

Introduction

When The Family Heritage Series first appeared in 1973, it was described as “a weekly discussion of Americanist truths and traditions for those ‘heirs of all the ages’ who will have to preserve that most important inheritance of all — freedom.” The series was produced by the Movement To Restore Decency, a project of The John Birch Society. The lessons were available by subscription to parents anxious to achieve certain objectives, including:

- Teaching American history, which was, and still is, being seriously neglected in our nation’s government (“public”) schools.
- Giving parents an opportunity to impart to their children such positive attributes as patriotism, respect for family religious and cultural heritage, and basic values that distinguish civilization from barbarianism.
- Promoting family unity, loyalty, and respect.

Subscribers received four weekly lessons each month, printed on 8½” by 11” pages designed for looseleaf binders. The 104-lesson series was completed in 1975.

In recent years, with the increasing popularity of homeschooling as parents reassert their responsibility to educate their children, we have received numerous requests to reissue the lessons. We have done so in this single, user-friendly two-volume set.

Though the original lessons have been slightly revised to eliminate duplication and redundant instructions, update references, and enhance appearance and readability, the original themes remain the same.

We hope The Family Heritage Series will prove to be a valuable addition to your homeschooling or self-study libraries.

Suggestions For Parents

The first few lessons establish a foundation for the entire series. They are designed to introduce and explain the importance of freedom, the need for responsibility, and the right to choose one’s goals in life, as well as to stimulate further thought and discussion about such topics.

Through these lessons, your family will travel back in time to visit families and individuals from the Garden of Eden to Colonial America. Families

both mythical and real will help you discover how the great issues and struggles of the past apply to our lives today. Your family will share in the spirit and manifestations of liberty, and become more fully aware of the forces working to undermine our freedoms.

The weekly meetings can become an enjoyable, exciting, and unifying experience for each family. Here are a few suggestions that may help to maximize the value of each lesson:

Personalize The Program

Each Heritage Hour should be designed for the enjoyment and enrichment of your family. Plan each program to fit your family’s needs. The lessons are suggested outlines, not scripts that must be followed word-for-word. Feel free to incorporate additional or alternative illustrations, activities, and events whenever and wherever you may deem them to be appropriate.

Share The Leadership

We suggest that father preside during meetings, but either parent, or both together, may lead discussions. Indeed, the programs will be enhanced if each family member plays a part.

Most of the lessons have “breaks” so that family members may alternately read them. When youngsters do additional outside research about a topic, have them present what they have learned. Assigning an older child to lead part of the discussion is good training, and provides a constructive example for younger brothers and sisters.

Prepare In Advance

Advance planning by both parents is essential. Time devoted to such preparation will reap many worthwhile dividends in the entire family’s response to the program.

Assign aspects of the lesson in advance. Which family member will lead which part? What visual aids and other materials will be required? What additional areas of research will be appropriate? Which question will require the most discussion? What post-lesson recreation should be planned? What refreshments?

Set A Regular Time

It is crucial to establish a fixed day and time for your Heritage Hour discussions (such as, for example, 8:00–9:00 p.m. each Monday), so that other activities can be planned around them.

