

LEGACY MAKER



CHAIN BREAKER

*Living a Life of
“What ifs”*

TheSecondActMinistry.com

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Foreword

Every once in a while, a book comes along that doesn't just tell a story — it awakens something in yours. *Legacy Maker, Chain Breaker* is that kind of book.

This isn't a guide written from a mountaintop. It's a companion for the valleys, the crossroads, and the quiet moments when you wonder if your life still matters for something bigger. I have experienced and overcome: the pain of loss, the mess of rebuilding, the faith to adopt, the courage to start again, and the trust to follow God into the unknown.

What you'll find in these pages is more than wisdom — you'll find wounds that have been healed, risks that have been taken, and a heart that burns to see others walk in their purpose.

Whether you're 30 or 60, single or married, starting out or starting over, this message is for you. You have not missed your chance. You are not too late. God is still speaking, still moving, still calling.

Through relatable stories, Biblical parallels, and real-life encouragement, you'll be invited to ask one simple, life-altering question: "*What if?*"

And when you ask it with open hands and an open heart, get ready — because God loves to answer those who are bold enough to believe He still writes incredible Second Acts.

So read slowly. Reflect deeply. And most importantly — respond.

Because legacy isn't about what you leave behind. It's about who you become now.

Let's go.

Introduction

When I turned 50, something inside me shifted. It wasn't a midlife crisis — it was a holy invitation. A whisper in my spirit that said, "*There's more.*" Not more success or noise or busyness — but more meaning, more surrender, more adventure with God.

That whisper became this book.

You're holding a collection of stories, lessons, prayers, and truths that come from real places — some painful, some joyful, all redeemed. I didn't write this because I have it all figured out. I wrote it because I've lived through enough to know that God writes the best stories when we let Him hold the pen.

This is for the person who feels like they started too late. For the one who thinks they're too messed up or too worn down. For the dreamer who has been afraid to dream again. And for the believer who knows deep down: God isn't finished yet.

Each chapter will invite you into reflection, action, and hope. You'll meet people from Scripture who weren't perfect but were powerfully used. You'll hear parts of my journey — from foster care adoption to business building, from breakdowns to breakthroughs. And most of all, you'll be reminded that you, too, are part of something eternal.

You were born with a Kingdom blueprint. God has a plan for your life that didn't expire when you made a mistake, got off track, or hit pause. It's still there — waiting for your yes.

This isn't just a book. It's a roadmap. It's a rally cry. It's a permission slip to begin again.

So wherever you are in your story — I pray these pages help you hear God's whisper and give you the courage to respond.

Let's chase the "what ifs."

Let's live the Second Act.

Chapter 1: What If?

What if your life was meant to be marked by “*what if*” faith instead of “*if only*” regret?

That question has shaped my entire journey. I didn’t grow up with perfect stability or a clear blueprint for life. I was a child of many divorces. By the time I graduated high school, I had moved 22 times and changed schools 12 times. I even lived alone for a year at age 16. My story isn’t neat — it’s raw, full of detours, and yet undeniably shaped by grace.

At one point, I suffered a traumatic brain injury — one of three concussions I endured. I slurred my speech. My balance was off. My memory faltered. People looked at me and saw damage. But I began asking: *What if God still had a purpose for me, even with my limitations?*

Later, I would attend a one-year Bible school. I wasn’t a scholar — in fact, I only ever managed to rack up 16 college credit hours. But I had a heart to work with youth, and a hope that God could use even a broken past to build something meaningful.

I got married at 23. We lost a child to an ectopic pregnancy. A year and a half later, my wife left. I found myself divorced, disqualified — at least in my mind — and feeling like I was the least likely candidate for ministry. A college dropout. A wounded man. Another “what could have been.”

But here’s where God flipped the script.

Instead of asking “why me?” I started asking “what if?”

- What if I’m not disqualified — I’m just getting started?
- What if failure isn’t final?
- What if adoption could be our answer to infertility?
- What if I tried again — this time, with God fully at the center?

Years later, I met my wife Aimee — a woman who had grown up in the same town, in the same house, with the same dad working the same job her whole life. She was steady. She was focused. She had a degree in finance. And she met me — a wandering ENFP entrepreneur who had been through fire and still dared to dream.

Together, we asked: *What if?*

At age 39, we adopted four siblings from foster care — all on the same day. Ages 1, 2, 4, and 8. People said it was crazy. We called it obedience.

