

THE CORE VALUE: We value _____ and expect the next generation
to see _____ than the current one.

1. First, we set the _____

2. Then, we state the _____

3. Finally, we see the _____

The Take-Off

[Clip of Herb Brooks' pre-game speech]

On February 20, 1980, an entire nation watched a miracle.

A hockey team made up of college students representing the USA went head to head with a Soviet team of professionals in the first game of the medal round at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid and won. The victory was even more improbable because that same team had lost to the Soviets 10-3 in a pre-Olympic exhibition, and the team of Soviets had defeated our NHL All Stars 6-0 one year earlier.

In short, there was no way we should have won, but we did. Not only that, but eventually, Team USA won the gold medal, too.

The reason? A man who wanted no credit. Herb Brooks.

Brooks had been the last man cut from the 1960 Olympic gold-medal hockey team, but had gone on to win National Championships as the coach of the University of Minnesota, and he was fanatical about preparation.

His influence became a major reason why the 1980 Olympic Hockey team became the greatest story of the century, and it's a great example of what can happen when we live by our 6th core value:

We value *spiritual legacies* and expect the next generation to see greater success than the current one.

If we're going to coach the next generation well, then we've got to do 3 things well:

1. First, we set the example:

The Bible is clear that our faith is not a "do as I say, not as I do" faith
It is much more like the game "Follow the Leader"

- a. Jesus started the game
 - i. Luke 9:23; 14:27
 - ii. Matthew 10:38
 - iii. Mark 8:34
 - iv. We are to follow Jesus daily
- b. The game continued through Paul
 - i. 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1
 - ii. Phil. 3:17
 - iii. 1 Thess. 1:6
 - iv. He pointed us to follow him as He followed Jesus
- c. And now the game plays on through us
 - i. 1 Timothy 4:12 - literally "come onto the stage" for believers
 - ii. Now we are being followed as we follow Jesus
 - iii. The next generation will reflect the best - and worst - of us
 - iv. [Embarrassing things kids say]
 - v. They are learning from what we do more than from what we say
 - vi. "Set" - Greek word is about things coming into existence; more telling than showing
 - vii. You don't talk people through follow the leader; you lead them

Bottom line? What you do may very well be what they do. Set an example of righteousness.

2. Then, we state the expectation.

- a. 1 Samuel 3
 - i. We can learn a lot from this story about Eli training Samuel, but perhaps the biggest thing for today is that Eli stated an expectation

- ii. What that means is simply that Samuel reacted based on the status quo
 - a) The word of the Lord was rare (v. 1)
 - b) As a result, Samuel assumed Eli was calling him
 - c) Eli stated a new expectation (the Lord could be speaking)
- iii. To be brutally honest, sometimes the next generation settles because we don't raise the level of expectation
- iv. Listen to how one father communicated that to his son; how he raised his son's expectation
- v. [Rocky and his son clip]
- vi. But God is a God who raises the standard and raises the expectation
 - a) Psalm 84:7 - we go from strength to strength
 - b) 2 Cor. 3:18 - we go from glory to glory
 - c) John 14:12 - we will do greater things, not less
- vii. Our legacy must be one of more
 - a) more strength
 - b) more glory
 - c) more kingdom victories, not less
- b. When we communicate the expectation of more, we aren't offended with less
 - i. Looking again at John 14:12, it is clear that our greater works don't diminish the greatness of Jesus and the works He did
 - ii. When we expect more of the next generation, we accept the reduced role we may play
 - iii. My youth pastor told me: "You're never ready for the spotlight until you're willing to put some else in it."
 - iv. Sister Frayer: "I've had my time."
 - v. In God's kingdom, seniority doesn't get you a building with your name on it; it gets you a building filled with the next generation waiting to be trained and released by you.
 - a) 2 Timothy 2:2
 - b) Titus 2:1-8 (esp. vv. 4 and 7)
- 3. Finally, we see the end
 - a. It's great to motivate, and that's part of what Herb Brooks' speech did
 - b. But it's better to motivate and then release
 - c. That coach sent those players onto the ice with one focus: this is our time
 - d. He stepped out of the spotlight and put them in it, and as a result, their victory became his legacy
 - e. Peter understood this principle.
 - f. Peter trained the followers with the understanding that his end would come
 - i. 2 Peter 1:12-15
 - ii. He reminded them (practice, practice, practice)
 - iii. So they would remember (game time)
 - iv. Even after he was gone (character - it was a part of them)
 - g. Bottom line: You will be gone. Your end is coming. Have you created an expectation of greater things by those who come behind you?
 - h. Herb Brooks did. Let's see how that turned out... [Play the conclusion of "Miracle"]

The Landing

- There's really only one way to end this morning, and that is by praying for the next generation
- All of us stand on the shoulders of someone; none of us arrived where we are on our own

- Let me say to each one here that is “waiting in the wings”:
 - It is your time
 - Your time will be better than our time
 - Our time will end, so while we can, we will remind you of Jesus and the truth of His word
 - Do not settle for less than you were made for
- At The Gathering, we expect your generation to see more success than the previous ones.
- We value spiritual legacies.
- Let’s pray.