

Family Legacy Series: Note From Mother Collection

This collection was inspired by Wes' song Note From Mother. It truly embodies the idea of living and leaving a family legacy. Leo's mother Hilda, during a very uncertain illness, left a note for him (as he was deployed in Germany at that time) which said in closing, "Let's not one of us be missing there", speaking about heaven. Leo lived a life that was always pointing himself and others toward this eternal destination.

Watch this special extended cut of the [music video for "Note From Mother"](#) or [listen to the song](#) if you have a copy. You will see how Leo's mother passed her faith on down the line and then Leo passed it along to his children, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren. After watching the video, explore the weekly discussions. Take your time with them and reflect on them throughout the week. Building and restoring families can take time: don't rush, seek God, have patience and pray! Enjoy this collection and come back to it as often as you need to.

Week 1:

Teaching:

Getting your family and friends to heaven can sometimes seem like a very hard thing to do. Especially if you have a few wily ones in the family. Telling all of the Middle East about Jesus also seems almost impossible, but everything starts with a small seed or one little tiny step. I think that the Lord said it very well in Matthew 13, the parable of the sower. He was talking about how you sow seeds and some people won't understand, but still you sow seeds. I think the Lord is all about sowing seeds, and seeing the growth in people's lives.

There are so many seeds that have been growing in my life. When I was little I had a Beginner's Bible; they were all short stories from the Bible that were made into pictures. I loved having my mom or dad read a story or two to me. I believe those stories were a seed that grew in my life, a seed of faith. Someone spent the time to draw the pictures in the Beginner's Bible, they were sowing a seed. Someone had to buy the Beginner's Bible; me being a child I couldn't buy it myself. Another seed. The person who read it to me sowed yet another seed. The story itself taken from the Bible was also another seed that grew. Getting family and friends to heaven is sort of like that. Sowing seeds liberally. Some will grow abundantly and some might get thrown onto a rocky place. Yet, flowers have been known to grow between concrete. Trees grow on rock faces. "Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase." -Martin Luther King, Jr.

Grandma Bev told me a story recently about neighbors and how she cared about them. She was trying to sow a seed by just sending a little note. Sometimes that is all someone needs; a little note to tell them how much they are cared about. We are God's hands and feet. Leo's mom, Hilda, wrote Leo a note when he was in Germany after WWII. She was sick and it was

thought that she would not survive to see Leo again when he came back. So she wrote him a note and this is what it said. "Dearest son: This box of things is for you. If I should not be here to give it to you, God Bless you and keep you in the hollow of His hand. Till we meet home in glory, let's not one of us be missing there. Lot's of Love, Mother."

Wes' song Note from Mother is based off of this true story. Leo did get leave to come home from Germany, and did see his mother. She lived for many years afterward. It wasn't until years later after his mother had passed that that note stood out to him. It was a seed sown in his life early on, a seed he intended to pass along. Leo made it his life's mission to make sure not one of us would be missing there.

Verse:

Matthew 13:3-9 NIV

3... "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear."

Questions:

Was God on your radar when you were growing up?

What was your relationship with your mom like? Did she instill Godly Values in your life?

If you were to leave something behind for your loved ones.... What would you write?

What is one way that someone else has sown a seed in your life and how did it grow?

Challenge:

Sow a seed in someone else's life for Heaven, whether a friend or family member. Write them a little note to tell them you care about them like Hilda and Bev did. Bring them cookies or a meal, write an e-mail, etc. Think about that person you don't want to be missing there, and do what you can to sow even the tiniest, smallest seed into their life.

Week 2:

Teaching:

In the front pocket of his buttoned up shirt, patterned after a United States flag or an old car of some kind, Leo always kept a calendar with pictures of his great grandkids and some notes. He would take them out and show the to anyone, whether they were willing or not. He often would touch your shoulder and tell you he was glad to see you. He was always glad you were there. It wasn't often that you would see Leo sitting, he was working the room, he had to say hello to

everyone. If Leo was there, he made sure you felt welcome. He was always ready to join the fun whenever there was fun to be had.

