

## RAISE THE QUESTION

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” —Nelson Henderson

### Who, in your life, left you a legacy?

Last week, we talked about how our fruitfulness should influence the next generation. This week, we will look again at our responsibility to the generations that follow us. What we will find is that we must invest in the next generation, even if we don't get to see the benefit.

## SEEK THE ANSWER

*Read Luke 14:7-14*

One of the key application points of this passage is that we should not do for others according to what we will receive in return. Instead, Jesus teaches us that we should be hospitable and thoughtful of those who could never repay us. Then, God himself will reward us at the resurrection of the righteous. **Name some people that would probably not be able to repay you personally if you did something for them.**

Though this passage does not directly make mention of them, another group of people (in addition to the poor crippled, blind, and lame) that often cannot reimburse us for our efforts is the next generation. In many ways, they are entirely dependent upon us to make wise decisions on their behalf. **What are some ways in which our culture embraces or rejects this principle?**

*Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2*

In this passage, Paul encourages Timothy to invest his time and resources in spreading the Gospel to future generations of faithful disciples. The desired result is that those generations will also invest in still more generations and so continue the chain. **What do you think motivates people to invest in future generations?**

## LIVE THE TRUTH

There is always a cost when you choose to invest in the spread of the Gospel. For example, our church building is a space for people to gather and commune with God. It is used to help guide people in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. But, this space is not without cost. **What can you do to invest in our church's efforts to spread the Gospel?**

Despite the importance of bequeathing a legacy to future generations, many people consume resources with wild abandon and plan only for the moment without a second thought of future implications. But, Christ has given us a higher calling—a calling to invest in the next generation without concern for our personal gain.

**What can your community group do to help you better invest in the next generation of disciples?**