



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: Ecuador – Leaving a Legacy (September 3, 2023)

This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1:22). Step 1: GATHER with your family or group. Step 2: REVIEW and DISCUSS the key points and scriptures from the sermon. Step 3: PRAY for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.

DISCUSSION STARTER

Think of someone you know that left a legacy. Was it a good or bad legacy? Why? What kind of legacy are you on track to leave? Would your family and closest friends agree?

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Mark 16:15,19-20. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through this scripture. To whom does Jesus appear in these verses? How does Jesus encourage the disciples? How do the disciples carry out Jesus' commission? What are some ways you can prepare others so they can fulfill the Commission? What happened to Jesus after he gave His disciples these instructions (v. 19)? These are the last words of Jesus to his disciples before He ascended to Heaven. Discuss the significance and the importance of someone's last words. Knowing these are Jesus last words, his commission to us, how will you respond? Read those texts again. Review the important points, and commands. Then ask yourself: "What am I doing to fulfill these words?"

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read 2 Timothy 1:7-12. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through these scriptures. What does the word timid mean in v. 7? What had God given Paul and Timothy (2 Tim. 1:7)? Why would this have been such an important reminder for Timothy at this time in his life? How do these three characteristics of the spirit God's given every believer help them overcome timidity? How does this command to "share in suffering" seem to go against our nature and against a lot of popular "preaching?" Paul says to "share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God" (v. 8). What does this look like for us? What does it mean to suffer "by the power of God?" According to vv. 11-12, why is Paul suffering? How would you explain this issue to someone who says God never wants us to suffer? One reason Paul is not ashamed is because he knows God will guard what has been entrusted to him (v. 12). Why would this be a reason to not be ashamed? Another reason Paul is not ashamed is because he knows whom he has believed (v. 12). Why would knowing Jesus be a reason to not be ashamed? What are some examples of ways Jesus has experienced shame for us? What can you do to be reminded of the shame Jesus has experienced for you, so you are not ashamed of Him?

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Philippians 1:6; Acts 1:8. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through these scriptures. How does Philippians 1:6 change the way you live today? What does it mean to be a witness (Acts 1:8)? What is the root word for witness? How are we doing today to fulfill this command?

DOING THE WORD

We all leave a legacy, but what will that legacy be for you? It can be a legacy of sinfulness, it can be a legacy of fear and being timid, or it can be a legacy of faithfulness. We cannot leave a legacy of faith by living a life of comfort. Leaving a legacy begins with your commitment to God. Pray for God to reveal to you if your focus is on convenience and comfort. If needed, repent, and ask God to give you a strong desire and conviction to follow his commands and leave a legacy that will stand for generations (Mark 16:15; Luke 9:23-24; Acts 1:8; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5:2). Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Roger Youderian, Edward McCully, Pete Fleming, and their wives left a legacy that is still alive today. Many have been saved and because of their obedience, it has been said that over 10,000 followers of Christ entered the mission field as full-time missionaries. That's a legacy I want to leave! I pray you do too.