

## *For everything there is a time and a season...*

In ancient times, whenever the nation of Israel experienced a miracle, they chose a special stone and called it a “stone of remembrance.” It was to be a tangible reminder of God’s faithfulness in that particular time and place. In like manner, we can create a tangible reminder of God’s faithfulness in making our family, not with stones of remembrance, but with our fingerprints. Before making this reminder, let’s remember the times that led us to this place because there’s a time and a season for everything.

## *There’s A Time to Celebrate This Child...*

We celebrate this incredible child, a unique weaving together of nature and nurture into one marvelous human being, with incredible potential and purpose.

May this child always remember the truths spoken by Rick Warren in *The Purpose-Driven Life*:

*Regardless of the circumstances of your birth or who your parents are, God had a plan in creating you. It doesn't matter whether your parents were good, bad, or indifferent. God knew that those two individuals possessed exactly the right genetic makeup to create the custom “you” He had in mind. They had the DNA God wanted to make you.*

## *There’s A Time to Shed Tears...*

Just as an oyster is wired by its Creator to wrap its innermost being around unexpected pain to produce a beautiful pearl, everyone involved in this adoption process have wrapped their innermost beings—time, energy, blood, sweat, and tears—around this beloved child. Tears, oftentimes the only language we can speak, are welcome here.

Poet, Washington Irving, explains their significance:

*There is sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are messengers of overwhelming grief...and unspeakable love.*

## *There’s a Time to Receive Affirmation...*

Imagine what God might say to affirm everyone involved in the formation of this family...

To the new parents...

*I am so proud of you! I know the unexpected twists and turns that finally brought you together as a family. I love you for wanting to provide for this child. Your actions are music to my ears.*

To the birth parents...

*I love you for making the courageous decision to carry this child and making sure future needs will be abundantly met. You have done your best under difficult circumstances.*

To the child...

*Look often at your fingerprints and remember that they are my marks of ownership on you, like a shepherd’s unique marks on his sheep. Let them remind you that I will never leave you.*

## *There’s A Time to Meet the Child’s Need...*

Adoption experts say that adopted people need a sense of connection with the birth parents, whether they are known or unknown, or whether their histories are positive or painful.

Your child’s fingerprints provide a genetic connection to the birth family and are the only part of his body that will never change or grow old. If the child feels sad about the loss of the birth family, help him to remember the closeness to the birth mother once experienced in the womb, where the fingerprints were fearfully and wonderfully created by God. Make fingerprints for everyone on the designated sheets to remember this special day.

## *There’s a Time to Commission the New Parents*

Birth parents, it’s time to say goodbye. Hand your child to the people you have chosen to parent. Everyone, pause and take a deep breath! A miracle has just occurred.

Now, commission them! If you are unable, have someone nearby say these words:

*You are now the parents of our child. Go forth with confidence, knowing that you are the parents, the ones responsible for the well being of this child. We’ve done our best. We will love him forever. Now, it’s time for you to take him to his new home. We promise to work through the grief, to heal, and grow.*

## *There’s a Time to Say Goodbye*

New parents, say goodbye to the birth parents. Your step of courage is to leave with your child, trusting someone to care for the birth parents.

## *There’s a Time to Receive Comfort...*

Birth parents, of course you are hurting. We are *with* you and *for* you. You are courageous people. Rest assured that you will never be forgotten by your child.

Perhaps God will comfort you in ways you never dreamed possible?

Author C.S. Lewis once said:

*God whispers in our pleasures, but shouts in our pain.*

It would be just like Him to do such a thing. ♥

# *Adoption Celebration Ceremony*



Creating a tangible reminder of

*Faithfulness...*

*Family...*

*and Fingerprints.*