

FREEDOM DEVOTIONAL

GENERATIONAL INIQUITY

AUTHOR

ZAC BAYLESS, Lead Pastor

GENERATIONAL INIQUITY

MEMORY VERSE

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

DAY 1

This week, we're diving into God's truth about generational iniquities—those patterns or tendencies toward sin that have been passed down through our families. None of us got to choose the family we were born into, nor the issues or strengths that came with it. Whether you feel like you've been dealt a tough hand or have been blessed with a strong family, God has a purpose in your story to bring Him glory and to set you free!

PAUSE

Let's take a moment to pray.

God, I pause to center myself on You, to breathe deeply and let Your truth settle into my heart. As I inhale, I remember Your goodness and faithfulness. As I exhale, I release the anxieties, worries, and fears that are weighing on me today.

I remind myself of the truth in Galatians 5:1:

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REFLECT

This week is crucial as we consider the generations before us and those that will follow us. Iniquity is simply another word for sin, and none of us are strangers to its impact. Romans 3:23 reminds us that

“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

But what exactly is generational iniquity?

Generational sins are tendencies or patterns of sin that are passed down through families, often affecting behavior, mindset, or lifestyle. They can take many forms—unforgiveness, lying, bitterness, worry, judgment, pride, lust, addiction, and more. It’s not about being held responsible for someone else’s sin. In fact, Ezekiel 18:20 makes that clear:

“The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son.”

Each person is accountable for their own choices. Still, we often find these patterns echoed in our own lives. It’s as if certain struggles run in the family, showing up in different generations in slightly different forms. If we don’t identify and address these iniquities, they can quietly shape our lives, keeping us from the freedom God wants us to walk in.

ASK

- *God, what generational sins can I see in my family?*
- *Where do I see these same patterns in my own life?*
- *Will You help me to see clearly and break free from these tendencies?*

YIELD

Lord, I confess that I need You. Show me the generational sins that have been passed down through my family. Open the eyes of my heart to see them clearly so that I can break free and no longer be bound by these patterns. Start with me, Lord. I want to learn from You how to break these cycles so that the generations after me can walk in the fullness of Your promises and freedom. Amen.

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DAY 2

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REFLECT

We've all heard—or maybe even said—phrases like, “This is just how I am” or “This is just who we are” when referring to family dynamics or behaviors we've always seen as “normal.” I believe this is one of the enemy's most effective tactics: creating a false sense of comfort within the generational sins of our families.

When we say things like, “This is just how I am,” we unintentionally start to discount God's power in our lives and limit what He wants to do for us. Ephesians 3:20-21 reminds us:

“Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.”

God not only wants to break generational sins by His power and for His glory, but also to set us free. We were never meant to stay the same as we've always been. One of the greatest gifts of a relationship with Christ is the promise that He wants to remake us with a new identity and a new story. He desires to break the generational iniquities that have been taught, encouraged, or passed down through our family lines.

Not only can God accomplish more in us than we can imagine, but He also has levels of freedom for us that we've never even dreamed of. He has equipped us with everything we need to break free from the past.

ASK

- *Where have I become comfortable in my generational sins?*
- *Where and how have I defended sinful behaviors in my own life and in my family?*

YIELD

Lord, thank You for Your patient and gracious love. I desire to step into all that You have for me. Show me the places where I have become comfortable in my own sin. Teach me to trust You more and believe in the freedom You have promised me. Help me to see who You want me to become and how You want to set me free from generational iniquities. Amen.

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DAY 3

This week, we're diving into God's truth about the generational iniquities that have followed us from the generations before us. We didn't get to choose our family or decide which issues would or wouldn't be a part of our heritage. But whether you feel like you've been dealt a tough hand or feel blessed in the family department, know this: God has a purpose in your story to bring Him maximum glory and to set you free!

PAUSE

Let's take a moment to pray.

God, I pause to center myself on You... to breathe deeply and let Your truth settle into my heart. As I inhale, I remember Your goodness and faithfulness. As I exhale, I release the anxieties, worries, and fears that are weighing on me today.

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REFLECT

This story goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden in Genesis, when Adam and Eve chose to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. From the beginning, our natural tendency has been to lean on our own understanding and trust in our own judgment, often underestimating the role the enemy plays in shaping our thinking.

