



Reading Guide for Session 5: Eulogy

(Read Hyatt and Harkavy, pp. 57-67)

Like Stephen Covey in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Hyatt and Harkavy in their book, *Living Forward: A Proven Plan to Stop Drifting and Get the Life You Want*, say that we should begin with the end in mind. Moses's prayer recorded in Psalm 90 says in verse 12, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom," (NIV).

Writing your personal eulogy provides significant clarity about what is most important in life.

Hyatt and Harkavy ask four important questions:

- What would those closest to you remember about your life?
- What stories would they tell one another?
- Would those stories make them laugh, cry, sigh, or all three?
- How would they summarize what your life meant to them?

Once we are gone, we have no control over how we are remembered. However, we can shape what people remember by the choices we make now.

Begin assembling your eulogy by identifying your key relationships. Who will attend your funeral? What family members, friends, and work associates will be there? Write down the categories of people who will assemble on that day. Remember to include individuals and groups you influence.

Next, describe how you want to be remembered by each group. How do you want your spouse to remember you? Your children? Your coworkers?

Then, make your legacy statements as compelling as you can. The authors include this example:

(R)ather than saying, "I want Sheila to remember the times we spent together," you might instead say something like, "I want Sheila to remember times we laughed, times we cried, times we spent discussing things that were important to both of us, and times we just held one another and watched the sunset."

Write the scripts for the groups at your funeral. What do you want them to say? The collected Legacy Statements form your eulogy. Write it as if your funeral were today.

More than anything, make the most of the time you have left.





What are the memorable events and activities you have talked about but have yet to do?

How will you make memories that will be told for years to come?

How do you want to be remembered?

What do you want on your tombstone?