Soon after Aimee and I were married I started a contracting business. I refined systems. Built relationships. Found my niche. I discovered I wasn’t just a dreamer — I was wired for marketing, sales, and people. God used those skills to build not just homes and concrete foundations — but freedom.

And then came the adventures: mission trips overseas, a calling to Northern Ireland, friendships with pastors and strangers who became family. We built memories, not just wealth. We lived “what if” one decision at a time.

This chapter — this mindset — is why this book exists.

Because when I look back at my life, I don’t want people to say, “*He played it safe.*” I want them to say, “*He trusted God enough to go.*”

I believe God has a “what if” waiting for you, too.

Reflection

- What fears or failures have kept you from asking “what if” in your own life?
- Where might God be inviting you to trust again, risk again, begin again?

Scripture

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

— Jeremiah 29:11

Prayer

Lord, I’ve been stuck in “if only” thinking — replaying the past instead of trusting You for the future. Help me embrace a “what if” faith. Help me say yes to Your plans, even when they feel risky or uncertain. Use my story, Lord — not despite the broken parts, but through them. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Chapter 2: Chosen Love

Some people say love is a feeling. But love — real, transformational love — is a choice. And sometimes, it's the hardest choice of all.

When Aimee and I walked into that courthouse to adopt four siblings from foster care, we were choosing something radical. We weren't naïve. We knew it would be hard. We were bringing kids into our lives who had experienced trauma, uncertainty, and instability. But we also knew this: love has the power to rewrite stories.

There's a moment when the judge signs the papers, looks up, and says, "It is final." That day, four children got a new last name. They got a new identity. And they got a family.

I can't help but think of how closely that mirrors what happens when we come to faith in Jesus. Scripture says we are adopted into God's family. We get a new name. A new identity. A new inheritance. Not because we earned it — but because He chose us.

"God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure."
— Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

As an adoptive dad, I've seen this love up close. It's patient. It's messy. It's resilient. And it changes everything.

God didn't wait for us to be perfect before He called us His own. He met us in our brokenness. He chose us while we were still running. And He sealed our adoption with His Spirit.

The enemy loves to whisper lies: "You don't belong. You're not enough. You're too damaged." But our Father's voice is louder. He says, "You're mine. You're chosen. You're loved."

And just like our kids had to learn to trust that our love wasn't going anywhere, maybe you do too. Maybe today is the day you let your guard down and believe it's real. That you are wanted. That you belong.

That you've been chosen.

Reflection

- Where have you struggled to believe that you are truly loved and chosen by God?
- How might understanding your adoption in Christ change how you see yourself — and others?

Scripture

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

— 1 John 3:1

Bible Character: Mephibosheth

Mephibosheth was crippled, hidden away, and felt forgotten — yet King David sought him out, restored him, and gave him a seat at the royal table (2 Samuel 9). Just like us, he didn’t earn his place. He was chosen because of covenant love.

Prayer

Father, thank You that I am not an outsider. I am not forgotten. I am Yours. Help me to receive Your love fully — not just in theory, but in truth. Help me to walk in my identity as a chosen child, and to extend that same love to those who feel unseen. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Chapter 3: Burnout, Breakdowns, and Breakthroughs

We don't often talk about burnout in Christian circles — not honestly, anyway. But let's face it: trying to carry the weight of life, faith, family, and calling without support will crush even the strongest shoulders. I've been there — not just tired, but empty. Not just discouraged, but ready to quit.

There were seasons I was doing all the right things on the outside — leading, providing, showing up — but inside, I was unraveling. The pressure of trying to be “enough” was relentless. And even though I loved God, I often felt like I was doing it all alone.

That's when I realized: sometimes, a breakdown is God's invitation to a breakthrough.

In one of my lowest seasons, I stepped away from what I thought I was “supposed” to be doing. I slowed down. I listened. I let myself rest — which didn't feel spiritual at all. But in the quiet, God started to rebuild things in me that had worn thin. He reminded me that my worth wasn't tied to my output. That He never asked me to hustle for His approval.

And slowly, the fog lifted.

I began to notice things again — like beauty, and breath, and joy. I laughed more. I reconnected with my family. I took walks. I prayed short, honest prayers instead of polished ones. And from that place of rawness, God met me. Not to scold, but to restore.

If you're in that place now — if your soul feels scorched and your passion feels buried — know this: you're not broken. You're being invited into something deeper.

