



A Vision for Your Family

When it comes to your family, do you have a clear vision of what you want?
Have you identified the things that your family values?
Do you have any goals that you would love to see your family achieve?

My guess is you would like to be able to answer “yes” to any or all of the questions above, but maybe you’re not quite there. If that’s you, this exercise can help.

This is a process that takes just an hour or so and it can help your family identify a clear vision for what you want and develop a real plan to get there. It’s important that everyone who is a part of your immediate family be a part of the process, so set aside a time when everyone can be there. Also consider putting all devices away for this exercise so you do not have any distractions.

This process was adapted from a visioning process created by Ministry Architects. For more information about Ministry Architects, go to www.ministryarchitects.org.

Crafting the Vision

Explain to everyone that you will going through a process to build a vision statement for your family, identify some values you want to live by, and create some short and long-term family goals.

If it feels right, open your time together with prayer. Maybe everyone can pray for clarity and unity, or maybe one person can pray for the process.

Make sure everyone has a few pieces of paper and something to write with.

VERBS: Have everyone take 5 minutes (on their own) to write down three to five verbs that accurately reflect the most important things your family should DO. Some examples might be: serve, grow, play ...

RESULTS: Take 10 minutes for everyone (on their own) to write down two words or phrases that accurately identifies the RESULT that should come from growing up as a part of your family. Some examples could be: “feel loved and accepted”, or “grow closer together.”

TARGET: Who are we AIMED AT? Is it a child, mom and dad, the family as a whole? God?

Take some time for each person to share what they wrote down and why. Make sure each person has the opportunity to share what they wrote without being judged or feeling like their words or phrases aren't valuable.

Drafting the Vision

After having some conversation, fill in the phrase below with words you can all agree on. You will obviously be using the words and phrases you spent time sharing with one another.

*The first draft can be written using the formula below.
However, it's not expected that the final draft would appear in this form.*

Our family exists to (1) _____,
(2) _____ and
(3) _____ (**verbs**)
_____ (**target**) in order that,
_____. (**result**)

Examples::

“Our family exists to grow, love, and serve each other in order that we may glorify God.”

“Our family exists to love, serve and glorify God in order that we may make a difference in the world.”

After you write your first draft, set it aside and move on to the next exercise.

Values

Values describe the spirit in which we go about our lives together, living out our vision, and accomplishing our goals.

Take ten minutes to have each person write down five values that the family will live by. These may be words or short phrases. You will add short definitions as you proceed.

Examples:

Love: We seek to love each other as God loves us.

Fun: We encourage joy and laughter as we enjoy one another.

Intentional Growth: We will make an effort to grow in life and faith.

Take some time for each person to share what they wrote down and why. Again, make sure each person has the opportunity to share what they wrote without being judged or feeling like their words or phrases aren't valuable.

Decide, as a family, on your top five values. It's fine if you have more or less than five, just identify the ones that feel right to you. After identifying your values, spend some time giving them short definitions.

Values with Definitions

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Goals

Take time together to brainstorm five goals you have for your family. They may be educational, spiritual, financial, health related, or something completely different. There is no limit to what your goals may help you and your family achieve. Record them here.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Go back to the draft of your family vision. Read it out to everyone and discuss any changes you want to make.

Finally, use the last sheet to fill in your final decisions on your family vision, your values, and your goals. Consider creating some kind of document for everyone in the family to have and see often.

Vision for the _____ Family
Last Name

Vision Statement

Values

Goals

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