



How Will You Be Remembered?

Adapted from “A Sure Foundation” series by Scott Erickson.

Memory is a powerful reminder of events that occurred. In our house, we often use the phrase “we are making memories together.” It really is true at the end of our days, what we will have are memories. How will you be remembered at the end of your life in the eyes of your family and friends?

Regan McMahon wrote a powerful story about memories:

When I took psychology in college, the professor gave the class an unusual assignment. He handed out a recipe for bread — the kind with yeast that must rise before baking, not some easy banana bread you just throw in a pan — and told each student to go home and bake it and bring back the results. This was mandatory, not optional.

His reasoning? He said he wanted the whole class to know how to bake bread, so that one day they could bake it when they had children. He explained that the smell of baking bread is so evocative for people, that it triggers memories of home and hearth and family. “You watch,” he said. “When it’s baking in your apartment near campus, people walking by, the meter reader, the mailman, whoever, will smell that smell and recall their mother or grandmother in the kitchen and begin to tell stories of them.”

I thought the professor was kind of a kook, and at 18, I was years away from even thinking about having kids. My bread turned out to have the density, weight and edibility of a brick. But I’ve never forgotten his lesson. And often think of it when I think of the notion that a parent can plant memories the way one might plant vegetable seeds: to be harvested later.¹

¹ Regan McMahon, “Remembering your parents-and how your kids will remember you,” *SFGate*, February 8, 2010, <http://blog.sfgate.com/parenting/2010/02/08/remembering-your-parents-and-how-your-kids-will-remember-you/> (accessed July 6, 2017).

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COURAGE

C1: Think about three to five significant people in your life that are no longer alive. Write down what you remember about them and what they meant to you.

C2: Write up to one page answering the question, “What will you be remembered for?”

C3: On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you are living your life so you will be remembered for what you wrote down in C2. Write out a plan to improve.

STRENGTH

S1: God's Word is a blueprint to build a sure foundation in our life. Read and answer the following.

Exodus 20:12 (ESV)

- From this verse, what is the command and promise given?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you currently are obeying this command. Write out a plan to improve.

S2: Read and answer the following.

Exodus 20:12 (ESV)

- What does it mean to honor your parents?
- Look up this word in a Bible Dictionary. How well does your definition match this definition?
- List three ways reverence can be shown to our parents.

S3: In the Old Testament, the people of God knew as long as the nation rejoiced in the possession and were obedient children, a long life was assured. Read and answer the following.

Exodus 20:12 (ESV)

- Why did God give this command?

ENDURANCE

E1: Honor changes as the year's progress. Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 6:1–3 (ESV)

- From these verses, as a child, how does one honor their parents?

Proverbs 23:22 (ESV)

Proverbs 20:20 (ESV)

- From these verses, how does a young person honor their parents?

Proverbs 23:24 (ESV)

Proverbs 3:27 (ESV)

1 Timothy 5:4 (ESV)

1 Timothy 5:8 (ESV)

- From these verses, how does an adult honor their parents?

- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you honor your parents. Write out a plan to improve.

E2: Read and answer the following.

Mark 10:23–31 (ESV)

Luke 9:59–62 (ESV)

Ephesians 5:31–33 (ESV)

2 Corinthians 6:14–16 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are three times we cannot honor our parents?
- Have you ever had to not honor the wishes of your parents? What were the circumstances? Tell your story.

E3: There are consequences for indifferences to God's instructions. Read and answer the following.

John 12:4–6 (ESV)

Judges 16:4–5 (ESV)

Judges 14:1–3 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are three things we must guard to make sure our legacy stands?