

“I Won the Child Lottery”

A Purposeful Visioning Exercise

There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One is roots; the other, wings.”— W. Hodding Carter, Jr.

The purpose of this Purposeful Visioning Exercise is to capture the positive emotions and most memorable experiences around your child’s growing up years. It will give you an opportunity to preserve heartfelt expressions of love for your child, and the hopes and dreams you have for their future.

KEY POINTS

- * The “I Won the Child Lottery” Visioning Exercise is designed to trigger precious memories you have of the joy and pride you have felt as your child has grown up.
- * A famous 19th Century scientist noted our voice is the most powerful transmitter of emotions. Writing captures emotion but recording your voice preserves the exclamation points of emotion.
- * You can choose to type or write out your answers to the questions.
- * You will also have the option of preserving your reflections as a digital recording. That Purposeful Conversation will be listened to by your child, and even yet unborn grandchildren or great-grandchildren.
- * If you record the answers I can share transcription services we have worked with which could provide an affordable transcript that can be used with the creation of your Purposeful Trust™ or Purposeful Gift.

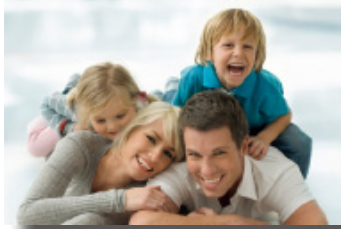
“We don’t want to control from the grave. We want to be a positive and sustaining influence in the lives of our children. The best way to do this is to lead a life you’d like them to emulate and to powerfully capture and preserve your love and wisdom for their benefit, and for all those who follow after them.”
—John A. Warnick

PREPARING FOR YOUR “I WON THE CHILD LOTTERY” PURPOSEFUL VISIONING EXERCISE

- * Please read the questions on the next page placing a circle next to each question you would like to reflect on and answer. If have no interest in a question, draw a line through it. Now go back to each circle and place a number in it. If you have a clear preference, order the circles according to how strongly you are drawn to each question. Otherwise, just order them from the top starting with the first circle.
- * On a separate sheet, jot down the number from the circles and write the question next to it. Do this until you have created a separate sheet for each question you placed a circle next to.
- * Now, go to the sheet on which you placed the #1 question and take a few moments to reflect on that question. What experiences, memories, and emotions surface as you contemplate that question? Jot down a few words or notes to remind you of each of these experiences, memories and emotions. Don't try to create a detailed outline. The purpose of this preparation is to create placemarkers to remind you of the emotions and reflections which flowed as you considered this question.
- * Now you are ready to start writing or dictating your reflections to each question. Don't be in a rush. That defeats the purpose.

***“Biology or adoption makes us mothers and fathers.
But it’s how we express our love and encourage our
children along their way which makes us Moms and
Dads”—John A. Warnick***

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- * What special moments of joy has your child brought into your life?
- * If someone asked you why you feel like you won the Child Lottery, how would you answer?
- * What are the talents or strengths which makes your child so exceptional?
- * If you were given “cosmic permission” to assimilate one of those gifts or special skills into your own life, which would it be and why?
- * When you witnessed your child achieve a milestone in their life path, or overcome a difficult challenge, what did you feel and what hope or wonder did that leave you with in terms of what amazing things you felt he/she might accomplish later in life?
- * What is the kindest or most thoughtful gift or deed your child ever made or did for you? In the last 6 or 12 months?
- * What are some of the fondest memories you have about your child’s childhood? Their teenage years? Early Adulthood?
- * Do you have a favorite memory of a trip or vacation with your child?
- * Could you describe one of the great accomplishments or feats in your child’s life and how you felt about it?
- * If you could put 50 words or less describing the love you feel for your child in a bottle and know that someday--at a difficult time in your child’s life when he/she needed encouragement and a reminder of how much he/she was loved—what would you say?
- * Can you think of a special effort or sacrifice you made for your child, which he/she probably isn’t fully aware of? If so, could you describe those special circumstances and what were the positive emotions which fueled that decision or action?
- * Did you ever marvel at the resolve, the persistence or creativity of your child and knew this serve them well in life?
- * Describe a time when you were amazed at your child’s generosity or compassion?

Is there anything else you would like to say to express your love or your hopes and dreams for how what you pass on to your child will positively impact their life?