

The Legacy Letter

Day, Date
12345 Your Address
County, State Zip Code
Current Weather & Temperature

Your Preferred Salutation,

Begin your first paragraph... with your name and age and tell about the purpose of your letter. Be authentic and personable. This is not a formal letter, it is a letter to a family member in the distant future that you want to share a moment in time with. The goal is for your future grand/great grandchild to read this letter and feel they know you. You want to be real to them. You want them to know you wrote this letter *to them*, a member of your family, not a stranger.

In the next paragraphs... you may choose to share details about your everyday life. Things you enjoy doing. What is your home like? What is your typical daily routine? Do you have sports or hobbies? What do you and your wife (their grand/great grandmother) enjoy doing? What do you enjoy doing with your kids - their future parents or grandparents. (Isn't it cool to think about that?) Be sure to use your kids and wife's name. It will make the letter much more personal. Feel free to write as many paragraphs as you like about these details. It will be interesting for them to read about your life!

Next... bring things around spiritually. Considering how things are in the world now, it is hard to imagine what they may be like then. Share your salvation experience with your future family. Include as many details as you can - your age, where you were, how being a Christian changed you. Tell them about things God has done in your life. If you feel its appropriate, share some obstacles or failures you experienced and how the Lord brought you through them. Again, you want this to be real to them. Let them know how their granddad, great granddad came to know Jesus and the difference it made.

After that... encourage them in their walk with the Lord. Include scripture that has helped you. Remind them that deciding to live for God is the most important decision they will make in their entire life and that the only way to God is through His Son, Jesus Christ. Include scripture references for them to read on their own. Encourage them to be strong in the Lord and to not give up when things get hard. Let them know that, if they commit to living for Jesus, you and they will meet one day in Heaven and how exciting that is for you to think about.

In your final paragraph(s)... share whatever you'd like. You may tell them what you're about to do after you wrap up your letter – grab pizza, mow the yard, go to bed, read a devotion, etc. Tell them how proud you are of them and how special they are. Take time to think about them – imagine them in your mind, how they may look as they are reading your letter. Their hair, eyes, faces. Maybe they resemble you or your wife or one of your kids. As you're imagining them, pray for them. Speak life over your future family. Then, let them know you've done that. Tell them you've prayed for them and that God does indeed have a purpose for their life and you're excited for them. They are your family, a distant extension of you. They are part of your legacy and you are connecting with them through this letter.

Include your closing... however you wish. A simple “*I love you and I'm proud of you*” may be perfect here.

Grandad | Great-Grandad | Great, Great Grandad

Hints:

1. Remember to spell check after you have finished your letter.
2. If you decide to write your letter by hand, take time to rest when your hand gets tired so your handwriting remains legible.
3. Don't feel rushed to complete the letter in one sitting. It may be something you work on over the course of years.
4. Have a plan for how your letters will be passed down. Be sure your wife and children know about the plan.

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