

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

This quote came from a speech given by Ronald Reagan, on October 27, 1964, years before he was ever president. Reagan delivered the address while the country was grappling with the threat of Communism and other foreign adversaries. This speech was called, "A Time For Choosing."

We too are at a time for choosing.



In the spiritual life of the church today, we stand at the same crossroads.

Christianity is never more than one generation away from extinction.

Though faith is not passed to the next generation through our bloodstream, there is a Royal Bloodline flowing through the generations if we intentionally seek to instill it.

Taking your family on an adventure to Israel doesn't solve all of your family problems. It doesn't guarantee you will come home with the next Billy Graham. What a trip like this does is begin a new conversation in your home about becoming the family you want to become and taking tangible steps toward that vision.

Financial planners spend their time helping you invest your assets to be sure when retirement age hits you have what you need. The secondary goal is to leave a share of wealth to our kids and grandkids as a blessing and provision to aid in their survival in their years to come.

It is a beautiful concept to leave something to the next generation. Likely, your money will be spent paying off debt, doing some home repair, or simply absorbed into their savings account for a rainy day.

Is this the legacy you want to leave behind? "When grandpa died, he left us money and we were able to pay off our cars." Great.

There is no better legacy than was faith

But what if the story could be better? What if you could leave something more important?

Last summer I brought an 83 year-old grandmother and 18 of her kids and grandkids, plus their spouses, on a journey to Israel. This six-figure investment had a moment of payoff I believe will last the rest of her life. I know the moment will be with me the rest of my life.

As I stood waist-deep in the Sea of Galilee and baptized her family, she stood on the shore with tear-filled eyes. It hit me and all of a sudden. I had tear-filled eyes. **This was no ordinary family vacation.** 

I saw this trip from her eyes. I became deeply connected with what she was trying to accomplish. Though I worked with her for nine months plotting the details of the itinerary, grandma had her eyes fixed on something more than the money she was spending. She was investing in their spiritual lives. She was leaving a legacy of faith.

There is nothing better. There is nothing else.



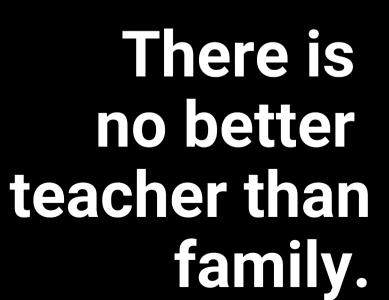


Steve Rabey, in his book Authentic Faith, said, "This generation is falling through the cracks of Christendom and the modern church is sleep-walking their way through oblivion." The faith of our families is at risk and the stakes are high. I don't want to wake up some day and realize my kids slipped through the cracks. Some of you reading this have already been awakened to this reality.

It's never too late.

Bob Shank, Founder and CEO of The Master's Program, reminds us,

"Transfer the invaluable. The greatest thing you have in life is your saving – and, living – faith in Jesus Christ. Until you pass that to your children – to ensure they will follow you, then follow Jesus – nothing else matters. Until that happens, you have no legacy of note. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.' (3 John 4)"



You are the greatest teacher in the life of your family. I had my Bar Mitzvah at age 13. A significant moment in the ceremony is called, "L'Dor V'Dor." It means, "from generation to generation." My grandfather held up the Torah scroll (first five books of the Bible), and passed it to my father, who then passed it to me. It is a picture of the passing down of our faith, rooted in the words of God. When my son had his Bar Mitzvah last year, I passed the Torah to him.

It's hard to find these rites of passage in churches today. There should exist a call for the next generation to begin their own vibrant relationship with God, but it needs to be within the context of the family. The church is called to equip families, but it has always been the call of the family to impart faith to the next generation.

Will you shrink off into obscurity as the old people falling asleep in the corner at holiday gatherings or will you step into your role as the leaders of faith in your family? It is no longer enough to pray before meals. It is no longer enough to forward spiritual emails with the hope your family will read and understand. It is time to live out a boldness of faith within your family. It can all start, or start over, in one trip to Israel.

This is an opportunity. This is an invitation.





We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Psalm 78:4-7

I've always been more of a field trip kind of kid. What person would opt for a day in the classroom as opposed to the opportunity to go out and see the very thing you are reading about? Not me!

All of our spiritual education has taken place in church buildings, in our homes, and in camp settings. There is something extraordinary about walking in the dust of Rabbi Jesus and seeing for yourself the land the Bible speaks of.

My "Aha! Moment" surprised even me.

It wasn't on top of Mount Carmel where fire fell from heaven.

It wasn't in the boat on the Sea of Galilee where Peter walked on water.

It wasn't at the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem where my people have prayed for millennia.

There is no better classroom than the Holy Land.

It was Hazor. Huh? Ya. Hazor.

Have you ever even heard of Hazor? It was my sixth or seventh time to Israel. I had seen most of the places you could see. On our way heading back to our hotel on the Sea of Galilee, a window of time opened up and the bus turned into Hazor. I am embarrassed to tell you at the time I couldn't tell you one thing that happened there.

> This ancient fortified Canaanite city was once 40,000 people strong. Now it is one of the largest tels (archaeological mound) in Israel today.

According to Joshua 11:10-11, **Joshua burned this city down.** It's the only city he burned to the ground. Archaeologists found over 36 inches of charcoal and ash that confirm the biblical narrative. There before my eyes, I saw the burned walls, set ablaze by Joshua and his warriors.

> That was the connection I needed to solidify my faith in the Bible, as an adult pastor who had been teaching the Bible for years. This happens all the time in the classroom of the Holy Land.

I'll never forget it.



There is no better classroom than the Holy Land.

At Legacy Israel Tours we know that you want to have a spiritually thriving family. In order to do that, you need to pass on the legacy of your faith. The problem is it's near impossible to get the attention of the next generation which makes you feel hopeless. We believe leaving a faith legacy IS possible and it can be coupled with incredible family memories to last a lifetime.

We understand the longing you have for your kids and grandkids to walk with Jesus, which is why we have been helping families ignite faith for more than two decades in the land of Israel.



Matt Davis has been leading Biblical study tours to Israel ranging from small families to large church groups. His unique experience growing up in a Messianic Jewish family, was a beautiful mix of following Jesus through a distinctly Old Testament Jewish lens, shrouded in the ancient traditions and celebrations of the Biblical feasts.

It is from this context he shares his passion for the whole of Scripture, the land and people of Israel, and hope for the next generation of believers to take up the mantle of faith and ignite the world through love.

If you want to begin a conversation about what it would look like to take your family on a private tour to Israel, or join other families doing the same, click the phone button to the right to schedule a call.

