

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS - SESSION 6

LEGACY

Short of time?

These are the core activities – topic introduction, Bible basics, real life application, time to reflect – taking action, and the prayer. If you have more time, then pick and mix additional activities from those below to add to these core ones.

What are we trying to achieve?

By the end of this session, your young people should have an understanding of what it means to leave a legacy and should have learnt the power of passing on what we receive.

Topic introduction

Note to leaders: Share this introduction about what leaving a legacy means with your group of young people.

What you'll need: If you have time, the ability to [show this YouTube clip](#) Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story from the musical Hamilton.

Length of activity: 5-10 minutes.

Explain to your group that legacy basically means how people are remembered after they pass away, based on their behaviour and contributions to society. Hopefully your young people will live long lives, but it's never too early to think about their legacy and how they'd like to be remembered. Even their actions as young people will contribute to their final legacy.

However, share that leaving a legacy doesn't always have to be about dying... we can share things we've learnt with those who follow us. We all have valuable stories to tell.

Legacy is one of the big themes in the musical Hamilton, which tells the story of American Founding Father Alexander Hamilton. Family tragedy has shaped the man Hamilton has become and, as the show progresses, he wonders what he'll leave behind after he's gone.

Towards the end of the show, Hamilton sings 'Legacy. What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see.'

If you have time, [show a YouTube cartoon](#) version of a song from Hamilton, called Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story, where his wife, Eliza, keeps his legacy alive following his death.

Ask your young people what they think of the quote from the musical. How would they describe what legacy means in their own words? Acknowledge that sometimes the word legacy means leaving a gift of money or property in a will to a charity or person. Also draw out that our legacy is also more than our digital footprint – it includes how we are both on and offline.

In the Bible we're asked to live a life that honours God and that our legacy should be telling the people around us about Jesus. We'll look at this in more detail later.

The Queen is a great example of someone who is building a legacy for which she'll be remembered. For example, she's well known for her moral support to the British people during the Second World War, for her strong Christian faith, for being the longest-reigning monarch in British history, and for her sense of duty giving years of service to her country.

Quirky question

Length of activity: 5 minutes.

Ask your young people the following question and have a short discussion using their answers.

Fast forward 100 years and someone is writing a book about your life. What's the one thing you'd want to be known for?

Activity – creating a lasting legacy

Note to leaders: If time is short, or your young people are likely to lose interest, watch a clip from the video instead of the whole thing.

What you'll need: The ability to [show this YouTube clip](#).

Length of activity: 20 minutes.

Show your group a TEDx talk on creating a lasting legacy from a 13-year-old girl called Nicole Nageli, now aged 18. She shares some tips on vision and how leaving a legacy doesn't have to be something that makes you hit the headlines, but something that makes a difference to others.

Activity – what's your legacy?

Note to leaders: Remind the young people that a legacy could be as simple as being kind.

What you'll need: Paper, pens, laptops, magazines, glue, scissors etc. depending on what your young people choose to do.

Length of activity: 15 minutes.

Get your young people to spend some time reflecting on what they want their own legacy to be. Give them some headings to help them, such as character traits, family aspirations, career goals, community impact etc.

They may decide to write a list, draw pictures, cut out images from magazines to make a collage, or draw a timeline – it doesn't matter how they express themselves as the key point to the activity is thinking about their future legacy.

Activity – would you rather...

Length of activity: 10 minutes.

Play a light-hearted game to illustrate that legacy is the outcome of the many decisions we make throughout our lives, much like a 'Choose your own adventure' story book!

Read the questions and get the young people to run to one side of the room if they'd choose the first answer and the other side of the room for the second answer. There's no right or wrong.

- 👑 You have an essay due at school tomorrow - would you rather finish your homework or go out with your friends?
- 👑 Would you rather be chased by one horse-sized duck or 12 duck-sized horses?
- 👑 Would you choose to live without music or without TV?
- 👑 Would you rather cry constant tears or drip constant snot?
- 👑 Would you prefer to go for a swim or go for a run?
- 👑 Would you rather be really tall or really short?
- 👑 Would you rather be a famous actor or a famous popstar?
- 👑 Would you rather lick a cow's eyeball or the lid of the dustbin?
- 👑 Would you rather spend a day without your phone or a day with no people at all?
- 👑 Would you rather live without a microwave or without a toaster?

Bible basics – good work in us

What you'll need: A Bible.

Length of activity: 5 minutes.

Read Philippians 1:3-6 from an easy-to-understand version of the Bible such as a Youth Bible or the New International Reader's Version. You can read this to your group or get one of the young people to read it.

Explain that the key part of this passage is the last verse: 'God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.'

Do the young people have any idea what this means? Listen to their answers.

Share that Paul, who wrote the book of Philippians, is telling us that God is working in our lives. If we believe and follow him, we'll see God working in our lives changing us to be more like Jesus. We can see how we can make a difference to the lives of others by God working in, and through, our lives. His work for us to do could be us serving and loving others and introducing them to him – what a legacy to leave! But we have to step up to the challenge of following him in order for this to happen.

