

# the cross-shaped life

A Practical Guide to  
Christian Character

The Story Church Discipleship Groups | Spring 2021

## Introduction:

Christians believe salvation is all about God's grace, right? No amount of good works can get a person into heaven; only trusting in Jesus can do that. So what's the point of living a good life after deciding you believe in Jesus? Why should Christians subject themselves to discomfort, self-sacrifice, and self-discipline if simply believing in Jesus is enough to punch their tickets to heaven? Part of trusting Jesus means allowing him to shape our lives - not just in eternity - but in the here and now. In this series, we'll explore the ways God's saving grace can transform the believer's character in this life. From your love life to your priorities to your personality, God calls out and equips believers to live lives that are shaped by the cross of Jesus Christ.

## Session 5: Cross-Shaped Legacy

[WATCH THE SERMON HERE](#)

## Discussion Questions:

Why is it so important for Christians to have conversations about the topic of legacy?

*God asks us to not only live for the things of this world, but to set our minds on things above. That requires a reframing of our mind and hearts, seeking God's priorities first, instead of our own. When we set our minds on the things of God, He will lead us to build something that outlasts our time here on earth, by prioritizing the proclamation of the gospel.*

Read **Colossians 3:2-4**. Paul writes: **Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.**

What is Paul asking believers to do that is opposite to the way in which we often live?

*We are constantly being pulled to live for the things of this world. Most of the messages we receive have to do with living for our careers and success, or to get more things and more money. But God always leads us to have more of an eternal perspective, to see beyond the here and now, and to use the gifts he has given us to lead others to know Him.*

What advice did Paul offer in verses 9 and 10, as a way to reframe our thinking and to redirect our energy into kingdom-building purposes? **Colossians 3:9-10: "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."**

*Speak about the concept of being renewed in the image of our creator, what implications does that have for our day-to-day life?*

Some of the biggest hurdles we encounter in today's society are distraction, instant gratification, and temptation. How can we overcome these great hurdles on a daily basis?

*Personal*

What are the practical steps we can take to build a long-lasting legacy?

- 1. Set your minds on things above, not on the things of this world**
- 2. Leave the old self and old practices behind**
- 3. Adopt new practices, and embrace the new self that you have found in Christ**

John Wesley said this about his mother: **“I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians in England.”** What did Susanna Wesley prioritize in order to build a Godly legacy through her children? You can find a helpful article about her motherhood style [here](#):

*She taught them the bible (doctrine), taught them how to pray, taught them how to praise*

In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus said: **“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”**

Knowing and loving Jesus is one of the greatest treasures we can receive. The implication is that helping others know and love Jesus is also sharing a treasure that far exceeds anything this world has to offer. What are some practical ways in which you have shared the gospel with others? How can we be more effective as the body of Christ in helping each other build a gospel legacy?