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The stories behind what we leave

Your children may inherit everything you own. But will they inherit everything you've learned?

Some of the things our families treasure most cannot be counted or divided: the stories behind old photographs, the reason a tradition began, the advice someone offered at exactly the right time.

Those Are Assets Too was created to help preserve that part of a family's legacy. This companion guide gives you ten ways to begin remembering and a simple method for turning a brief answer into a story someone else can carry forward.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Choose just one question. Write a few lines, talk it through with someone you love, or record your answer on your phone. You do not have to start at the beginning - or finish everything in one sitting.

One remembered moment is a meaningful place to start.

TEN QUESTIONS | PART ONE

Questions worth asking

Pick one that brings a person, place, or moment to mind.

01

What ordinary moment from your childhood would you love to experience one more time?

Think about a sound, smell, meal, or familiar routine.

02

Who helped shape the person you became without ever realizing it?

What did that person do or say that stayed with you?

03

What is a story behind something you have kept for years?

A photograph, recipe, tool, piece of jewelry, or handwritten note.

04

When did you change your mind about something important?

What happened, and what did it teach you?

05

What is a family story that still makes you laugh?

Recall who was there and the details that make it unforgettable.

TEN QUESTIONS | PART TWO

Questions worth asking

Pick one that brings a person, place, or moment to mind.

06

When did your family face something difficult together?

What helped you get through it, and what would you want remembered?

07

What place feels like a part of your story?

Describe a house, neighborhood, workplace, or favorite destination.

08

What small act of kindness made a bigger difference than someone knew?

It could be something you received, witnessed, or offered.

09

What tradition would you love to see carried forward?

Explain how it began and what it means to you.

10

What do you hope someone in your family asks you about someday?

Write the question - and begin the answer here.

A WAY TO TELL THE STORY

From a memory to a story

A good story does not need a dramatic beginning. A few specific details and an honest reflection can make an ordinary memory unforgettable.

01 THE MOMENT

What happened? Where were you? Start with one scene.

02 THE PEOPLE

Who was there? What did they say or do?

03 THE MEANING

Why does this memory still matter to you?

04 THE LESSON

What would you want someone in your family to understand?

AN EXAMPLE: MORE THAN A SUNDAY DINNER

"Every Sunday, we ate at my grandmother's kitchen table. She always saved the end of the bread for me, even when money was tight. I did not understand it then, but she had a way of making each of us feel that there was enough. I hope our family remembers that generosity is not measured by how much you have."

Specific details help a memory live beyond the person telling it.

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

Make room for the stories

You can use these questions on your own, but some of the best answers emerge in conversation. A familiar story often takes on new meaning when someone asks one more question.

ASK, THEN LISTEN

Invite a parent, grandparent, spouse, or adult child to choose a question. Let them take the story wherever it leads.

FOLLOW THE DETAILS

Try "What happened next?" or "How did that make you feel?" Small details often reveal what matters.

SAVE IT IN A WAY THAT LASTS

Write the story in your journal, record a short voice memo with permission, or add a caption to an old photograph.

SHARE THE STORY BACK

Read or play it for the person who told it. They may remember something else - and you will know you heard them correctly.

The next story starts with a question.

Keep this guide with Those Are Assets Too, and return whenever a memory surfaces. What you remember today may become something your family treasures tomorrow.