What is Jubilee? Get the group researching what it means and why it is significant, using dictionaries and the internet.

Real life application – Captain Sir Tom Moore

Note to leaders: More information about Captain Sir Tom Moore can be found online.

What you'll need: A picture of Captain Sir Tom Moore.

Length of activity: 5-10 minutes.

Ask the young people if they know who is pictured. Explain that it's Captain Sir Tom Moore, more commonly known as Captain Tom. Have they heard of him, and do they know why he's famous?

Captain Tom made international news in 2020 when he decided to walk 100 laps of his garden in the run up to his 100th birthday, in aid of NHS Charities Together during the COVID-19 pandemic. He was a British Army officer who served during the Second World War. Captain Tom hoped to raise £1,000 for his efforts, but he actually raised more than £38.9 million, and was later knighted by the Queen at Windsor Castle.

Captain Tom's brought everyone hope during the first lockdown by completing his challenge with his incredible action and spirit, uniting the nation, and with his catchphrase: 'Tomorrow will be a good day.'

Sadly, Captain Tom died in February 2021, but his family have set up The Captain Tom Foundation to raise money for four different charities a year and to continue to spread his message of hope.

You can [watch a video](#) of Captain Tom.

Ask the young people if they think Captain Tom has a legacy and, if so, what is it? His message of hope is what he'll be remembered for and bringing comfort and joy to so many people during the pandemic. Do they think Captain Tom served God? If so, how? What inspires them about Captain Tom's life?

Time to reflect – thinking it through

Note to leaders: Read the information below to help your young people think through why it's important to leave a legacy in terms of faith.

Length of activity: 5 minutes.

As we saw in the Bible passage from Philippians, Christians believe having faith in God, serving others and introducing them to God, is an amazing legacy to leave – an eternal legacy - and one far better than leaving behind only tangible items, like money and possessions.

God wants us to pass his truth on to the next generation – a legacy of faith. Work done for God can, and will, have ongoing impact for years to come. We can serve God, doing good works, by using the gifts and talents he has given us.

In order for God to work in and through us, and change us into better people, we have to be prepared to follow him and spend time with him. This may mean reading the Bible, praying, going to church/youth group/GB/BB, and finding out more about him and his plan for our lives. His good works are carried out as we act upon hearing from him via the Holy Spirit. We become mature Christians and live a life pleasing to God.

Time to reflect – taking action

Note to leaders: Pose these questions to your group and then listen to their answers.

Length of activity: 5-10 minutes.

Captain Tom has left a legacy of hope and served others through his fundraising. We might not all become famous like him, but we can still be remembered in some way. How great it would be to be remembered as someone who trusted and followed God 100%!

Reflect on these questions with your group of young people:

- 👑 Are we living with integrity and courage?
- 👑 God changes believers' attitudes and actions to be more like Jesus. Can you see God working in your life?
- 👑 Do you spend time reading the Bible and praying? Why or why not?
- 👑 How do you treat others? Would God approve?
- 👑 Do you tell others about Jesus? Why or why not?
- 👑 Do you put your trust in yourself or in God?
- 👑 Are we living lives so that our legacy will reflect what we actually care about?

Challenge – a legacy project

Note to leaders: Choose one of the following activities – they are more in-depth and will have to be planned over several weeks.

What you'll need: Equipment and instructions for your chosen activity.

Idea 1 - Memory recording

Arrange your young people to interview older people, such as their grandparents or members of your church or residents at a local residential home, to document lessons they've learnt throughout their lives, their memories, and what they think will be the legacy they leave behind. Advice could range from philosophical to practical and everything in between! These interviews could be done in writing or by making a video and then the results shared with your group and church to inspire them.

Idea 2 - Fundraising

Make a difference to others by fundraising for the Captain Tom Foundation, or another charity. Ensure your young people are involved in the decision-making, planning and carrying out of your event.

Idea 3 - Honours nomination

The Queen gives titles of honour to deserving people from all walks of life, in public recognition of their merit, service or bravery. The most well-known honours are probably MBEs, OBEs, and CBEs. Encourage your young people to organise their own honours party night where they recognise the contributions of leaders at your group/church and by each other. They could come up with some award names and design certificates to be presented at the party night. One young person might also volunteer to give a speech – much like the Queen does each year! Ensure your young people are involved in the decision-making, planning and carrying out of your event.

Let us pray – leaving a legacy

Note to leaders: Share this prayer with your group.

Length of activity: 1 minute.

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the many people we know who have inspired us by the legacy they have left, or will leave. Help us Lord to think about how we behave and act as we build our own legacies. Encourage us Lord to keep following you. Thank you that you are working in us every day to our eternal benefit and for your eternal praise. Even though we mess up sometimes we know you're with us and shaping us with your mercy, grace and patience transforming us to be more like Jesus.

Amen

Further Idea

Use the song 'Rise Up & Serve' as an anthem for the group. Encourage them to perform their own versions and record them. [Find out more here](#)

70 Acts of Service

The Queen has served the UK and the Commonwealth for 70 years. To honour her, let's join together in [70 Acts of Service](#) during 2022.