

Summary

This sermon explores the concept of spiritual legacy and the power of passing faith down through generations. Using the biblical story of Rahab, Salmon, Boaz, Ruth, Obed, Jesse, and David, the pastor illustrates how a "bank of testimonies" is built and transferred from one generation to the next. Each person in the lineage poured into the next, equipping them with the knowledge of who God is and what He can do, ultimately giving David the faith to face Goliath. The pastor also shares her own family's spiritual legacy, tracing faith from her great-grandmother Mattie Louise through to her granddaughter Hallie, who is now pursuing missionary work. The sermon challenges everyone, whether they are the first in their family to follow Christ or part of a long line of believers, to be intentional about making deposits of faith into the lives of those around them. The goal is for every person to look to the God who sees, rescues, saves, and keeps His promises, and then run full force to advance His kingdom.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and willing spirits. Thank You for the gift of community and for the stories of Your faithfulness that have been passed down through generations. As we gather together now, we ask that You quiet our minds and open our ears. Let us not simply hear what we want to hear, but receive exactly what You want to give us today. Pour into our bank of testimonies, Lord, and remind us of Your goodness. May this time together draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one fun or interesting tradition that was passed down to you from a parent, grandparent, or someone who poured into your life?

Key Verses

- Exodus 33:11
- Isaiah 51:1
- Romans 15:6
- 1 Corinthians 15:58

- Esther 4:16

Questions

- The pastor described a 'bank of testimonies' that gets deposited into and withdrawn from throughout our lives. What are some testimonies, either from Scripture, your faith community, or your own life, that you find yourself drawing from most often?
- Rahab was known primarily for her past, yet God used her to start an incredible generational legacy. How does her story challenge the way we view our own past or the past of others?
- Boaz grew up hearing the stories of how God rescued His mother Rahab. How do you think those stories shaped the way he responded with generosity and kindness to Ruth? How have the stories you have heard shaped the way you respond to people in need?
- The pastor described three ways to fill your bank of testimonies: personal experiences with God, stories from Scripture, and stories from your faith community. Which of these three do you feel is most full in your life right now, and which one could use more deposits?
- The sermon identified three types of people: first chairs (the first in their family to follow Christ), middle chairs (those in the middle of a faith legacy), and fifth chairs (those with a long line of faith behind them). Which chair do you identify with, and what unique challenges or responsibilities come with that position?
- The pastor warned that middle chairs can become complacent, assuming faith will just continue on its own. What does it look like to be intentional rather than passive about passing on a spiritual legacy to the next generation?
- Isaiah 51:1 says to 'look to the rock from which you have been cut and the quarry from which you have been hewn' (ESV). What does it mean practically to look back at your spiritual foundation when you are facing a giant or a difficult season?
- The pastor challenged everyone to think about everyday interactions, like how we treat a server at a restaurant or how we drive, as opportunities to make deposits into someone else's life. What is one specific area of your daily life where you could be more intentional about reflecting God's character to others?

Life Application

This week, identify one person in your life who could use a deposit in their bank of testimonies. It might be a child, a coworker, a neighbor, or even a stranger. Make a deliberate effort to share a story of God's

faithfulness, offer a word of encouragement rooted in Scripture, or simply show them the love of Christ through a practical act of kindness. Come back next week ready to share what happened.

Key Takeaways

- Every believer carries a 'bank of testimonies' filled by personal experiences with God, stories from Scripture, and the faith stories of their community. These testimonies are what we draw from when we face giants and difficult seasons.
- Spiritual legacy is built intentionally, one generation at a time. The story of Rahab to David shows that one person's decision to trust God can shape the faith of generations that follow.
- Whether you are the first in your family to follow Christ or the fifth, you have a responsibility to be intentional about making deposits of faith into the lives of those around you.
- Complacency is a real danger for those in the middle of a faith legacy. First Corinthians 15:58 calls us to be steadfast, unmovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing our labor is not in vain.
- Every interaction we have is an opportunity to advance the kingdom of God. We are called to run full force to the front lines, making deposits of faith everywhere we go and with everyone we meet.

Ending Prayer

Lord, we are grateful for this time together and for the reminder that You are a God who sees, rescues, saves, and keeps every promise. Thank You for the spiritual legacies that have been poured into each of us, and for the privilege of pouring into others. Forgive us for the times we have been passive or complacent. Stir in us a holy boldness to be intentional this week, to make deposits, to share our testimonies, and to point everyone we meet toward You. May the stories of Your faithfulness that we carry never stay silent. Let them be handles that help others pick up the truth of who You are. We trust You with the seeds we plant, knowing that You are faithful to bring the harvest. In Jesus' name, amen.