

## BECOMING INTENTIONAL

Understanding the legacy you received is only part of the turnaround process. Now identify one or two practical steps you can take during the next 120 days to begin giving your family a stronger legacy than you received.

MARRIED: To model a God-honoring marriage I will...

- Plan at least two dates per month
- Pray together at least twice weekly
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

KIDS @HOME: To nurture my child's faith I will...

- Schedule at least two fun activities that incorporate faith conversations per month.
- Pray together at least five times per week (including mealtime and bedtime)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

TEENS @HOME: To mentor my teen's faith I will...

- Schedule at least one "movie night chat" or some other faith discussion each month
- Eat together (including prayer and conversation) at least five times per week
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

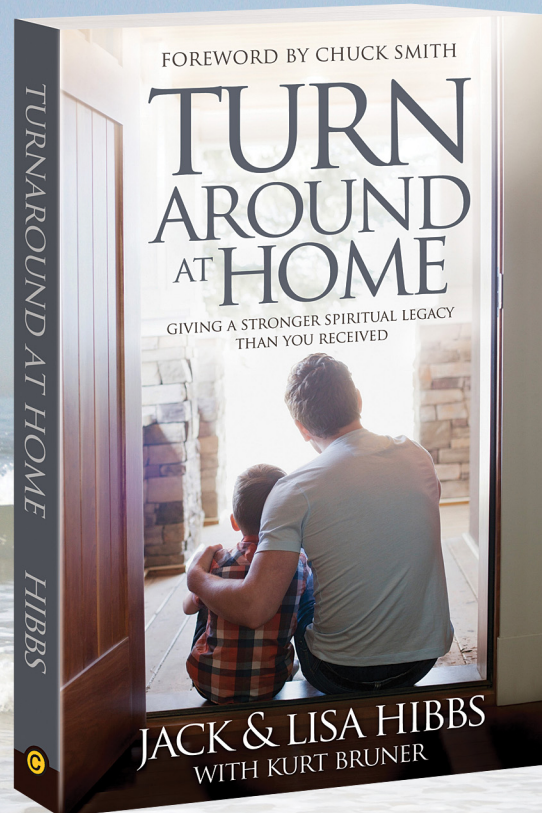
GRANDKIDS: To give a strong legacy I will...

- Pray for each grandchild daily by name
- Call, write, text a note to each grandchild once per month
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Stop by the @Home Room before or after services for more tools to help you become intentional at home.

## GOING FURTHER

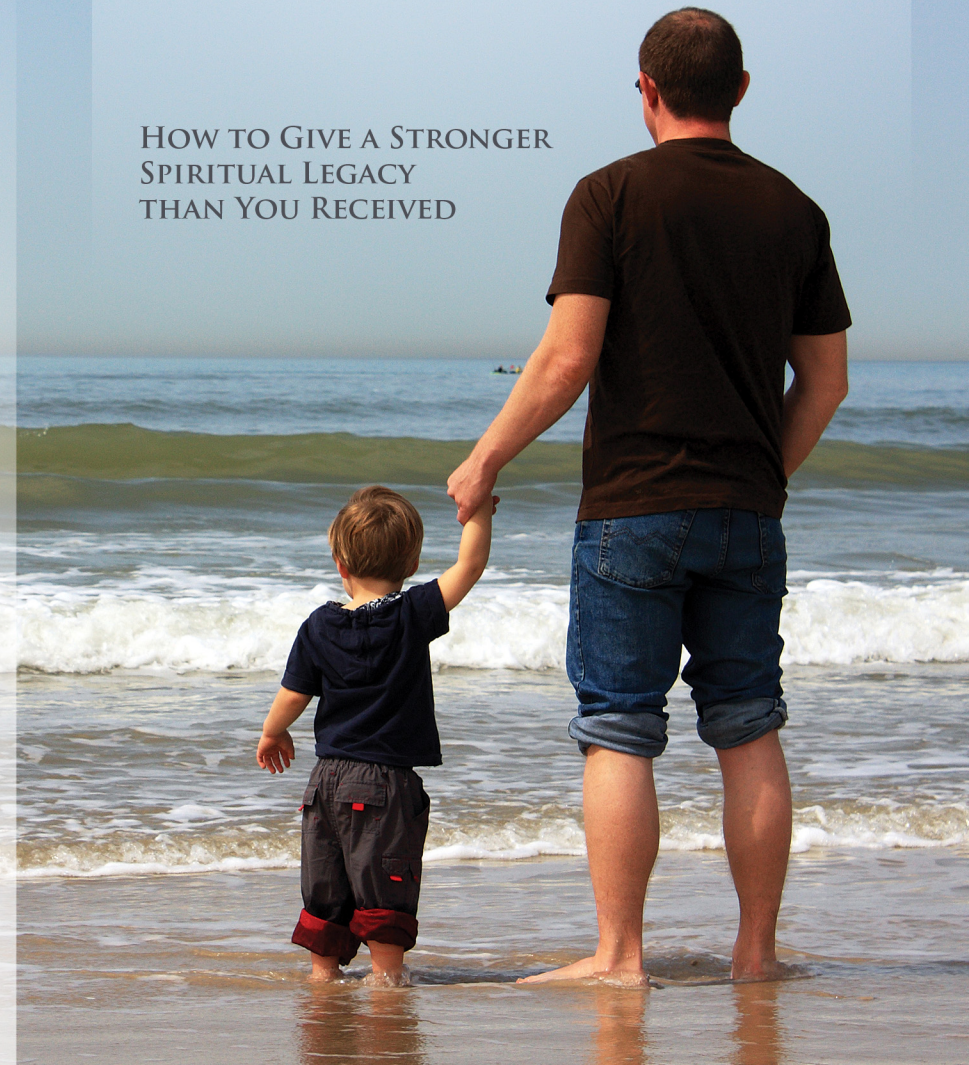
Go deeper by reading the book "TURN AROUND AT HOME" by Jack & Lisa Hibbs. You will learn how the spiritual, emotional and social legacy parents impart create a strong or weak heritage. You will also discover practical ideas for giving a strong spiritual heritage to the next generation.



