

Inheritance of Hope's Legacy Collection includes ideas for crafts, projects, and other unique collections that you can gift to those you love. This is where you can find meaningful ways to build your legacy.

MUSIC

Put together a mixed CD of your favorite song, or songs, that remind you of your child or that you think will be an encouragement to your child. Music can be very soothing and healing when experiencing deep grief.

CLOTHES QUILT

Have someone you trust put together a quilt made from your clothing for your children after you are gone. This can be something they share with their own children.

PRAYER BLANKET

If you knit or quilt, you can make a blanket for your child. We encourage you to pray for that child as you make the blanket for them. Your quilt will then always remind them of how much you love them and how much you have prayed for them.

GIFTS

Have you ever read *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman? If not, we recommend you do so. It talks about human beings having five basic ways in which we express and receive love. Chapman lists them as (1) touch, (2) quality time, (3) words of affirmation, (4) service, and (5) gift giving. The book explains that each of us has a primary love language, a way in which we express and receive love the most effectively. It is so powerful to discover a loved one's primary love language and express love in that way. For young children, however, they require love to be expressed through all five love languages. For many, gift giving is a very powerful expression of love.

Consider the milestones in your children's lives and whether you would like to buy them a gift to be given on one or more of those milestones. Doesn't a shopping spree for your children sound like fun? Or, even better, no need to spend a penny. Consider wrapping things that are precious to you, such as jewelry or other items that you treasure. A card could be left informing the child that a piece of furniture or other family heirloom will be held for them. Remember to give instructions to your spouse or other family member or friend detailing when these gifts should be given to the children. Don't leave them where they can be found ... few children can resist an early present!

PRAYER ROCK

If you do not have the talent to knit or quilt, consider a prayer rock. For each child, have a simple rock with their name engraved on it. Hold their rocks daily as you pray for each of them. It is not a magic stone, but simply a reminder of your prayers for them and their future.

LETTERS

Perhaps you prefer to express yourself through written words rather than speaking into a video camera. Writing letters is a lost art. Your children would be enormously blessed to have just one heartfelt letter specifically for each of them from you. We recommend writing the letter in your own handwriting if you are able.

JOURNAL

If you are a motivated writer, keeping a journal for each of your children is a very personal and powerful gift. You may share memories from ordinary days with that child, or you might share deeper thoughts and encouragement for that child. Consider a journal with Scripture at the bottom of each page that is personalized with the child's name. Remember that your child would love something written on even a napkin!

RECIPE CARDS

Are you a great cook? Put a few recipe cards away for each child with recipes that you have made for them that they might enjoy making for their own family someday. If you have many, perhaps you can find a personalized recipe box, or put them in a small scrapbook.

SCRAPBOOKS

For many people, scrapbooking is something they love to do. Having photographs of your family organized and preserved can be precious. Try journaling next to the pictures in your own handwriting, describing the event or the memory that is depicted.

Some of you may prefer to record yourself as you look through the album, and have an attached envelop at the back of the scrapbook to hold the tape or video. Later, the children can listen to your voice as they look through the pictures. Perhaps you have many family photo albums, or perhaps you just make a small album for each child. The album does not need to be fancy. Remember not to let the project intimidate you. Many albums just have sleeves to hold each picture, and you can slip in an index card beside it with your notes about the pictures. Keep it simple, but get it done!

FAVORITE CHILDREN'S BOOK

Even if your children are a little older, I imagine they still have a favorite children's book you used to read together. Record your voice reading the book and attach an envelope in the back of the book to put the tape. Some places even sell "recordable books," which allow you to record your voice reading each page of a children's picture book. These are great, but the selection is very limited. Also, consider making a "back-up" tape ...your child might listen to it so often the tape breaks!

BIBLE

Choose a Bible for your child and have their name engraved on the cover. Many different Bibles can be found at ChristianBook.com. Write a personal message in the front of the Bible. This is the book your child is mostly likely to keep for a lifetime.

KEEPSAKE CHEST

Collect the children's items that are precious from your child's baby days, family heirlooms, and anything else you would like preserved for your child. A cedar chest is a simple and safe place for these things until your child is old enough to care for them.

MAKE MEMORIES!

Be intentional about making memories with your children. It does not need to be a day at Disney World! A day at the park, a date for breakfast just you and that child, or an ice cream cone after school can provide lifelong memories. Remember to bring your camera and ask others to take your picture with your child!

Special memories can be made by having your children accompany you to chemotherapy or other treatments. Children appreciate being included and informed. They will enjoy having all of your attention on days like these. Precious memories can be created absolutely anywhere!

Written by Inheritance of Hope, a non-profit organization with a [mission](#) to inspire hope in young families facing the loss of a parent. We are leaders in legacy development and believe that every family deserves a legacy!

