



Legacy for Life!

By Shari Miller

Leader's notes and Bible passages for this study available online or by calling the LWML office. If time is short, please omit the sections marked "If Time Permits." These sections could be done in private.

As I pondered a gift to give my daughter on the joyous occasion of her marriage, it occurred to me that a "legacy cookbook" — one that included recipes from both families that were unique and favorite to those families — would be ideal. What legacy gifts have you given or received? What was the occasion? Share with a partner or your small group.

How would you define the word "legacy"? What synonyms can you think of for this word? Arrive at a definition within your group. Make a list of as many synonyms as you can identify.

A legacy is most often associated with an inheritance or bequest of material things, such as property or money. However, in this study, let's take a look at other things that could be considered a legacy.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, You are a mighty God! You saw our need as we were mired in sin and have given us Your Son, Jesus. He is indeed our Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil. We rejoice that because He lives, we, too, will live with Him eternally in heaven. Thank You for sending Your Spirit to give us faith in Jesus. Make us aware daily of the legacy of forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life that You have given to us. By the power of the Spirit, help us to share these and other gifts You give to us with our friends and family. Please bless our study of Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Legacy of Sin

Read **Genesis 3:1–7** for the account of the first sin. Re-read verse 5, as well as **Exodus 20:3**. In addition to their disobedience, what sinful desire did Adam and Eve have?

Read **Romans 3:23; 5:12** and **1 John 1:8** and discuss the result of Adam and Eve's first act of sin. All mankind received the legacy of sin from Adam and Eve. How would you describe this legacy of sin? See Paul's description in **Romans 7:15–24**.

What does the Psalmist say about this legacy of sin in **Psalms 51:5**?

What is the name for the sin referred to in this Psalm?

Read **Genesis 4:6–7**. What word picture does God use to describe this legacy of sin?

Where did this "crouching sin" lead Cain?

Where does sin often lead us? _____

Faith Talk

Have you felt times in your life when sin was "crouching at your door" and was ready to "pounce on you"? How did you cope with those sinful desires and actions?

The Legacy of the Savior

From the beginning of time, God had a rescue plan in place for His world. Read **Genesis 3:15** and **John 3:16**. What was that plan? Be specific. _____

How does Paul explain the legacy of the Savior in **Romans 3:23–26; 5:18–21; and 6:23**?

In most families, the inheritance or legacy of the parents is passed down through the generations. According to **1 John 3:1a**, who are those who believe in Jesus as Savior? _____

Read **Galatians 4:4–7**. Who does Paul say that believers are? _____

What legacy comes to us as a result of our Savior's perfect life, death, and resurrection? Name the specific gifts we receive from our Savior Jesus. _____

What do the following Scripture passages say about our Savior's legacy to His heirs?

Psalms 32:1–2 _____

Psalms 103:12–13; 17–18 _____

Micah 7:18–19 _____

Colossians 1:11–14 _____

1 Peter 1:3–5 _____

Read **Zechariah 10:6–9**, part of a section of Scripture entitled, “The Restoration for Judah (Southern Kingdom of Israel) and Israel (Ephraim, Northern Kingdom of Israel).” How does God restore His people according to these verses? Who are the “children” mentioned? _____

Faith Talk

What picture does **Revelation 7:9–12** give of our Savior’s eternal legacy? How does this eternal legacy affect your life today?

If Time Permits

Read the familiar account of the Prodigal Son in **Luke 15:11–24**. Discuss what inheritance or legacy the younger son received from his father, in addition to monetary wealth.

The Legacy of the Spirit

According to **John 14:16–17, 26** and **Romans 8:14–17**, what legacy does the Holy Spirit give to all believers? _____

Identify the specific ways that the Spirit of God works in our lives in the following passages:

2 Peter 1:19–21 _____

Ephesians 4:4–6 _____

Mark 14:22–24 _____

Faith Talk

Identify the legacy gift (fruit) that the Spirit provides to each believer in **Galatians 5:22**. Have you identified this fruit in your life?

If Time Permits

Read the following Scripture verses. On a separate piece of paper, identify Spirit-led behavior DO’S and DON’TS in each passage: **Ephesians 5:1–21; Philippians 2:14–16; Colossians 3:5–17**.

A Legacy to Share

In **Acts 1:8**, Jesus commands each of His children: “*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*” Our legacy is a legacy to share! Look at the following passages and identify the Spirit-empowered “chain of sharing” of our God’s great legacy of faith.

Genesis 17:7 _____

Deuteronomy 4:9–10; 6:4–9; 29:29 _____

Joshua 24:15b _____

Proverbs 22:6 _____

Isaiah 59:20–21 _____

Matthew 5:14–16 _____

Matthew 28:18–20 _____

Faith Talk

Read **2 Timothy 1:5**. What special person or persons have shared their legacy of faith in Jesus with you?

The legacy that has been given to us by our Triune God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — is a legacy that we are commanded to share! It is the legacy of the Father, Who created us and sent His only Son to rescue us from our legacy of sin. It is the legacy of the Son, Who became a man and entered our dark world; lived a perfect life, yet suffered and died for the sins of the entire world; and rose again from the dead to new life, which He gives to every believer in Him. It is the legacy of the Spirit, Who brings us to faith in Jesus; sustains us in that faith throughout our lives; gives us gifts to live our lives to the glory of God; gathers us together in the Church; and empowers us to share the Good News of Jesus with our family, our friends, and the world. Simply put, it is God’s “legacy for life”! We rejoice with Paul as we read the words he wrote in **2 Corinthians 9:15**: *Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!* Amen.

Faith Walk

1. Thank God for His daily preservation in your life.
2. Remember daily the gifts that God has given to you because of His Son, our Savior Jesus.
3. By the power of the Spirit, share with at least one person the gifts of grace that you have received from our loving Father because of Jesus.
4. Thank one person who has shared the “legacy of faith” with you, or say a prayer of thanks to God for that person.

Closing Litany

(based on Psalms 67 and 78)

Leader: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

People: That your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

Leader: I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.

People: We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

Leader: He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,

People: That the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God.

All: We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. Amen!

Sing together “Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds” (*LSB #867; LW #472; TLH #629*).