Burnout isn't the end. It's a redirection.

Breakdowns can become the soil for breakthrough.

But you have to be willing to stop striving long enough to hear God say: *“I never left. And I'm not disappointed in you.”*

Bible Character: Elijah

After a great victory on Mount Carmel, Elijah spiraled into despair. He fled into the wilderness, exhausted and afraid. But instead of rebuking him, God met him with rest, nourishment, and a whisper (1 Kings 19). Elijah's burnout wasn't the end — it was the beginning of renewed purpose.

Reflection

- Have you experienced burnout in your faith, work, or relationships? What were the signs?
- What would it look like to rest instead of strive in this season?

Scripture

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

— Matthew 11:28

Prayer

Jesus, I’m weary. I’ve tried to carry too much for too long. Teach me to come to You — not to perform, but to rest. Remind me that You’re not looking for perfection. You’re offering presence. Heal the places in me that feel drained, and show me how to walk forward with peace. In Your name, Amen.

Chapter 4: Building with Purpose

There's something powerful about building — not just homes or businesses, but lives, families, and futures. After adopting our four kids, I found myself not only creating a home for them, but building a home for God's children that hopefully launches adults with a heart for God.

I didn't come from a background of construction. But I had a deep desire to provide security and create something lasting. So I learned. I asked questions. I took risks. I said, "What if I could do this?"

That "what if" became a reality — not just once, but many times over. We built a home. Then another. And another. Eventually, I transitioned into concrete contracting and found my rhythm. It gave us freedom, stability, and the ability to serve others with excellence.

But here's what I've learned: the most meaningful thing you'll ever build is people.

God didn't just give me skills for business — He gave me a vision to build lives. My kids, my marriage, my team, my community. Brick by brick, decision by decision, we're all constructing something with our time and talents. The question is: what are we building, and who is it for?

Jesus talked about two builders — one who built on sand and one on rock. The storms came to both, but only one house stood firm. That's because the foundation matters more than the facade.

Bible Character: Nehemiah

Nehemiah wasn't a builder by trade — he was a cupbearer. But when he saw a need and felt God's call, he rose up to rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem. He faced criticism, opposition, and exhaustion — but he kept building, one stone at a time (Nehemiah 2–6). He's a powerful reminder that God equips those He calls.

Reflection

- What are you building with your time, energy, and focus?
- Are you building on the foundation of God's word or chasing temporary goals?

Scripture

"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain."
— Psalm 127:1

Prayer

Lord, I don't want to build a life that looks good but doesn't last. Teach me to build with purpose — to invest in what matters and to trust You as the true foundation. Help me steward the skills and opportunities You've given me for something greater than myself. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 5: When Doors Close

It's easy to talk about faith when everything is falling into place. But what about when things fall apart? When doors that seemed God-ordained suddenly slam shut? When prayers go unanswered, or worse, seem ignored?

I've had seasons like that — moments when I thought the next step was clear, only to watch the path vanish. Jobs lost. Relationships strained. Financial pressure. Dreams that felt right but didn't work out the way I hoped.

It's in those moments that your faith gets tested. Not the faith that believes for blessings, but the faith that keeps trusting when blessings are delayed or denied.

I remember one business I had high hopes for. It felt like the culmination of years of effort and prayer. But despite all the signs pointing toward success, it crumbled. I was angry. Confused. Embarrassed. I thought, *"God, did I hear You wrong?"*

What I've learned since then is this: closed doors are not signs of abandonment. They are divine redirection. Sometimes God shuts the door not to punish us, but to protect us or prepare us.

Looking back, I can see how that closed door led me to something far better — more fulfilling, more aligned with how He made me. But I wouldn't have found it if I kept trying to pry open what He had shut.

Faith doesn't mean every door opens. Faith means trusting the One who holds the keys.

Bible Character: Paul

The Apostle Paul knew what it meant to face closed doors. In Acts 16, he and his team were "kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in Asia." He tried again — another no. But then came the vision of the man from Macedonia. A redirection that would open up the Gospel to Europe. Paul trusted the closed door and followed God's lead — and history changed because of it.

Reflection

- Are there doors in your life that closed unexpectedly? How did you respond?
- What new path might God be inviting you to walk through instead?