The same thing happened with Adam and Eve. The serpent tempted them, promising they would gain great insight and knowledge if they ate from the tree. But instead, their decision marked the first act of rebellion against God, a choice that would affect every generation that came after. Romans 5:12 tells us:

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.”

This is what generational iniquity is really about. The skeletons in our closets didn’t originate with our parents, grandparents, or even great-grandparents. They go all the way back to our First Parents, Adam and Eve. When Adam fell, all of humanity fell with him. It’s easy to become discouraged by the weight of this reality, but we must remember that God, in His great mercy, has given us a new opportunity through Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:12 reminds us that death entered the world through this original sin, spreading to all mankind. But take heart—God desires to set us free from these generational iniquities. As our memory verse reminds us,

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

ASK

- *Where do I see patterns of sin running through the generations of my family?*
- *Why do these patterns continue to repeat themselves?*
- *God, what do You want me to hear from You in today's reflection?*

YIELD

Lord, thank You for teaching me how destructive sin truly is. Today, would You cleanse my heart and help me walk confidently in the promise of freedom You've offered me? Help me to see the patterns of generational iniquity in my life and in my family. I pray for supernatural opportunities to encourage and lead my family into the same freedom You're offering me. Thank You, Jesus, for rescuing me. Amen.

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DAY 4

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REFLECT

The story of King David serves as a sobering reminder of the consequences that generational sins can bring. Ultimately, in his case, it led to the death of his son. David's tragic choices began with his lust for Bathsheba, the wife of one of his own soldiers. David pursued her, and when she became pregnant, he tried to cover up his actions by orchestrating her husband Uriah's death on the battlefield. After Uriah's death, David took Bathsheba as his wife.

But David's attempts to conceal his sin did not go unnoticed. In 2 Samuel 11:27, it says,

"But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the Lord."

Because of this, God sent the prophet Nathan to confront David, revealing that his actions would not go unpunished. While David himself was spared, the son he had with Bathsheba fell gravely ill and died seven days after birth, just as Nathan had foretold.

David repented, but the knowledge of his sin did not change the consequences. His choices impacted not only himself but his entire family. This is why it's crucial to understand that our sins rarely affect just us. We may be unknowingly continuing a generational pattern—or starting a new one—that will impact our family line.

While caught up in our own sin, it's easy to forget the far-reaching effects. But God calls us to a higher standard of holiness and purity. As we pursue Him, we hold the power of Christ in our hearts to break the chains of generational iniquities that have bound our families for generations.

ASK

- *Lord, are there sins in my life that could create generational iniquities that my family will suffer from?*
- *What does it look like for me to live a life of holiness that can end these cycles?*

YIELD

Lord, today I ask that You open my eyes by the power of Your Spirit to see any generational sins that I may be contributing to. Give me Your strength to break the cycle and to lead those who come after me in the ways of holiness and righteousness, for Your glory and their freedom. Amen.

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DAY 5

This week, we're diving into God's truth about the generational iniquities that have followed us from the generations before us. We didn't get to choose our family or decide what issues would or wouldn't be a part of our heritage. But whether you feel like you've been dealt a tough hand or feel blessed in the family department, know this: God has a purpose in your story to bring Him maximum glory and to set you free!

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REFLECT

As we've learned this week, generational iniquities can be powerful and often feel beyond our control. We sometimes suffer the consequences of choices made by those who came before us. But there's incredible hope in this reality: no matter what we've inherited, even the most challenging generational sins can be completely broken if we turn to Jesus.

The great news is that you have the power to break the curse over your own life and for future generations. The decision is yours. As Jesus stood before Pilate being unjustly sentenced to death, Pilate asked a significant question in Matthew 27:22:

"Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called the Christ?"

While the context was different, we must ask ourselves this same question today. What will we do with Jesus, who is called the Christ? Will we reject Him as many did when He was crucified, or will we place our complete faith and trust in Him?

Joshua 24:14-15 challenges us to make a clear choice:

"Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

No one else can make this decision for you. It's a personal choice. But when you choose Jesus, He brings restoration and freedom, even from the generational sins that have held your family for too long.

ASK

- *What have I done with Jesus, who is called the Christ?*
- *What areas of my life have I not yet surrendered to Him?*
- *Lord, how are You calling me to respond today?*

YIELD

Lord, thank You for Your abundant grace that is more than sufficient for me. Thank You for giving me the opportunity to choose how I respond to the generational sins that have plagued my family for so long. Transform my heart, Lord, so that I can be fully surrendered to You. Amen.

