



FOUNDATIONS • COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY • GENESIS 5

Leaving a Legacy

A guided conversation from the October 11, 2026 sermon by James Drake

SUMMARY

Week five of Foundations is a chapter most people skip — a genealogy. Genesis 5 reads like a row of tombstones, the same words falling eight times like a bell: he lived, he had sons and daughters, and he died. Lived and died. Lived and died. James Drake let that drumbeat land before he showed us where it breaks. One man in the whole chapter never gets the word 'died' at all: 'Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.' The entire chapter leans on that one sentence, and the sermon did too.

James came into the text carrying a question. A little girl had wandered into his office mid-week and, after a string of questions only a child asks, left him sitting with the one underneath his own crowded calendar: so much of life gets spent doing things for God instead of being with God — so what does a relationship with God actually look like? Genesis 5 answers it with a worn pair of shoes. A long life racks up miles — accomplishments, experiences, accolades — but Enoch is not remembered for distance covered. He is remembered for direction and for company. It is not how far you walked, James said, but which way you were headed and who you were walking with. Enoch walked with God for three hundred ordinary years — raising children, doing the next thing — and that unhurried, daily companionship was the whole of his life.

The chapter sits between two family lines running side by side. Seven generations from Cain comes a proud, violent Lamech, boasting about the men he has killed; seven from Seth comes Enoch, who walks with God, and then Noah. One line grabs and makes a name for itself; the other calls on the name of the LORD. Two ways to live, two legacies to leave. And every story in Genesis, James insisted, is already whispering the name of Jesus — Abel's sacrifice, Seth's promised line, the son who would finally crush the serpent's head.

How was Enoch able to walk like that? Hebrews 11 gives the secret: 'by faith.' But James was careful about what faith means. It is not the intellectual belief even the demons hold — knowing the facts about God. Real faith is the difference between believing a stool will hold you and actually sitting down on it. Enoch did not just think true things about God; he put his full weight on him. And watch what he trusted God to be — 'a rewarder of those who seek him.' Not health, wealth, and an easier life. The reward is God himself, the Friend who said he would never leave. The gospel was hidden in the genealogy all along: Enoch walked with God and was no more, but Jesus came down as God, walked with us, died our death, and rose — so because he lives, we will live. Like James's own wrong turn driving the family an hour and a half past Fort Pierce, the invitation is not 'try harder and catch up.' It is to turn around and take the next step, however small, with the right Person.

Father, we open a chapter full of tombstones and one man who never saw one, because he walked with you. Slow us down enough to hear what you are asking. Search the direction we are facing and the company we keep. Meet us the way you met Enoch — not in a grand gesture but in the ordinary hours — and teach us to put our weight down on you. We are listening. Amen.

Think of someone you have walked a long way with — a friend, a spouse, a parent. What is it about walking alongside someone, day after day, that you cannot get from just knowing about them?

GENESIS 5:24 (ESV)

Genesis 5:24 (ESV) Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

GENESIS 5:21-22 (ESV)

Genesis 5:21-22 (ESV) When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

HEBREWS 11:5-6 (ESV)

Hebrews 11:5-6 (ESV) By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

GENESIS 4:25-26 (ESV)

Genesis 4:25-26 (ESV) And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him." To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

JUDE 1:14-15 (ESV)

Jude 1:14-15 (ESV) It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

01 LIVED, AND HE DIED

Read Genesis 5:21–24. Eight times the chapter says a man lived and died, until the rhythm breaks on Enoch, who 'walked with God.' James said a life is measured not by the miles — the accomplishments and accolades — but by direction and company. If your life were summed up in one sentence like Enoch's, what would it honestly say about you right now?

02 DOING FOR, OR BEING WITH

James confessed that a little girl's questions exposed how much of his own week was spent doing things for God rather than being with God. Where do you feel that same pull? What in your life is 'ministry for God' that has quietly crowded out simply being with him?

03 THREE HUNDRED ORDINARY YEARS

Read Genesis 5:22. Enoch walked with God for three hundred years while fathering children and living a whole, full life — the walk happened inside the ordinary, not instead of it. Where in your ordinary day — the commute, the chores, the waiting — could you be with God this week rather than only working for him?

04 WHICH WAY ARE YOU HEADED

Enoch is remembered for direction and company, not distance covered. James told of confidently driving his family an hour and a half the wrong way near Fort Pierce. Where might you be logging real miles in the wrong direction — busy, productive, and pointed away from God? What would turning around look like?

05 TWO LINES, TWO LEGACIES

Read Genesis 4:25–26. Seven generations from Cain comes a proud, violent Lamech; seven from Seth comes Enoch, and a people who 'began to call upon the name of the LORD.' You are already handing something down to those who watch how you live — mostly your direction, not your achievements. What are the people behind you learning from you about whether God is worth calling on?

06 SITTING DOWN ON THE STOOL

Read Hebrews 11:6. James said real faith is not the intellectual belief even the demons hold — it is the difference between believing a stool will hold you and actually sitting down on it. What are you carrying right now that you say God can hold but have not actually put your weight down on? What would 'sitting down' on him look like this week?

07 THE REWARD IS HIM

Hebrews says God 'rewards those who seek him.' James named the lie that the reward is health, wealth, and an easier life — and pointed instead to the reward Scripture actually promises: God himself, the Friend who never leaves. Be honest: when you seek God, what are you secretly hoping to get? How does it change things if the reward is him?

08 BELIEVED, TRUSTED, PROCLAIMED

Read Jude 1:14–15. Enoch believed God, trusted God, and then could not keep quiet about God — the quiet walk found its voice in a corrupt generation. Of those three — believing, trusting, proclaiming — which feels hardest for you right now, and why? And remember: James insisted none of it earns God's love; it is the fruit of being loved already.

Pick one. Do it before you meet again.

- 1 **Walk one ordinary hour with him** Pick one ordinary stretch of your week — the commute, the dishes, the carpool — and spend it with God on purpose instead of working for him. Don't add a task; change the company. Notice at week's end what being with him did that doing for him never could.
- 2 **Sit down on the stool** Name one thing you are white-knuckling — a bill, a decision, a waiting. This week, actually hand it to God rather than just agreeing that he could carry it. Put your weight down, and tell one person in this group where you did.
- 3 **Take the next step** Don't try to catch up all the wrong miles at once. Ask God for the one next step — small, specific, today — that walking with him is asking of you, and take it. The gospel is not 'try harder'; it is a God who turns you around and walks the rest of the way with you.

Come back next week ready to say what happened, not what you intended.

- ▶ A life is measured not by the miles — accomplishments and accolades — but by direction and company. Enoch is remembered because of which way he was headed and who he walked with.
- ▶ The walk happens in the ordinary, not instead of it. Three hundred years of raising children and doing the next thing, all alongside God — being with him is the one thing the list was never meant to crowd out.
- ▶ Real faith is not the intellectual belief even the demons hold. It is sitting down on the stool — putting your full weight on God, not just agreeing that he exists.
- ▶ The reward of faith is not health and wealth but Christ himself. Enoch was no more, but because Jesus walked with us, died, and lives, we will live too — so take the next step with him.

Genesis 5 is a chapter of tombstones with one grave missing — Enoch walked with God. The gospel was hidden in the genealogy all along: Jesus came as God, walked with us, died our death, and rose, so because he lives, we will live.

Lord, we have covered a lot of ground, and we are not sure how much of it we walked with you. Thank you that you did not stay at a distance — you came down, walked with us, died our death, and rose. Because you live, we will live. Turn us around from the miles we have driven the wrong way, and help us take the next step with you today, however small. We would rather go your direction in step with you than go far on our own. Amen.



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