Scripture

"See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut."
— Revelation 3:8

Prayer

Father, I don't always understand why doors close, but I trust that You are still working. Help me not to force what You've finished. Give me peace in the waiting and courage to walk through the new doors You open. Lead me in paths of purpose, even when they look different than I planned. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 6: Created for Connection

In a world full of digital noise and surface-level relationships, real connection feels more valuable than ever. I've learned this through the ups and downs of parenting, marriage, friendship, and ministry. We were never meant to do life alone. We were created for community.

When Aimee and I adopted our four children, we quickly realized that connection wasn't automatic — it had to be built. Layer by layer. Through laughter, patience, discipline, and a whole lot of grace. Connection takes time, intention, and presence.

And honestly, it can feel risky. To connect deeply is to be seen. It's to let people into the mess — not just the highlight reel. But that's where the real beauty lives.

I've experienced that same truth in my faith journey. There are seasons I've drifted — not out of rebellion, but out of busyness or distraction. But God never stopped reaching for me. His desire is always connection, not performance.

When I think about what's sustained me through trials, losses, and victories, it's been the people who showed up — the ones who saw past the image and into the heart. Those who didn't fix me, but sat with me. Who reminded me I wasn't alone.

And that's the heart of God. He doesn't shout at us from a distance. He draws near.

Bible Character: Ruth

Ruth chose connection when she could've walked away. She told Naomi, "Where you go, I'll go. Your people will be my people. Your God, my God." (Ruth 1:16). She stayed, loved, and built a future from loyalty and faithfulness. Her story reminds us that deep connection leads to deep legacy.

Reflection

- Are you living connected, or just surrounded?
- Who has God placed in your life that you're being called to pursue with greater depth or consistency?

Scripture

"Let us not give up meeting together... but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

— Hebrews 10:25

Prayer

God, thank You that You never stop pursuing connection with me. Teach me to slow down, be present, and build meaningful relationships with others. Help me love deeply, forgive freely, and stay committed — even when it's hard. Use my connections to reflect Your heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 7: The Power of Obedience

There's a unique kind of courage that comes from simply saying "yes" to God — even when you don't know where it will lead. Obedience isn't flashy. It rarely feels comfortable. But it is powerful.

Some of the most pivotal moments in my life began with a small, quiet nudge from God. A whisper. A sense that He was inviting me into something, even when I didn't have all the details. Like the time I felt led to reach out to a pastor in Northern Ireland — a man I'd never met. Or when my wife and I sensed it was time to travel, not just for fun, but with purpose.

One of the most unexpected "yeses" was saying yes to go to Europe — on mission, with no agenda except to encourage and listen. I didn't have a five-point plan. I just had a willingness to obey.

That obedience led to friendships, divine appointments, and ministry moments I could've never planned on my own. The fruit didn't come from striving — it came from surrender.

Obedience is often less about knowing where you're going and more about knowing who you're following.

God doesn't need your perfection — He just needs your permission. When you say yes, He does the rest.

Bible Character: Abraham

Abraham's journey with God began with a simple, bold command: "Go." Leave your country, your people, your father's house — and go to the land I will show you (Genesis 12:1). He didn't know where, how, or when. But he obeyed. That obedience made him the father of nations. It changed history.

Reflection

- Is there something God's been prompting you to do, but you've been hesitating?
- What fears or uncertainties have kept you from saying yes?

Scripture

"If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land."
— Isaiah 1:19

Prayer

Lord, I want to say yes to You — even when I don't have all the answers. Give me faith like Abraham, who followed even when the path was unclear. Help me to trust Your voice more than my fear, and to believe that obedience always brings blessing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 8: Memories Over Materials

When I look back at the most meaningful moments in my life, they aren't tied to things — they're tied to experiences, to people, to the moments where time slowed down and connection took root.

Early in our marriage, Aimee and I made a decision. We would prioritize memories over materials. That didn't mean we didn't work or steward resources — we did. But our aim was to create a life filled with moments we wouldn't trade, not just stuff we could accumulate.

We traveled overseas, not just to check destinations off a list, but to encounter God's people and creation. We took our kids on adventures, exposed them to different cultures, and sowed into their hearts a love for what matters — people, presence, purpose.

We've had homes, cars, and toys — some of it came and went. But the memories we made? No one can take those. They've shaped who we are.

I believe that's part of God's heart too. He's not impressed by what we collect. He's moved by how we love, who we serve, and what we do with the time we're given.