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Galatians 5:1

DAY 6

This week, we're leaning into God's truth about the generational iniquities that have followed us from past generations. We didn't get to choose our family members or decide what struggles would or wouldn't be present. Whether you feel like you've been dealt a tough hand or feel blessed in the family department, God has a purpose for your story—to bring Himself maximum glory and to set you free!

PAUSE

Let's take a moment to pray.

God, I pause to center myself on You... to breathe deeply and let Your truth settle into my heart. As I inhale, I remember Your goodness and faithfulness. As I exhale, I release the anxieties, worries, and fears that are weighing on me today.

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REFLECT

You or someone close to you has likely been impacted by addiction in some way. We all know that certain patterns of behavior, attitudes, and struggles tend to run in families, just as physical characteristics like height, hair color, or eye shape do.

However, it's a far heavier reality to worry about a family history of alcoholism or drug addiction than whether or not your child will inherit a certain hair color. Just as physical traits are passed down, certain patterns of sin—such as addictive behaviors—can also be passed from generation to generation.

It's not just addiction, though. Abuse—whether physical or sexual—can also become deeply rooted in a family's legacy, impacting each generation. But as we've been unpacking the truths and realities of generational iniquities, let's not view these patterns as irreversible curses. Romans 10:13 gives us a powerful reminder that deliverance and freedom are always possible:

“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

It may sound simple, but in Christ, we have the ultimate freedom from even the deepest generational sins and strongholds. When we call on the name of the Lord in faith, we are assured that we will be rescued.

If you find yourself facing a present trauma, there is wisdom in seeking professional help from pastors, therapists, or counselors. But even in the midst of seeking help, remember that true and lasting healing comes from God. In Him, we can not only break these generational cycles, but also experience forgiveness and restoration in our relationships.

ASK

- *How have addiction and abuse affected me or my family?*
- *Are there patterns of addiction or abuse in my own life?*
- *Lord, what steps are You calling me to take today?*

YIELD

Lord, today I pray this week's memory verse from Galatians 5:1:

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

Lord, give me the strength and faith to believe that You have come to set all things back in order when we call upon Your name. Today I call upon Your name, Jesus. Bring healing and break the generational sins of addiction and abuse in my family and in the lives of others who are affected by these struggles. I trust these burdens into Your hands. Amen.

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DAY 6

This week, we've been diving deep into understanding the generational iniquities that have impacted our lives and families. We didn't get to choose our family members or what struggles would be handed down to us. Whether it feels like you've been dealt a rough hand or you see blessings in your family history, God has a purpose for your story—to bring Himself glory and to set you free!

PAUSE

Let's take a moment to pray.

God, I pause to focus my heart on You... to breathe deeply and let Your truth travel through my mind, will, and emotions. As I slowly inhale, I center myself on Your goodness and faithfulness. As I exhale, I release the anxieties, worries, and fears that have crept into my heart today.

I remind myself today of the truth in Galatians 5:1:

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

REFLECT

We've spent this week unpacking the reality of generational sins—patterns and struggles passed down through our families as a consequence of living in a fallen, broken world. But today, we're focusing on the hope that is greater than any generational curse.

The apostle Paul tells us about the ministry of reconciliation that Christ has accomplished. And now, because of Him, this ministry is something we can carry and live out ourselves.

2 Corinthians 5:15-17 says,

“And he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

Think of it this way—if you've ever bought something brand new, it's easy for that initial excitement to fade over time. Things lose value the longer we have them. But what's so incredible about Christ's redemption is that the price He paid for you never diminishes. It holds its value for eternity. His work redefines your present and your future—and it has the power to change the future of generations to come.

Because of this ministry of reconciliation, God sets us free for good, so we never have to be burdened again by the yoke of sin that once held us down. Today, let's pause to thank God for this reality: that His grace and mercy are big enough to break every curse and rewrite our stories, setting the foundation for a kingdom legacy for all future generations.

ASK

- *God, how can you use me to share this ministry of reconciliation right now?*
- *Where do I need to allow you to continue to redeem and break generational sins in my life and family?*

YIELD

Lord, thank you for your overwhelming grace that sought to rescue even me. I'm humbled that you had me in mind when Jesus died on the cross. I stand firm today on your promise to break the curses of sin and iniquity in my family. Let my new legacy be centered around Your hope and Your name. Amen.