perfect parents, perfect families, or perfect Christians. It requires people who are willing to say, **"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."** We cannot control the outcome, but we can build the culture. We can pray. We can apologize. We can forgive. We can open Scripture. We can worship. We can serve. We can speak words of life. We can let people see Jesus changing us.

And perhaps most importantly, we can start today. **Not only can it end here. It can start here.**