Jesus didn't own much in the way of material goods, but He gave everything in terms of presence. He walked with people. Sat at tables. Wept, laughed, healed. He gave memories that became the testimony of the disciples' lives.

Bible Character: Mary of Bethany

Mary chose presence over performance. While her sister Martha busied herself with tasks, Mary sat at Jesus' feet — fully present, soaking in His words. Jesus said she chose “what is better,” and it wouldn't be taken from her (Luke 10:38–42). Her memory of that moment became a legacy.

Reflection

- What do you want your kids, friends, or spouse to remember most about life with you?
- Where might you be prioritizing stuff over stories?

Scripture

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”

— Matthew 6:19–20

Prayer

Lord, help me to live for what lasts. Teach me to invest my time, energy, and heart into what matters most — people, presence, and purpose. Help me create memories that reflect Your love, not just accumulate things that fade. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 9: Healing the Father Wound

For years, I carried a wound I didn't know how to name — the ache of a father's absence. My dad died in a car wreck just a week before my 13th birthday. That kind of loss doesn't just leave a gap — it shapes how you see the world, yourself, and even God.

When you grow up without a father — or with a fractured image of one — it's easy to project that brokenness onto your Heavenly Father. I wrestled with questions like: Am I really loved? Am I seen? Am I safe to trust?

But over time, God didn't just show up as Lord — He revealed Himself as Father. A Father who saw the scared, unsure, searching young man inside of me and called me His.

Adopting my kids gave me a glimpse of this love from the other side. I began to understand the tenderness, the patience, the fierce protectiveness of a father's heart. And I also saw the struggles — the triggers, the walls, the testing of trust — that come from kids who've had to survive without steady love.

Healing the father wound isn't a one-time moment. It's a journey. But it starts with a revelation: God is not a reflection of your earthly father. He is the perfection of fatherhood. And His love is the anchor your soul has been aching for.

You don't have to earn it. You don't have to fear it. You just have to receive it.

Bible Character: Joseph (Jesus' earthly father)

Joseph could've walked away when Mary told him she was pregnant — but he chose to stay. He protected, provided, and parented Jesus with integrity and obedience. Though we don't have many words from him in Scripture, Joseph's quiet strength and faithfulness reflect the Father-heart of God (Matthew 1–2).

Reflection

- In what ways has your relationship with your earthly father impacted your view of God?
- What might God be inviting you to receive from Him as your perfect Father?

Scripture

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

— 1 John 3:1

Prayer

Father God, thank You for being the perfect parent. Heal the places in me that have been shaped by pain, loss, or confusion. Show me what it means to be loved by You — fully, freely, unconditionally. Help me live from that identity and offer that same love to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 10: Your Gifts Still Matter

For a long time, I believed that if I didn't get things "right" in my early years, I'd somehow miss my window. That if I didn't graduate college, follow a traditional path, or achieve certain milestones, then my usefulness in God's kingdom would be limited.

That lie held me hostage.

But here's what I've discovered: God doesn't operate on the world's timelines or grading scales. He never shelves someone because they've taken a detour. In fact, He specializes in reactivating purpose in people who thought their time had passed.

Maybe you've downplayed your gifts because they don't look like someone else's. Or maybe you've buried them under years of disappointment, fear, or failure.

But friend — your gifts still matter.

The creativity. The compassion. The insight. The wisdom. The way you see the world. The experiences you've lived through. God weaves it all together — not in spite of your past, but through it.

You don't need a stage or spotlight to be impactful. You just need to be available.

When you give God your gifts, He multiplies them — not always in ways you expect, but always in ways that matter.

Bible Character: Moses

Moses didn't think he was qualified. He stuttered. He ran from his past. He doubted himself — but God didn't. At the burning bush, when God called Moses to lead, Moses questioned everything. But God simply asked, "What's in your hand?" (Exodus 4:2). It was a staff — ordinary. Yet through it, God parted seas, led a nation, and performed miracles. God uses what we already have when we offer it back to Him.

Reflection

- What gifts, passions, or experiences have you discounted in yourself?
- What would it look like to offer them to God again — without comparison or hesitation?

Scripture

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

— 1 Peter 4:10

Prayer

Lord, thank You that my gifts still matter — even if they’ve been dormant or undeveloped. Show me what You’ve placed in my hands. Help me to serve boldly, creatively, and faithfully. Use my story, my skills, and even my scars for Your glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Chapter 11: Learning to Listen

One of the most underrated spiritual disciplines is listening. In our noisy world, it's easy to fill every space with sound — podcasts, music, notifications, opinions. But transformation often begins in silence.

