

Writing a Mission Statement for your Family | Family Life @CLC

Your family is not only the basic building block of society, but a place where God's very nature is learned, loved, and lived together. It is foundational.

Businesses, governments, non-profit organizations, and even the enemy all have mission statements. It only makes sense that something as vital and important as a family have one as well. Today more than ever, a family needs a clear direction (mission) with a clear value system.

A family vision and mission statement is an articulation of a family's values and goals. It can be unique to each family, but similar in the values we share as Christians. Through the process of creating and writing a mission statement, families will define who they are as individuals and as a family and have a better understanding of their priorities.

What you need to know:

1. A mission statement should be more than a 'hokey' set of buzzwords strung together in a sentence, but instead a well thought out set of values that you and your spouse hold to high esteem for your family.
2. A mission statement should be something you can put into action. "How do I apply this in a practical sense to our family?"
3. A mission statement will help you and your family in making decisions that affect your family. *For instance: If you value relational time together as a family, then having your kid join a soccer team that has practice five nights a week and games on Sundays probably does not fit your families mission statement.*

How to write a mission statement for your family:

1. Sit down as a couple and pray that God would give you and your spouse guidance, clarity and wisdom in this process.
2. With your spouse, select specific values that are important to the health of your family.
 - a. Be aware of selecting values that may simply 'fit' your current lifestyle and simply enable or continue damaging family patterns.
 - b. Ask: What do you want out of life? What end goal will make you proud to have accomplished with regards to your family? What passions has God given you as a parent?
 - c. Some examples of values: Strong faith. Love. Attending church. Holiness. Purity. Relational time. Helping others. Eating. Playing sports. Pursuing hobbies. Traveling. Doing outreach. Financial Responsibility. Creativity. Giving. Time with friends. Learning Scripture. Worship. Doing art.
3. Compare those values to what Christ's values are. Are they **really** important? Are there others that should be **more** important?
4. Weed out those values that won't work in the culture of your family, or aren't healthy for long term success.
5. Begin to put together these values in a statement that makes sense. Remember, when completed, it should be a clear snapshot of what your values are as a family.
6. Begin to make decisions with your mission statement.
 - a. What activities need to be re-evaluated in light of it?
 - b. How will our time be spent in light of it?
 - c. How will our money be spent in light of it?
 - d. What do we need to start doing in light of it?
7. Be sure your mission statement isn't so broad that you can justify damaging decisions, and so narrow that you'll never stick to it.

Generic format: To.... (Do something)...In such a way that..... (Quality of action)...So that.... (We gain these results or benefits).

Pastor Shannon's family mission statement: To accomplish God's purpose in our marriage and family in a way that grows our faith, creates unity, promotes our health, and enriches our marriage and family so we are fulfilled, happy, balanced, and always close to God and each other.