



Practical Activities

Will You Bless Me

Treasure Chest of Blessing

Create a special treasure chest with your child that will hold various “treasures” that relate to or signify the blessing for your child. You may choose to glue an envelope, decorated by your child, in the back of Will You Bless Me?. Just as Jesus reached into the box to find something the wise men brought—or like Mary, who stored up treasures in her heart—the pocket page could hold “treasures” that the parent could use to introduce the book at bedtime or to spark spiritual conversations about blessing. The child could randomly choose something from the pocket and use it to ask for a particular story or favorite prayer. For example, the pocket could hold special Scriptures; pictures, dates, and stories from the day the child was born or adopted; a baptism or dedication photo or certificate; a Bible verse from which the child’s name was taken or calligraphy artwork of the name’s meaning; a story or photo of the person for whom the child was named; or treasured memorabilia such as a note from Grandpa, Grandma, or an adopted child’s birth mother.

Book of Blessings

Create a book of blessings with pictures and notes from grandparents, parents, and family members honoring special occasions. You may record words that were spoken at the child’s birth, baptism, confirmation, or birthdays. You may choose to write brief summaries of your child’s favorite stories.

Names

Every name has a special meaning that may speak about a person’s identity and character. First, reflect on why you gave your child a particular name. Share that information with your son or daughter. If you chose a name simply because you liked its sound, take some time to consider that that name was in God’s heart before it was on your lips. Ask God to show you the significance of the name you chose and expect that God will show you something special to share with your child. Second, look up the meaning of the name you chose for your child and talk about it. You can buy books about names or find the name’s meaning on the internet. If your child was named after a saint, learn about that saint and tell his or her story. If your child was named after a relative, speak about the highest qualities of that person’s life.

Affectionate Nicknames

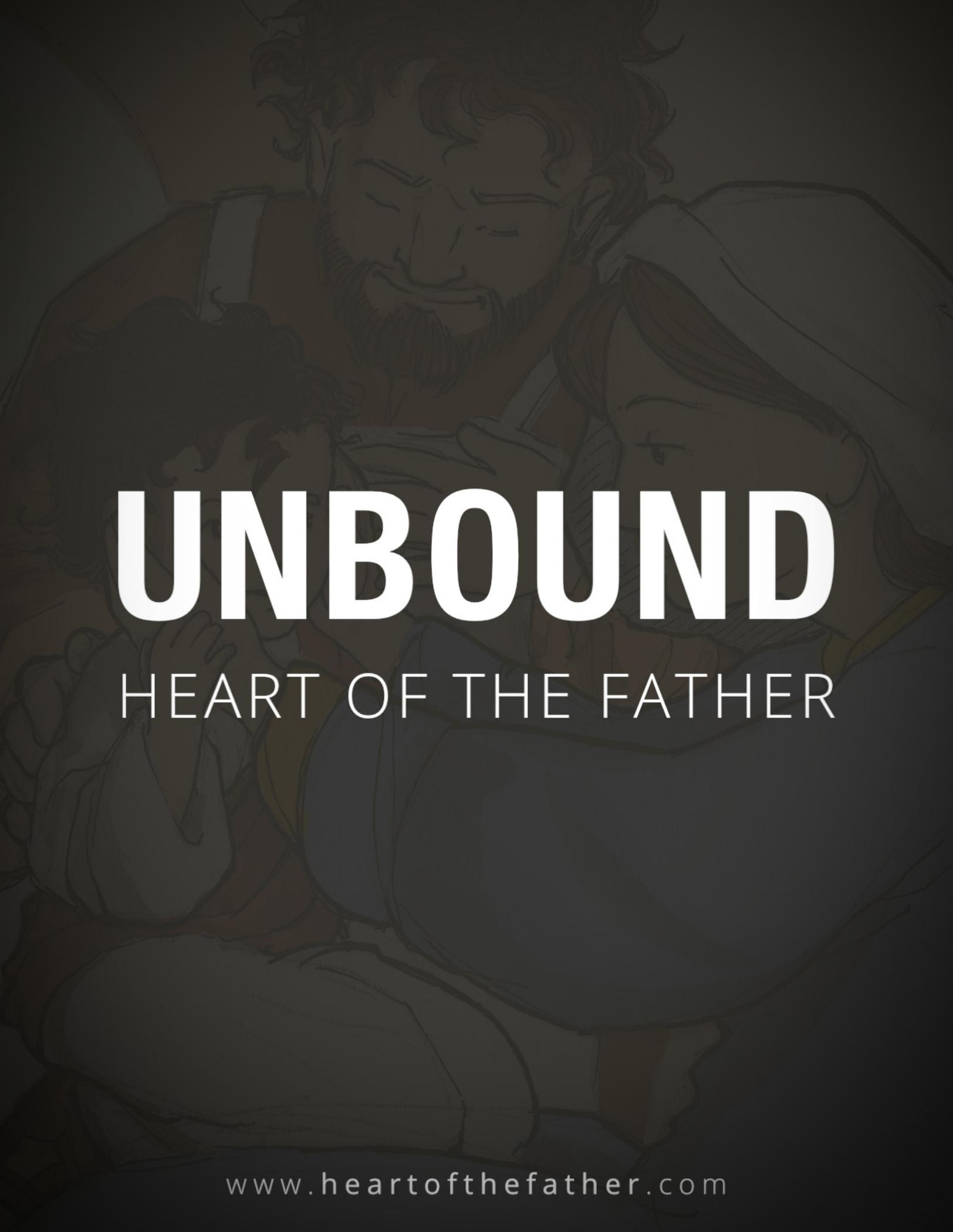
Give your child a special name. If you sense a child is like someone in the Bible or a great hero of the faith, you can call your child that name. You might say: you are Paul the Apostle; you are my Joseph; you are wise like Solomon; you are courageous like Deborah; you are faithful like Ruth; you are passionate like Mary Magdalene; you are pure like Mary. Every once in a while, you may choose to call your son or daughter by that special name, thus stirring their memory of what kind of person you hope they will become.

A Journal of Blessings

One father I know writes his blessings down each year and reads them aloud to his children. His fortunate offspring hear his words and have a written record of these blessings on which to reflect and pray.

Plan an Event

Have a special dinner that commemorates a particularly memorable time or event in the life of your child. Use this event to speak words of blessing to your child. Pray a prayer that expresses your heart. Such an event may be inspired by a birthday, baptism, confirmation, dedication, or graduation. Lives can be changed when events that create special memories are the forum for speaking aloud words that express the heart and blessing of Almighty God. Meanwhile, don't forget the grandparents. Invite the child's grandparents and other special relations to speak words of blessing over your children. If you honor your parents by valuing the words and prayers they speak over your children, you might find that these family members speak a blessing over you as well.



UNBOUND

HEART OF THE FATHER

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