I've had moments in life when I was desperate for answers. I wanted clarity, direction, assurance. But instead of a booming voice or flashing sign, God gave me stillness. And in that stillness, He spoke — not always with words, but with peace, conviction, or a sense of timing I couldn't explain.

Listening doesn't come naturally to most of us — especially those of us wired to take action (hello, fellow ENFPs!). But over the years, I've learned that slowing down enough to hear God is one of the most fruitful things I can do.

When we truly listen — to God, to our spouse, to our kids, to our community — we learn what's under the surface. We stop reacting and start responding. We move from assumption to discernment.

God's voice is often quiet, not because He's distant, but because He wants us close.

The greatest breakthroughs in my journey didn't come from doing more — they came from discerning more. And that only happened when I tuned in, turned down the volume, and asked: “Lord, what are You saying right now?”

Bible Character: Samuel

As a young boy, Samuel heard God's voice in the temple — but he didn't recognize it at first. It took the guidance of Eli for him to respond: “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” From that moment on, Samuel became a prophet who regularly heard and delivered God's word (1 Samuel 3).

Reflection

- What noise in your life might be crowding out God's voice?
- When was the last time you paused long enough to truly listen?

Scripture

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”
— John 10:27

Prayer

Father, teach me to listen. Quiet the distractions around and within me so I can hear Your voice clearly. Help me not to rush past moments where You are whispering. May I be a person who lives in tune with Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 12: Don't Quit Now

There's a point in every journey when quitting feels easier than continuing. When the excitement wears off, when the results don't come quickly, when the critics get loud or the silence feels deafening — that's when many walk away.

I've been there more than once. Ministering felt heavy. Parenting felt overwhelming. Business felt stagnant. The vision that once burned bright looked dim. I'd wonder, "Is this really worth it?"

But every time I wanted to quit, God reminded me: He wasn't finished.

Breakthrough often lives on the other side of "I'm done." That's when faith kicks in — not the kind that dances in celebration, but the kind that digs in when no one's clapping. The kind that says, "Even if I don't see it yet, I'll keep moving forward."

Maybe you're there now. You've put in the work, stayed faithful, but you're tired. Discouraged. Wondering if it's making a difference. Let me say this clearly: Don't quit. Not now.

Your obedience matters. Your perseverance matters. Your faithfulness in the small things is building something bigger than you can see.

Bible Character: Jeremiah

Jeremiah was known as the "weeping prophet" for a reason. He preached for decades with very little visible fruit. He was rejected, mocked, thrown into a pit. At one point, he said he wanted to stop speaking God's word — but it burned in his bones (Jeremiah 20:9). He couldn't quit, because God had called him. And his legacy still speaks today.

Reflection

- What area of your life feels like it's not producing fruit right now?
- What would it look like to stay faithful even without immediate results?

Scripture

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

— Galatians 6:9

Prayer

God, some days I feel like giving up. The road is long, and the results seem slow. But I know You are working, even when I can't see it. Give me strength to stay faithful. Give me courage to press on. Help me trust that You will bring a harvest in Your time. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 13: Redeeming Regret

If we're honest, we've all got things we wish we could undo — words we shouldn't have said, opportunities we missed, seasons we coasted through instead of showing up. Regret has a way of whispering lies: *"You blew it. It's too late. You're disqualified."*

I've lived long enough and walked with enough people to know: regret is common, but it doesn't have to be permanent.

One of the most powerful truths I've come to embrace is this — God doesn't waste anything. Not even our mess-ups. In fact, it's often in the very places we feel the most ashamed that He does His most redemptive work.

God isn't just the God of second chances — He's the God of second acts.

Think about it: many of the most impactful people in scripture had major regrets. Yet their stories didn't end with failure — they ended with faith. Because our worst moments don't define us. What we do next does.

Your past can become a platform. Your scars can lead to someone else's healing. When surrendered, regret becomes fertilizer for growth.

Bible Character: Peter

Peter denied Jesus three times. In Jesus' darkest hour, Peter's fear outweighed his faith. That moment could've ended his story. But Jesus, in love, restored him on the beach after the resurrection — asking three times, "Do you love me?" (John 21). Each "yes" redeemed a regret. Peter went on to become the rock the early church was built upon. Grace redefined his legacy.

