



## *A Single Mom's Legacy – Part 1*



A legacy is something passed down from one generation to another. It can be things given as a present, or it can be behavior patterns and words that were spoken.

Every parent gives a legacy to their child. It may be a legacy of love, wisdom and understanding, or it may be a legacy of criticism, anger and abuse.



Every child carries the legacy their parents passed down to it for the rest of their life.

As mothers your legacy to your children began when your baby was conceived in your womb. A life was created and was known to God. You became part of the miracle of creation.

A mother's influence during the early years is almost always the strongest one in shaping the legacy she will pass down to her children.

There are many, many different legacies left to their children by their parents, but there are three in particular that are essential to raising a well-balanced, happy child.

The first of these is giving affirmation. Affirmation is always positive and builds up; it is never negative, putting the child down.



As children, we ourselves longed for affirmation from our parents, friends and brothers and sisters. We longed to hear the words, "I love you, you are special."

As adults, we still hunger for it. It brings power and self-confidence.

We affirm our children by telling them what we appreciate in them; by giving sincere praise and compliments on the good things they do; and by giving a hug or kiss when small triumphs or disappointments are shared with you; and most important of all, by listening with your full attention when your child is sharing with you.

The second legacy is trust. If your children know from an early age that you trust them, they will honor that trust. Trusting your children means you have a confident

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expectation that they will turn out to be fine adults. Showing your trust is to always speak well of them. Respect them and they will respect you.



If your child knows that you always speak well of him, and that you respect him as a person, no matter how young he is, he will respect himself, and you as his parent.

Whatever you believe about your children is what you will say about them. The words a mother speaks are like a sculptor's tools that form and shape her children into what they will become. Have you ever watched a sculptor making a statue from wet clay? Some of the tools cut deeply and others smooth out the clay.

If you have fear about how your child will turn out – the words that express that fear will come out of your mouth as criticism. If you have a critical attitude about any of your children, you must change the image you have of them on the inside of you. Instead of focusing on the negative things about them – choose to see them as being obedient, see them as being loving and kind, in other words, see them as you want them to be. Reward the actions and behaviors that fit the image of your trust and respect.

Your words are the sculptor's tools that shape a child's character to that image.

The third and greatest legacy we can pass on to our children is our faith in God.

They are growing up in a society that is filled with fear and moral sin on every side. They are facing ungodly things that we as parents did not have to face on the scale that it is today.

If you don't love and trust them enough to tell them about God, and share the reality of faith and trust in God with them, who is going to? Even a Christian teacher can only do so much.

The primary responsibility rests squarely on your shoulders and the Holy Spirit is right there to help you.

If you desire godly children, you will have to teach them – you cannot force them – you have to teach them by your example.

Find a good Bible story book and read to them at bedtime.

Pray together about their concerns.

Lay hands on each of them and pray a blessing from God every day when they leave for school or outings.



You will leave a legacy of some kind to your children. You must choose now what your child will remember about you. Will it be things like: "My mom loved God." Or "My

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mom loved me even when I was bad.” Or “I never really felt close to my mother growing up.”

There are only a few precious years when your children are by your side – listening to you and watching you.

Give this one and only opportunity your full attention and be the very best “mom” you can be.

“Mother” is the title for the position you hold in your child’s life, but “Mom” has the warmth of friendship, understanding and uncritical love.

*“Let the little children come to Me, and do not stop or hinder them; for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.”* Matthew 19:14



## *A Single Mom's Legacy – Part 1*

1. What is a legacy?

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2. How does a legacy affect a child's life?

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3. Whose influence is the strongest in a young child's life?

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4. What is the first legacy to raise a happy, well adjusted child?

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5. What should the second legacy be?

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6. What are the sculptor's tools that shape a child's character?

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7. What should the third legacy be?

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8. Whose primary responsibility is it to lead their children to God?

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9. Will your legacy to your children be that of "Mom" or just "Mother"?

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10. What did Jesus say about your children? (Matthew 19:14)  
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

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## *A Single Mom's Legacy – Part 1*

1. What is a legacy?

Something that is passed down from one generation to another.

2. How does a legacy affect a child's life?

They carry it with them for the rest of their life.

3. Whose influence is the strongest in a young child's life?

Their mother's.

4. What is the first legacy to raise a happy, well adjusted child?

Affirmation.

5. What should the second legacy be?

Trust.

6. What are the sculptor's tools that shape a child's character?

The words of it's mother.

7. What should the third legacy be?

Faith.

8. Whose primary responsibility is it to lead their children to God?

The mother's.

9. Will your legacy to your children be that of "Mom" or just "Mother"?

Only you can answer this question.

10. What did Jesus say about your children? (Matthew 19:14)

MEMORY VERSE "Let the little children come to Me, and do not prevent them

(from coming), for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."