

# YOUR FAMILY I.D.

Please start by reading through the blog series, Your Family I.D. on [lillightomine.com](http://lillightomine.com). Search for “family” under the blog area. Then, take this document with you on a date or time with spouse after kids are in bed. It will worth every moment spent. This may take several discussions and will likely evolve as your family expands and grows. The end product is whatever you make it! Have fun!

If people can't see what God is doing,  
they stumble all over themselves;  
But when they attend to what he reveals,  
they are most blessed.  
Proverbs 29:18 (msg)

**Think back to your own family, the home where you were raised. What family ideals, traditions, values and culture would you like to pass on to your kids?** (Anything from “the family vacations” to “God was the center” to “how we did Thanksgiving” to “a safe place where other kids flocked”)

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**Go ahead and list the family issues of your past that you would like to leave in the past.** Some of these might take serious work to conquer with counselors or consistent prayer. Some can be just little themes that left big marks. (Verbal or physical abuse to negative/tense environment to lack of spiritual guidance to anger/temper in the home to never feeling celebrated.)

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You didn't choose your family,  
but you get to choose how you create this family identity.  
You can start a new legacy today.

**What are some unique gifts or strengths you recognize in yourselves (individual parents) that you'd hope to pass down and always be a theme in your home?** (For example, my mom was known as a huge encourager. I believe I'm a natural encourager and would love to bring out this gift in my girls.)

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**What is your family known for CURRENTLY?** (They are the best entertainers. They have so much fun cheering on the Auburn Tigers together. They are so generous. They are always encouraging someone. They are just happy/fun people.) I believe our families already have an identity that we can either like or dislike. Let others create it or we can create it. It's less about what people think and more about how we can serve. One friend looked at her credit card statement and calendar to see the Top 5 places her money and time went. She said it was quite revealing!

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**What do you WANT to be known for?** What are 5 things you wish people would say when they think of your family?

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**List some of your favorite verses that could help guide your family or your kids individually.**

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**Name five values that you believe are core to your family.** (Generosity, Encouragement, etc.)

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**Name 3-5 family traditions that you'd like to keep consistent over the years.** (We will always do dates with our kids. We will have 1 family vacation – just us, no matter the age. We will see our country and explore.)

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**What are the family rules that you'd love your kids to know and memorize?**

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**How do you think God wants to use your family to impact others?** There are SO many people in need. Have you ever felt specifically called to a certain group? (High-schoolers? Orphans? Homeless? Children in their neighborhood that need a home to play in with love?)

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You are probably already overwhelmed. No one is going to quiz you on these and none of this is in concrete – this is just GREAT conversation for you as a couple or even alone to process. We get to set the stage and plan. We can be about everything and be scattered. Or, we can be super focused and have some serious impact.

I want my kids to know they belong to one unique family. I want them to know we are going to say NO to many good things and many bad things and this is WHY. I want them to understand not everyone does things the way we do things and that is ok. We are the DeFeo family... this is our creed! Or our vision! Or our Family I.D. You can call it anything you want. Include one sentence or three pages. I would suggest something simple that the kids could even memorize at the top level.

In the following pages, I will provide many ideas in the hopes to make it easier. However, this is YOUR FAMILY. The end result? A piece of paper that folds into your Bible is great. A verse or two that you pray for 40 years together as a couple. Or frame it and own it. It could be one really cool sign (like those shown on the blog) and the kids can memorize it. How it looks is way less important than what you choose to focus on as a family.

You CANNOT do all of these! I suggest PRAYERFULLY choosing the few that will never ever change. When your kids look back, they will know... oh X, X and X were a big deal in our home.

#### **FAMILY TRADITIONS – QUICK IDEA STARTER LIST**

- Dinner every night together
- Date nights for each child with dad/mom
- Exploring God's creation – camping, traveling, etc.
- Traveling our country together
- Appreciating Art
- Beach Trips
- Lake Trips
- Birthday traditions
- Christmas service project
- God's word in our hearts
- Praying together
- Grandparent sleepovers

#### **FAMILY CULTURE/RULES – QUICK IDEA STARTER LIST**

- Always tell the truth
- Love each other unconditionally
- Giggle and have fun together
- Serve and encourage others daily
- Put each other first
- Help one another
- Root for the Auburn Tigers and sometimes for the Georgia Bulldogs 😊
- Taking care of our bodies and staying active and healthy
- Have an open door and welcome anyone in our home
- Give generously of our time, resources and energy
- Dance and sing often
- Praise His name
- Serve local church

- Celebrate each other and build one another up
- Be a friend that loves at all times
- We will be content and grateful
- Use our home to celebrate and host others
- Work hard and do our very best
- Happy hearts

#### **FAMILY VALUES/VIRTUES – QUICK IDEA STARTER LIST**

- Encouragement
- Generosity
- Service
- Love
- Kindness
- Honesty
- Patience
- Wisdom
- Attentiveness
- Forgiveness
- Loyalty
- Self-control
- Joyfulness
- Determination
- Gratitude

**EXAMPLES?** You can see how Kylie and Ashley put together their Family I.D. (or creed or vision) for their family on the blog. Search for “family” to get to the series in the blog area.

Here is ours at this time. It is always going to be a work in progress and this is the top level only.

### **The DeFeo Family.**

LOVE radically  
GIVE generously  
ENCOURAGE humbly  
GIGGLE daily

In a way so unique, it can only point to Him.

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This is another option we discussed and I love. You are welcome to use, but not sell. ☺

We love and serve our heavenly Father.

We give generously and thank often.

We hunt to encourage and delight in serving.

We giggle through adventures and hold hands through trials.

We strive to learn and make a difference.

We pray we shine a light that always points back to Jesus.

We are the DeFeo Family and we love above all else.

*“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”  
- James 1:22*