I personally relate the most to Peter and based on what we know about him its likely I would have acted similarly, the good and the bad.

Reflection

- What's one regret you've held onto that God may be inviting you to release?
- How might your story of redemption bring hope to someone else?

Scripture

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

— Romans 8:28

Prayer

Jesus, You know the things I wish I could undo. But You also see beyond them. Help me release regret and receive Your redemption. Use my story — even the hard parts — to bring hope and healing to others. Thank You that my failures are never final with You. In Your name, Amen.

Chapter 14: Legacy Maker, Chain Breaker

At some point, you realize your life isn't just about you — it's about the impact you leave behind. It's about the legacy you're building and the chains you're breaking for those who come after you.

When Aimee and I adopted our four children, we knew we weren't just giving them a home — we were starting something new. A new story. A new lineage. A new foundation built not on pain or scarcity, but on love, faith, and hope. We were breaking generational chains and beginning a legacy that we pray will echo long after we're gone.

Legacy doesn't start when you're old. It starts now — in your daily choices, in your obedience, in your faithfulness to say yes to God when it's costly and inconvenient.

And breaking chains isn't just about ending the cycles of others — it's about letting God end the cycles in you. Fear, comparison, addiction, perfectionism, shame — they don't get to have the final word.

You may feel ordinary, but your life carries extraordinary potential when surrendered to the hands of a legacy-making, chain-breaking God.

You were born for such a time as this.

So, what kind of legacy are you building? What chains is God inviting you to break — not just for you, but for generations you may never see?

You are a legacy maker. You are a chain breaker. And the best is still ahead.

Bible Character: Esther

Esther was an orphan raised in exile, but she didn't let her beginnings define her ending. When the fate of her people hung in the balance, she risked everything — her comfort, her safety, her future — to do what was right. Her courage saved a nation. Her legacy was sealed with one brave yes (Esther 4:14).

Reflection

- What kind of legacy do you want to leave behind?
- What chains from your past or your family line is God calling you to break?

Scripture

“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance... will arise from another place... And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”
— Esther 4:14

Prayer

Father, thank You for calling me to be a legacy maker and a chain breaker. Help me live with purpose beyond myself. Break every cycle in me that's not from You. And use my life to build something eternal — not just for me, but for my family and future generations. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Final Word: The Adventure Continues

If you've made it to this point, thank you. Thank you for walking through these stories, these scriptures, and these lessons with me. My prayer is that something here sparked a fire in your spirit — a desire to say "yes" to your second act, no matter your age, past, or present circumstances.

God isn't finished with you. Your life is still unfolding. And the best chapters may still be unwritten.

I believe that with every "what if" you pursue in faith, heaven leans in. I believe every time you trust God's voice, take a bold step, or simply choose love over fear — you are writing legacy. You are breaking chains.

So, go live with open hands and a willing heart. Go be the encouragement someone else needs. Go create the kind of life that makes people wonder what God could do with theirs.

Your second act starts now.

Let's go.

Acknowledgments

To my wife, Aimee — thank you for being my constant, my encourager, my partner in every adventure. This book, like our life, would not be what it is without your steadfast love and belief in me.

To our children — you are my daily reminder that God's redemption story is always unfolding. You've taught me more about love, grace, and growth than any classroom ever could.

To the pastors, mentors, and friends who have spoken truth into my life — thank you for calling out the gifts when I couldn't see them in myself.

To the my friends — thank you for helping bring vision to reality. Your heart for people and the Kingdom keeps this mission alive.

And to the readers — whether we've met or not, I see you. I believe in you. And I'm cheering you on every step of the way.

May your second act be the beginning of your greatest impact.

— Kalan

YOU HAVEN'T MISSED YOUR CALLING.
YOU'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

LEGACY MAKER, CHAIN BREAKER

Life doesn't always go as planned Dreams shift. Roads detour. But that doesn't mean your story is over. In fact, it might just be beginning Legacy Maker. Chain Breaker is an honest, hope-filled journey through failure, faith, and forward motion. With raw stories, biblical insight, and powerful encouragement, this book invites you to.

- Reframe your past through God's grace
- Rediscover your identity and calling
- Embrace your Second Act with bold faith

THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO MOVE FROM

REGRET TO REVIVAL. LET'S GO.