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# TURN AROUND AT HOME

HOW TO GIVE A STRONGER SPIRITUAL LEGACY THAN YOU RECEIVED





## SPIRITUAL LEGACY

We all receive a spiritual legacy from our parents, whether good or bad. But what, exactly, is it?

A spiritual legacy is the process whereby parents model and reinforce the unseen realities of the spiritual life.

A spiritual legacy is not just church attendance, Bible reading, or formal religious instruction. All of these things contribute to it, but none of them define it. Spiritual realities are *caught* more than *taught*. They are modeled (an act of love), rather than mandated (an act of law). They are about everyday family dynamics instead of Sunday morning rituals. A strong spiritual legacy is transferred over dinner table conversations, while driving in the car, and when enjoying one another's company. It is more about the day-to-day life than weekly worship. Our children need to see us live out our faith as part of normal living rather than as the exclusive domain of saintly grandmothers and professional theologians.

## TURNAROUND

No matter what kind of spiritual legacy you received, you can give something better to the next generation. The ancient Greeks used the word *metanoeo* which means to change direction or to think differently. It's a full course correction, a complete turnaround from the direction in which you were heading. It's from this ancient understanding that we get the English word "*repent*," which means to change your mind. Changing our minds about how we might have been raised is the first step in turning around our own homes. We must reverse our course and head toward a new standard...God's standard!

## WEAK OR STRONG?

The following lists highlight some of the key differences between a good and a bad spiritual legacy. Most of us have experienced something in between the two extremes. While reading through, you might recognize some of these indicators from your own upbringing or perhaps even recognize these indicators in how you are raising your children today.

### A STRONG SPIRITUAL LEGACY...

- Acknowledges and reinforces spiritual realities
- Views God as a personal, caring Being who is to be both loved and respected
- Makes spiritual activities a priority in life (church attendance, prayer, Bible reading, serving, etc.)
- Talks about spiritual issues as a means of reinforcing spiritual commitments
- Clarifies timeless truth, right from wrong
- Incorporates spiritual principles into everyday living

### A WEAK SPIRITUAL LEGACY...

- Undermines or ignores spiritual realities
- Represents God as an impersonal being
- Never or rarely participates in spiritual activities
- Has few spiritual discussions of a constructive nature
- Confuses absolutes and upholds relativism
- Separates the spiritual from the practical



## WHAT DID YOU RECEIVE?

Answer each question by circling the number that best reflects the legacy you have received while growing up; then add for your total score.

To what degree were spiritual principles incorporated into daily family life?

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1 - Never     | 4 - Frequently    |
| 2 - Rarely    | 5 - Almost always |
| 3 - Sometimes | 6 - Consistently  |

Which word captures the tone of how you learned to view or relate to God?

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 - Absent      | 4 - Casual   |
| 2 - Adversarial | 5 - Solemn   |
| 3 - Fearful     | 6 - Intimate |

What was your family's level of participation in spiritual activities?

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 - Nonexistent | 4 - Regimental   |
| 2 - Rare        | 5 - Active       |
| 3 - Occasional  | 6 - Enthusiastic |

How were spiritual discussions applied in your home?

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 - They weren't  | 4 - To teach     |
| 2 - To control    | 5 - To influence |
| 3 - To manipulate | 6 - To reinforce |

What was the perspective in your home with regard to moral absolutes?

- |                              |
|------------------------------|
| 1 - If it feels good, do it! |
| 2 - There are no absolutes   |
| 3 - Let your heart guide you |
| 4 - Dogmatic legalism        |
| 5 - Moderate conservatism    |
| 6 - Clear life boundaries    |

### Results

- |          |                                    |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| Above 24 | Strong spiritual legacy            |
| 19-24    | Healthy legacy                     |
| 14-18    | Mixed legacy—good and bad elements |
| 10-13    | Weak spiritual legacy              |
| Below 10 | Damaged spiritual legacy           |