

Leaving a Legacy in Your Church

Part 1 Unity - 5 Day Devotional

Day 1: The Legacy of Love

Reading: Galatians 6:2

Devotional:

The essence of communal living as Christians is the mandate to love one another deeply and authentically. It means embodying the agape love that does not seek something in return but prioritizes the well-being of others. This scripture reminds us that love is not merely an emotion but an actionable duty that fulfills Christ's law. When we give ourselves to bear the burdens of others, we create a network of support that mirrors God's love for us. The early church thrived on such principles, meeting house to house to support each other fervently. Their daily acts of love were their legacy, and our calling is to create a similar legacy in our lives and churches.

Application:

- **Reflect** on a time when someone helped carry your burden. How did it affect you?
- **Identify** someone in your life who may need support—offer them a listening ear, a helping hand, or a moment of your time this week.

Day 2: Promoting Unity

Reading: Hebrews 10:24-25

Devotional:

Unity within the church is not optional; it's vital. The writer of Hebrews challenges believers to encourage one another and actively pursue good deeds. This call to action demands diligence and intentionality in relationships, fostering unity and support. The early Christians understood the impact of congregating regularly. Their shared faith journey was their collective strength, fortifying them against external pressures. In today's world, we may be tempted to isolate or disengage, but real strength is found in togetherness. The legacy we leave is one of a united front, standing shoulder to shoulder through life's journey.

Application:

- Are you actively engaged in your church community? **Consider** attending a small group or volunteering.
- **Think about ways to encourage someone in their faith this week**—send a text, write a note, or speak a word of encouragement.

Day 3: The Power of the Tongue

Reading: James 3:5-6

Devotional:

James paints a vivid picture of the tongue's potential to harm. Like a small rudder steering a large ship, our words can direct the course of our lives. James warns us that our speech has a profound ability to bless or destroy, unify or divide. As agents of unity, we must wield our words carefully, ensuring that they heal and inspire rather than hurt. When we resist gossip and choose words of encouragement, we cultivate a legacy of peace and positivity within the church.

Application:

- **Reflect** on a recent conversation. Were your words building others up or tearing them down?
- **Practice intentional speech** by giving someone a genuine compliment today.

Day 4: Loving the Unlovely

Reading: Matthew 5:43-45

Devotional:

Jesus calls us to a radical love that defies human logic—the love for our enemies. This agape love, comprised of compassion and forgiveness, is rooted in the recognition of God's image in all people. Such love is only possible through the Holy Spirit's power within us. By choosing to love beyond our comfort zones, we not only transform others but also ourselves, aligning closer with God's heart. Our legacy becomes one of reconciliation and radical love, echoing Christ's own example.

Application:

- Think of someone who is difficult for you to love. **How can you pray for them today?**
- **Commit an act of kindness** towards someone outside your circle of comfort this week.

Day 5: Supporting Leadership

Reading: Hebrews 13:17

Devotional:

The Bible calls us to honor and support our church leaders because they serve with a heavy responsibility, accountable before God for their flock. Their role is to nurture, guide, and protect the church community. Supporting leaders doesn't mean blind agreement but involves respect, encouragement, and prayer for those in leadership to discern God's will accurately. When we actively uplift our leaders, we enable them to serve with joy and effectiveness, contributing to a more dynamic and flourishing church body—a lasting legacy of harmony and growth.

Application:

- **Pray for your church leaders today.** Ask God to give them **wisdom, strength, and guidance.**
- **Consider** writing a note of appreciation to a leader in your church.