

Sermon Study Guide

A Heritage of Faith

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley
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Key Scripture

Proverbs 22:6 — "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Main Truth

Parents are not owners of their children—they are stewards entrusted by God to raise them in the knowledge of Christ and to pass on a genuine heritage of faith.

Digging Into the Word

1. What heritage are we leaving behind?

Read:

- Proverbs 22:6
- Psalm 127:3

Consider:

- What kind of legacy lasts beyond this life?
 - Why is a relationship with Jesus the greatest gift a parent can give a child?
 - How does viewing children as God's gift change the way we parent?
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2. Generational influence

Read:

- Exodus 20:4–6
- Ezekiel 18:20–21

Consider:

- How can sinful priorities and values be passed from one generation to another?
- What does the Bible teach about breaking sinful patterns?

- What forms of modern idolatry compete for our hearts today?

Personal Reflection

Is there any pattern in my life that I do not want my children or grandchildren to imitate?

3. Passing on genuine faith

Read:

- 2 Timothy 1:5
- 2 Timothy 3:15

Timothy inherited something more valuable than wealth or influence—he inherited sincere faith.

Discuss

- What made Lois and Eunice such powerful spiritual influences?
 - How can parents intentionally teach God's Word at home?
 - What spiritual habits create a heritage of faith?
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4. The greatest threat

Read:

- James 4:4

The world continually competes for the hearts of our children.

Discuss

- How does the world define success?
 - How does Scripture define success?
 - In what ways can parents help children live faithfully without becoming worldly?
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5. God's design for parental authority

Read:

- Ephesians 6:1
- Matthew 7:11

God gave parents the responsibility—not children—to direct the home.

Discuss

- Why is loving leadership different from controlling leadership?
 - Why must parents sometimes make decisions children would never choose for themselves?
 - How does biblical authority prepare children for adulthood?
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6. A family declaration

Read:

- Joshua 24:15
- Acts 2:38–39

Joshua publicly declared the direction of his household.

Application

What would it look like for your family to intentionally declare:

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Personal Application

Prayerfully evaluate your own home.

- Am I intentionally discipling my children or grandchildren?
 - What priorities are my children learning from watching me?
 - Is my home centered more on Christ or on the world's values?
 - What practical change can I make this week to strengthen my family's spiritual foundation?
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Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for entrusting families with the privilege and responsibility of raising the next generation. Help us to faithfully teach Your Word, model genuine faith, and lead our homes according to Your truth. May our children come to know and love Jesus, and may the heritage we leave be one of faithfulness to You. Strengthen us to reject the values of this world and to declare with confidence, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." In Jesus' name, Amen.