

FAMILY HERITAGE INSTRUCTIONS

Each life does indeed leave a legacy, and families are a treasure. This little questionnaire can give you some ideas for sharing memories with your 'legacy.' There is so much more you can share than what is here...tell them about struggles and crises. Tell them about the great God who sustains you in all of them. Mostly just tell them.

With these pages, jot down your answers—they'll love having your handwriting someday. When you've completed them, you may wish to have it copied onto pretty paper. Consider placing your pages in a folder or box with pictures or trinkets that expand your story.'

Just as your love is a gift only YOU can give them, so these little memories are a gift only you can provide. May it bless you, bless your precious heritage and be a part of the beautiful weaving God is making of your life!

As you consider your story, remember God is the author. The poem on the following pages helps us look from His view!

To God be the glory for each of our lives! For more materials on seeing the Fingerprints of God, sign up for [Glory Glimpse News](http://GloryGlimpseNews.com) or visit: www.youareafingerprintofgod.com. I look forward to sharing with you!

Billie Jo

Quilt of Holes (Author Unknown)

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles; an angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in every day life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.

Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the the scrutiny of truth. The others rose; each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and wealth, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was. I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes. Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles."

Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you." May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through.

WORK. WORK. WORK

What did you want to be when you grew up?

What was your first job?

What was your most memorable job? Where did you work the longest?

What work or chores did your parents do?

Is there a job you would really like to try?

What would you like to do in retirement?

VACATIONS

What is the first vacation you remember going on?

*What was your favorite vacation as a child...how old were you?
And as an adult?*

Did you ever have one place you went to every year? Where did you go, who went with you and what did you do?

When your children were growing up was there a certain vacation you took every year? Was there a favorite vacation?

Is there a place you would most like to go now?

FAMILY CELEBRATIONS & GATHERINGS

The birthday I remember best was my _____ birthday because.... The usual birthday celebration was what?

Describe other days that were special when you were growing up. What types of celebrations took place?

Did you have a favorite place to go for celebrations? How about a dreaded place?

The birthdays I especially remember for my own children are:

What traditions did you start with your own family?

Tell about the present(s) you most enjoyed giving...whom did you give it to and why? What present did you most enjoy receiving...who gave it and why was it special?

LIVING IN FAITH

Tell me about when you first accepted the gift of salvation Jesus gives?

Did you ever fall away from that faith in a big way?

What are your greatest strengths? How have you struggled to submit them to the Lord?

What are your greatest weaknesses? How have you seen God work in spite of them?

Can you tell me about some ways you have seen God work or answer prayers?

How do you stay strong in Jesus? Do you have a life verse that always helps you 'keep the faith'?

What do you most want your loves one to know about you?

ANIMALS, ANIMALS, ANIMALS

Tell about the animals you had growing up...what were their names, did you have a favorite? What did they do that you most loved?

Did you have animals that supplied part of your meal (eggs, milk, etc)? Who was responsible for caring for them?

When your children were growing up, did they have pets? What do you most remember about the pets?

Can you choose a favorite dog—or would you rather list your dogs and say what was special?

Is there a pet you hope to have one day?

FUN STUFF

What was your favorite game as a child? Who did you play it with?

When I was growing up, my family played by doing such things as:

The silliest thing I ever did when I was growing up:

Did you have a favorite entertainer or sports star? If so, who & why?

When my children were growing up, their favorite activities were:

What was the first car you had? Is there a car you would love to own?

MY FAMILY

Who did you live with as a child...and where? How many brothers/sisters did you have?

What types of things did you do with your brothers and sisters?

What do you remember most about your mom...your dad?

Are there specific things you say or do that show 'you are a chip off the old block?'

Tell about a time you got in trouble for something...what did you do, what did your folks say or do?

How old were you when you first left home...what was your first place like?

Other relatives that played an important part in your life:

HOME SWEET HOME

What did your house look like? Did you live on a farm?

Do you remember the address?

What was the town like that you lived in or near?

How many of your old phone numbers do you remember?

What would have been a typical day at your house...chores, games?

Did you ever decide to run away from home? If so, why and what happened?

What is your favorite memory from your childhood?

Wedded Bliss

Where did you meet your spouse?

What was your wedding like?

Where did you first live and what was the house like?

Where did you live when each child in the family was born?

Did you love being pregnant or did you have a favorite age of your children?

Did you have a favorite home over the years?

Where do you want to live when you retire?