Manual 2 Lesson 18 - A Heritage of Righteous Traditions

5 Righteous Personal Habits that can be a blessing to your future family

1. A young woman who has daily personal prayer will naturally make family prayer a part of her family’s daily schedule.
2. A young woman who faithfully attends church meetings will want to take all of her family members to church with her.
3. A young woman who keeps a journal will be reminded of meaningful experiences or events that could develop into family traditions.
4. A young woman who reads the scriptures each day will likely continue this practice after she marries and encourage her family members to do the same.
5. A young woman who willingly participates in gospel study on Sunday and in family home evening will want to establish these righteous traditions in her own home.

Story: How President Kimball established a tradition when he was young

When President Spencer W. Kimball was fifteen years old, he heard a speaker at stake conference ask how many people had read the Bible from cover to cover. Only five or six hands went up, so the speaker urged the people to go home and begin. “The meeting over, Spencer walked the block home, took down the family Bible, climbed the stairs to his attic room, lit the coal-oil lamp with a match, and began at Genesis. Night after night, by the flickering light of a kerosene lamp in the unfinished attic where he slept, ... he plowed through the pages. At some points Spencer had only half an idea what he was reading, but he had made up his mind. It did not matter if long stretches were boring; he plodded on. He was sure it was a worthwhile project. At least he would have some idea what the Bible contained. He kept at it for about a year until he could shut the book with great pride, finished. The experience built his confidence. He had learned he could count on his own resolution” (Edward L. Kimball and Andrew E. Kimball, Jr., Spencer W. Kimball [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1977], p. 56).

Scripture: Mosiah 26: 1-4

1 Now it came to pass that there were many of the rising generation that could not understand the words of king Benjamin, being little children at the time he spake unto his people; and they did not believe the tradition of their fathers. 2 They did not believe what had been said concerning the resurrection of the dead, neither did they believe concerning the coming of Christ. 3 And now because of their unbelief they could not understand the word of God; and their hearts were hardened. 4 And they would not be baptized; neither would they join the church. And they were a separate people as to their faith, and remained so ever after, even in their carnal and sinful state; for they would not call upon the Lord their God.

Quote: Former General R.S. President, Belle S. Spafford said,

“Family patterns and traditions are sacred. However, regardless of how well-established and beloved they may be, they are not indestructible. Often selfishness, an unkind word, an altered circumstance can cause them to collapse, never to be rebuilt or reclaimed. So we aim not only to build, but to preserve” (Women in Today’s World [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1971], p. 232).

Quote: James T. Duke said,

“The challenge to each one of us, a challenge we came to the earth to experience, is to choose between good and evil. Many traditions in our society lead us to sin, while others lead us to righteous conduct. If we place ourselves on the side of righteous traditions and if we allow them to have an influence in our lives, we can be strengthened in our testimonies and in our receptivity to the Spirit. If, however, we give ourselves over to the wicked influence of evil traditions, we make it more difficult for the Spirit to find a place in our hearts” (James T. Duke, “The Traditions of Their Fathers,” Ensign, Nov. 1972, p. 41).

Quote: Elder Donald L. Hallstrom of the Seventy said,

Of all the traditions we should cultivate within ourselves and our families, a ‘tradition of righteousness’ should be pre-eminent. Hallmarks of this tradition are an unwavering love for God and His Only Begotten Son, respect for prophets and priesthood power, a constant seeking of the Holy Spirit, and the discipline of discipleship which transforms believing into doing. A tradition of righteousness sets a pattern for living which draws children closer to parents, and both closer to God, and elevates obedience from a burden to a blessing” (Ensign, Nov. 2000, 28).