



Passing the Baton of Success

Adapted from “Passing the Baton” series by Scott Erickson

The quality and fulfillment of your life will depend on the choices you make. When you say the word success, what do you think of? Having possessions does not equal a successful life. Having people honor you does not equal success. Having name recognition does not equal a successful life. What type of legacy do you want to leave your children and grandchildren about what it means to be successful?

Consider the following story from P.L. Tan:

Few individuals have been more naturally favored than Johann Chrysostomus Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. At age five he wrote an advanced concerto for the harpsichord. At seven he was performing the most difficult compositions of Bach and Handel. At twelve he composed his first opera.

Yet this “best pianist and greatest composer of his time—perhaps of all history”—died in poverty and obscurity at age thirty-five. His widow was ill and seemed indifferent as to his burial. A few friends went as far as the church but were deterred by the storm from going to the grave. By the time anyone bothered to inquire of it, the location of the grave was impossible to discover. Mozart’s unmarked grave has been lost ever since. Thus, though Mozart’s name and his music live on, his personal fortunes were hardly to be envied.¹

¹ Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times*, (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc. 1996), 1373.

“Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. May not copy or download more than 500 consecutive verses of the ESV Bible or more than one half of any book of the ESV Bible.”

COURAGE

C1: Anne Frank said, “Our lives are fashioned by our choices. First we make our choices. Then our choices make us.”² Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

C2: When you hear the word **success**, what comes to your mind?

C3: Success means different things to different people at different times. What can success mean as a:

- Teenager

- Young Adult

- Family Man

- Retired Man

C4: If you have children, make a lunch date with each of them and ask them what success looks like for them.

² AZ Quotes, <http://www.azquotes.com/quote/507053> (accessed August 3, 2017).

STRENGTH

S1: In the Old Testament, Joshua is an amazing example of a man who decided to walk humbly with God. Read and answer the following.

Joshua 1:1–2 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are two key principles you can extract?

S2: Read and answer the following.

Joshua 1:4–7 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are three things you can learn about God's plan for Joshua's life? How can these three things apply to your life?

S3: Read and answer the following.

Proverbs 1:5 (ESV)

- What do you glean from this verse?

- On a scale from 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not well, rate yourself on how wisely you have walked with God. Write out a plan to improve.

ENDURANCE

E1: It takes a daily commitment to please God. Read and answer the following.

Joshua 1:7 (ESV)

- What do you conclude from this verse about pleasing God?
- On a scale from 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not well, rate yourself on how well you please God daily. Write out a plan to improve in the next sixty days.

E2: God gave Joshua the blueprint on how to be blessed and prosperous. Read and answer the following.

Joshua 1:8 (ESV)

- From this verse, what are four guidelines should you follow to make wise choices?
- On a scale from 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not well, rate your knowledge of God's Word. Write out a plan to improve.

E3: A father feels the weight to pass on these instructions to his kids and grandkids. Write out your plan to pass on what matters most to your children and grandchildren – having a daily discipline with God and a knowledge of His Word.