We went out to eat at Breakfast Plus on the anniversary of Grandpa Leo's death, and I asked Grandma Bev if there was any particular time that Leo would read his Bible during the day? She said there was no particular time; he would spend time with the Lord frequently. God was always on his mind it seemed. He liked to put the beginning of his favorite memorized verses on that piece of paper with notes in his front pocket. When he would tell a story he would reach into his pocket which would trigger that memorized verse. Each story always had a verse to go with it. He made the word of God a part of his life that he used on a daily basis. Just like the lyric in Wes' song Note From Mother; "He fixed his eyes on Heaven and his feet were glory bound, and nothing or nobody at all could turn him around"

Verse:

2 Timothy 2:15-18 NIV (One of Leo's favorite verses)

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

Questions:

How often do you read your Bible?

How often does God's word come out in your conversation with others?

Have you ever memorized scripture before? Can you recall it now?

Does the life you live reflect God's word to others around you?

Challenge:

Make a point to read the Bible each day of the week. If you need to start small then start small, just start. Get an app on your phone with a free daily verse, get a daily verse calendar, crack open your Bible and read a chapter. Challenge yourself even further to memorize at least one verse in that week. If you need a little help remembering it, jot down the first few words of the verse or the description of the verse just like Leo did and keep it in your pocket. Try to share that verse with someone you know....or don't know, just like Leo did.

Week 3:

Teaching:

Hilda, Leo's mother, spent time with him every morning before he went to school. He was the only child at home in the morning because his older sister Marge was about 10 years older than

him and already out of the house. He spent time with his mother learning bible verses every day. One that really stuck out in his mind from that time was Proverbs 3:5-6.

Grandpa Leo loved to spend time with people. With his grandchildren, he would often take them out to eat. We've been to Perkins with him before and he would talk to us about his life, his businesses. We heard a story several times about when he started his nursing home business. He would always say that at the beginning, when he started, he didn't know the difference between a bedpan and a urinal. Through those stories he would share scripture and how God had guided his life throughout all his years. So Leo continued on the tradition that Hilda started by spending time with his children, grandchildren and even his great grandchildren; all together and individually.

Verse:

Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV (One of Leo's favorite verses)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Questions:

Did your parents spend time with you as a child? Did they teach you God's word?

Do you spend much time with your family now?

Who do you spend time with? Is that time building you up or bringing you down?

Challenge:

Spend time with your family. Make them feel welcome and at home. Make a meal and invite them over and just share stories and talk. If they won't come to you, go to them. Offer to go to their house and bring a meal with you. Try to make it as non stressful as you can for the family members around you. Try to spend time on an individual basis or just a few if possible so you can really focus on them

Week 4:

Teaching:

At every meal in the Coyour house we would all wrap ourselves around the island in the kitchen to pray before the meal. Sometimes there would be prayer for a healthy pregnancy, for someone's job, a mother who is ill, or just the meal itself. Usually around 30 people or so fit into that kitchen to hold hands and talk to God. Wes and Dawn pray for each of their combined 5 children and their families everyday.

Praying was a big part of Leo's Life. He would often go to pray for people, anyone who needed prayer. He would pray for people weekly in the prayer chapel before Sunday service; he would meet people in the hospital to pray for them even if he had to drive an hour to reach them. Even

at the end of his life, when he was laying in a hospital bed, people from First Baptist Church in Naples, Florida came to pray for him, but he thought that they had come to him so that he could pray for them and he started praying for them immediately.

Sometimes prayer is all we can do for the ones we love. Even if a family member won't allow you in their life, you can always pray for them. If you aren't praying for them then who is? Some people in the world have no one praying for them. When Jesus died on the cross for us He opened up a connection between us and God. We could go directly to God with our thanks and our petitions. Don't let that connection go to waste. A family that prays together, stays together.

Verse:

Ephesians 6:18 NIV

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

1 Timothy 2:1-3 MSG

1-3 The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live.

Questions:

Have you prayed for or with a family member recently?

Do you know anyone who might not have someone praying for them?

When was the last time you prayed before a meal?

Challenge:

Ask a family member if they would like prayer for anything then either pray with them personally or tell them you will be praying for them during the next week. You can do this in person or simply send a text. Pray each day for all your family, even if you don't have great relationships with them. In those instances you can simply pray for restoration in your relationship with them. Just pray. Make prayer a daily activity for you.