The Family Stories Room

Family Story Starter Cards

Simple prompts to help families remember, talk, laugh, and share meaningful moments.

Use these cards around the table, during family visits, at reunions, in journals, or anytime you want to open the door to a story.

Print, cut, and choose one card at a time.

How to Use These Cards

- **Print and cut them out.** Keep the cards in a jar, basket, envelope, or small box.
- **Choose one prompt.** Let one person answer, or pass it around so everyone can share.
- **Keep it gentle.** Some memories are funny, some are simple, and some may feel meaningful. Let people share what they are comfortable sharing.
- **Write down the stories you do not want to lose.** A few sentences today can become a family treasure later.

A Gentle Reminder

Family stories do not have to be perfect to matter. Sometimes the smallest memory, the funniest moment, or the ordinary detail is the piece someone will be glad was remembered.

Optional Ways to Use Them

- Choose one card at Sunday dinner.
- Use them during a grandparent visit.
- Add one answer to a family journal each week.
- Place a few cards at a family gathering or reunion.
- Use them as conversation starters with children and teens.
- Record short voice notes if someone would rather talk than write.

Family Story Starter Cards

Card 1

Tell about a meal you remember sharing with family.

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 2

What is a saying or phrase someone in your family often used?

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 3

Tell about a time your family laughed until it was hard to stop.

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 4

What was a favourite place you visited as a child?

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Tip: Cut along the card edges and place them in a small jar, basket, or envelope.

Family Story Starter Cards

Card 5

Tell about a family tradition you hope is never forgotten.

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 6

What is something simple that reminds you of home?

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 7

Tell about a person in your family who taught you something important.

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 8

What is a recipe, meal, or treat that brings back memories?

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Tip: Cut along the card edges and place them in a small jar, basket, or envelope.

Family Story Starter Cards

Card 9

Tell about a holiday or special day you remember clearly.

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 10

What was something you loved doing outside when you were younger?

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 11

Tell about a small kindness you remember receiving.

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 12

What is a family object, photo, or keepsake with a story behind it?

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Tip: Cut along the card edges and place them in a small jar, basket, or envelope.

Family Story Starter Cards

Card 13

Tell about a time something did not go as planned but became a good memory.

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 14

What did your home sound like when you were growing up?

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 15

Tell about a teacher, neighbour, friend, or relative who made a difference.

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 16

What is a song, smell, or place that brings back a memory?

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Tip: Cut along the card edges and place them in a small jar, basket, or envelope.

Family Story Starter Cards

Card 17

Tell about a time you felt proud of someone in your family.

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 18

What chore, job, or responsibility do you remember from childhood?

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 19

Tell about a family trip, drive, or adventure.

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 20

What is something you wish younger family members knew about your childhood?

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Tip: Cut along the card edges and place them in a small jar, basket, or envelope.

Family Story Starter Cards

Card 21

Tell about a birthday, celebration, or surprise you remember.

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 22

What was something your family did to help each other?

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 23

Tell about a mistake, lesson, or funny mix-up that became part of family history.

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Card 24

What story do you hope your family keeps telling years from now?

Remember. Talk. Laugh. Share.

Tip: Cut along the card edges and place them in a small jar, basket, or envelope.

Keep the Stories Going

The best family stories often begin with one simple question. Use these cards to make space for memories, laughter, and the little details that help people feel known.

You can choose one card at a time, come back to them throughout the year, or use them as a starting point for a family memory book.

Visit The Story House for more family story ideas, books, faith encouragement, imagination resources, and cozy inspiration.

thestoryhouse.ca