

Keys to
Shaping
Your
Family's
Legacy



The
Signatry 

Keys to Shaping Your Family's Legacy

What is legacy?

We all want to live a life that matters, and at the end of our life, we will all leave a legacy. Legacy is more than an inheritance. We define legacy as the intangible assets—your values and beliefs, which you pass on to future generations. It is up to each of us what that legacy will be.



As you progress through the guide, here are a few things to keep in mind.

- Call a specific family meeting for conversations.
- Include the whole family.
- Make sure everyone has a say.
- Listen empathetically.
- Write everything down, and you can refine later.





Determine Your Family's Foundational Values

The greatest family legacies are built upon a foundation of values, a set of beliefs that transcend the family.

The core of family legacy is built upon the values that a family holds true. Family values must be intentionally crafted and acted upon. They will not just appear. So, take time with your family to consider the values you want and how you will practically live them out.

**Keys to
Shaping
Your
Family's
Legacy**

Guiding Values

What are the five fundamental values that you want to define your family?

Write down five words you want to guide your family through the generations. Think about principles, key lessons, or other traits that have influenced your family.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____





Preserve the Faith

It is difficult, if not impossible, to build an enduring family legacy without a spiritual component.

The spiritual beliefs that a family has are closely tied to the values it holds. If the beliefs they have do not line up with the values that they create, their legacy will not last. Take time and think about how your family's faith interacts with the values you have chosen. Consider how you will encourage future generations to preserve your faith.

**Keys to
Shaping
Your
Family's
Legacy**

Shaped by Scripture

Is there a Bible verse that articulates or backs up your core values?

A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous. Proverbs 13:22





Encourage the Calling

How does your family encourage one another and hold each other accountable to the values you set?

In order to thrive, family members should know how and be willing to push one another to grow. For a legacy to survive, family members should desire to be the best versions of themselves. At the same time, this should be coupled with an overwhelming amount of love and support. People can only be pushed to grow if they first know that they are loved.

Keys to
Shaping
Your
Family's
Legacy

Words of Encouragement

With this in mind, first, strive to love each other as best as you can. Discover how each person feels loved. Also, take time to consider how you might encourage one another and make each other better.

Find the balance of grace mixed with exhortation.

Legacy Tip:

Consider taking a love languages or a spiritual gift assessment as a family.





Reflect on Your Story

Great families remember. Enduring families look back.

Looking back creates not only gratitude, but also a starting point. Families need to retell their stories. People will not remember stories and gain insight if they only hear them one time. Think of ways to record and retell stories.

Perhaps this means gathering everyone together at family events to tell stories. Maybe it is physically writing down stories. It could even mean making videos so they can be accessed and shared digitally. As the stories and memories get relived and discussed, your family gains a sense of the larger story influencing them and lessons to be learned. Make a plan and take action.

Keys to
Shaping
Your
Family's
Legacy

Lessons Learned

What stories in your family's history have helped set the course, both good and bad, for your family?

What lessons can you pull from these stories?

How can you preserve these stories and the lessons learned for future generations?

"Your story is the greatest legacy that you will leave to your friends. It's the longest-lasting legacy you will leave to your heirs." —Steve Saint





Focus on the Intangible

Legacy is in the intangible assets, your values and beliefs, which you pass on to younger generations.

The most significant wealth is never in money. It is about individual family members achieving their God-given potential and remaining connected to the large family dynamic.

Most people think of legacy as the wealth that is transferred through their will. However, true wealth is passed on in the values and lessons that people learn from their families. Focus on cultivating and passing on intangible assets such as values and beliefs over material possessions.

**Keys to
Shaping
Your
Family's
Legacy**

Connection Point

Taking what you learned from the love languages and spiritual gift assessments, how can you foster greater connection among your family?

Find intentional ways to speak unconditional love and encourage one another.





Live Generously

Generosity is an essential mark for enduring families.

Generous families are grateful for the blessings they have received, and in turn, they want to make the lives of others better as well. They talk about being a generous family, and generosity becomes the training ground for teaching values.

Time. Talent. Treasure.

If true wealth is not in money, what better way to demonstrate this than by being generous with your resources?

Involve your children in the process of giving. If it is a financial gift, let your children help decide what causes and organizations to support.

**Keys to
Shaping
Your
Family's
Legacy**

Next Steps

Next to the values you identified earlier, write steps of how you can practically put them into practice.

Talk to your family about their passions and the opportunities they have to pursue those passions.

Generosity is not limited to money.

Look for ways to serve together. Serve at a homeless shelter. Help an elderly neighbor. Volunteer at your church. Generosity, whether financial or other resources, reinforces values and establishes lifelong practices.





Celebrate Together

Celebrating each other's achievements brings unity to family.

Fellowship should be a part of families' DNA. They come together at regular intervals to celebrate the activity of God in their family and to celebrate one another. To preserve the legacy and to encourage one another, families need to stay connected. Take time to plan out when your family will meet and then set aside time to talk about your stories and your lives.

**Keys to
Shaping
Your
Family's
Legacy**

Plan a Party

What are specific ways you can celebrate with your family?

Maybe it is a specific gathering each year, funny awards, or simply handwritten notes. Find what style of celebration fits your family.

Words to Live By:

One of the commands in the Old Testament law is a seven-day celebration. (Leviticus 23:39-43)

When was the last time you celebrated anything for seven days?



The Journey Ahead

Now that you have adventured through these first steps of shaping legacy, continue to pursue these paths boldly. It will take time, renewal, and many conversations, but God is honored through this process. His heart always has been for families to endure, so find hope and courage in Him.

Legacy will always be a work in progress, so you can return to this guide for refreshers and encouragement.



**Keys to
Shaping
Your
Family's
Legacy**

To learn more about how The Signatry works with families, visit www.thesignatry.com/families

