

# LEAD WITH LOVE

## *A Generous Legacy*



Legacy is often measured by what we leave behind—assets, accomplishments, or influence. Scripture invites us to consider a deeper legacy: what we pass on in faith, values, practices, and love. A generous legacy is about how love for God and neighbor is formed, practiced, and shared across generations.

Biblical generosity is never accidental. It is taught, modeled, practiced, and remembered. Generosity is intentional. This week invites us to reflect on the ways generosity becomes a living inheritance, something shaped in daily life, strengthened through courage, and entrusted to those who come after us.

A generous legacy does not begin someday in the future; it is formed by the choices we make today. Every act of generosity—seen or unseen—shapes the spiritual environment we leave behind. When we lead with love, we teach others what it looks like to trust God with what has been entrusted to us. This week, we are invited to consider how our generosity reflects our deepest commitments and how our faithfulness now becomes a gift that carries God's love forward, long after us.

**For each day this week begin your devotional time with prayer:**

Faithful and Generous God,

You are the giver of every good gift. Long before we knew your name, your love was already at work, forming us, guiding us, and calling us into relationship with you. We thank you for the people who have gone before us, who taught us faith through their words, their sacrifices, and their love.

Shape our hearts so that what we pass on reflects your goodness. Help us to lead with love in our homes, our church, and our community. Give us courage to live generously today, trusting that you will use our faithfulness to bless generations we may never meet. Amen.

## Day 1

### Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4–9

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

### Reflection:

These verses—known as the Shema—form the spiritual backbone of Israel’s faith. Loving God is not confined to worship services or sacred spaces; it is woven into the rhythms of daily life. Faith is taught while sitting at home, walking along the road, lying down, and rising up. Love for God is meant to be visible, spoken, remembered, and practiced.

A generous legacy begins with intentional formation. What we value most shapes what we pass on. When generosity is embedded into daily life—not treated as an occasional obligation—it becomes part of who we are. Teaching children and younger generations about generosity requires more than instruction; it requires modeling what it looks like to trust God with our resources, time, and love.

## Day 2

### Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:3-7

"I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."

### Reflection:

Paul reminds Timothy that faith is often carried through relationships. Timothy did not come to faith in isolation—it was nurtured by his grandmother and mother, then affirmed and strengthened by Paul. This is a picture of legacy rooted in love, courage, and encouragement.

Faith does not pass automatically from one generation to the next; it is cultivated. Paul urges Timothy to "rekindle" the gift within him, reminding us that faith and generosity must be practiced and renewed. A generous legacy requires courage, especially in uncertain times. God's Spirit empowers us not with fear, but with love, power, and self-discipline.

### Call to Action:

Reflect on the people who shaped your faith. How are you intentionally strengthening and passing on generosity today? Where might God be inviting you to act with courage rather than caution?

## Day 3

### Scripture: Psalm 78:4–7

“We will not hide them from their children;  
we will tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the LORD and his might  
and the wonders that he has done.

He established a decree in Jacob  
and appointed a law in Israel,  
which he commanded our ancestors  
to teach to their children,  
that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,  
and rise up and tell them to their children,  
so that they should set their hope in God  
and not forget the works of God  
but keep his commandments.”

### Reflection:

The psalmist emphasizes the responsibility of remembering and telling God’s story so that future generations may place their trust in God. Faith is sustained by deep meaning, not just facts. Deep meaning takes roots in our lives through shared stories. Even today, stories of provision, deliverance, sacrifice, and hope sustain the faith of those who call Floris home.

A generous legacy is built through testimony. When we tell the stories of how God has worked through generosity—through the church, through faithful people, through acts of love—we help others imagine what is possible. Our giving becomes part of a larger story God is writing, one that invites future generations into trust and faithfulness.

This passing on of faith does not happen by accident. It requires intention, courage, and consistency. When we choose generosity, especially when it costs us something, we are teaching those who come after us what it looks like to trust God. Our stewardship becomes a living witness, shaping the spiritual imagination of the next generation. Through our words and our giving, we proclaim that God is faithful, that love is worth investing in, and that hope is meant to be shared.

### **Call to Action:**

Tell one story this week—at home, with a friend, or within the church—about how generosity has made a difference. How might sharing that story help someone else trust God more deeply?

## **Day 4**

### **Scripture: 1 Chronicles 29:14–16**

“But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make freewill offerings like this? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.”

### **Reflection:**

As King David reflects on the offerings given for the building of the temple, he names a truth that sits at the heart of a generous legacy: Everything we have comes from God, and what we give is already God’s. David does not see generosity as loss, but as participation, an act of gratitude and trust in a God who provides.

This moment is not about David's reign, but about what will come after him. David will not build the temple; his son Solomon will. Yet David gives generously anyway, investing in a future he will not personally see completed. A generous legacy is formed when we loosen our grip on ownership and choose faithfulness over control.

David's prayer reminds us that generosity is ultimately an act of humility. When we release the illusion of ownership, we are freed to give with joy rather than fear. Our offerings become a way of aligning our hearts with God's purposes, trusting that what we place in God's hands will be used far beyond our own time and vision. In choosing generosity today, we participate in God's ongoing work building a faithful community that will lead with God's love for generations to come.

### **Call to Action:**

Today, reflect on how you view what you have been given. What might it look like to offer a portion back to God—not out of obligation, but gratitude—trusting that your generosity is helping to build something that will bless others beyond your lifetime?

## **Day 5**

### **Scripture: Hebrews 12:1–2**

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God."

## **Reflection:**

This passage reminds us that we are part of an ongoing story of faith. Those who have gone before us, the “cloud of witnesses” have run their race, and now we are invited to run ours with perseverance. Legacy is not static; it is active participation in God’s unfolding work.

Leading with love means recognizing that our generosity is both a response to those who came before us and a gift to those who will come after. We honor the legacy we’ve received by continuing it with faith, courage, and trust in Christ. Our race is run not alone, but together, sustained by God’s grace. When we fix our eyes on Jesus, we are freed to let go of what weighs us down and live with purpose, trust, and hope.

We are part of a much larger story. Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, we are invited to run our race with perseverance, trusting that our faithfulness matters. Those who came before us ran their race with courage and generosity; now it is our turn.

## **Call to Action:**

What might you need to lay aside to run your race more freely? As you discern your next step in generosity, how can you lead with love and trust God with the outcome?