

## Family Traditions - Treasures that Last a Lifetime

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Being consumed with thoughts about providing the next meal for her two young daughters, my mom was left with little time to think about the future or what type of legacy she would leave us. When I married John over twenty-two years ago, my hands were empty and barren, with no traditions to pass on to our seed. I turned my heart toward establishing memorable traditions for our children. Over the years, I've been inspired by the Word of God and other Christian families with ideas that have helped to impress upon my children the rich heritage they have in Christ.

There are numerous occasions cited in the Old Testament when the people of God would commemorate special occasions by building an altar, erecting a monument, or celebrating feasts for the purpose of engraving in the hearts and minds of their children a remembrance of the Lord. Such is the time in my children's lives when we celebrate the day of their birth.

While reading Genesis 24, I was inspired with an idea for my daughter Kimberly's birthday. Abraham had sent his eldest servant back to his father's house to find a wife for his son, Isaac. Upon arriving in his father's country, Abraham's servant observed Rebekah as she came to draw water from the well. He noticed that she was single, attractive, chaste and modest. He quickly ran to meet her and asked for a drink of water. She responded graciously by extending hospitality to the servant and offered to water his camels as well. After the camels finished drinking, the servant took a gold earring and two bracelets and gave them to Rebekah. It was the custom of the day, when a man found a woman he intended to marry, to place a bracelet on her wrist. Upon returning to her mother's house, her brother Laban, after seeing the gold earring and bracelets, ran and found Abraham's servant standing by the well. Abraham's servant explained to Laban the purpose of his trip and received Laban's blessing to take Rebekah back to Canaan to marry Isaac.

Desiring to make an impact on Kimberly's heart, I chose a similar gift for her birthday. Like Rebekah, I wanted to remind her that she could grow into a pure, chaste and gracious young woman. I purchased a bracelet for her as a reminder that she is spiritually married to Christ. I attached three small pieces of jewelry to symbolize the inheritance that is hers as a daughter of the King: a Bible to represent the importance of honoring and hiding the Word of God in her heart, a ring to remind her to only give her heart to the one that Christ has for her, and a heart to symbolize God's unconditional love for her.

The world would simply call what my daughter proudly wears a "charm bracelet." However, she knows the rich and powerful symbolism behind each piece of jewelry. As mothers, we have many opportunities to impart vision and purpose into our daughter's hearts, as well as leave them a legacy of purposeful traditions. Let's embrace each occasion and sow seeds that will bring a harvest in generations to come.

"Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, they will raise up the former devastations; and they will repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations." Isaiah 61:4

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