



September 13 Adult Vision Lab: Developing a Personal/Family Mission Statement

A mission statement answers these questions:

1. *What is it, Lord, that You would like us to accomplish as a family?*
2. *Lord, what kind of a family do you want?*
3. *We know that our time together on this earth is limited. We know that You have a plan for us. What do You want us to do **specifically**?*
4. *How would we define our unique family mission in life?*

Guidelines for Developing a Personal/Family Mission Statement

Mission statements should be timeless.

The best mission statements deal with both ends and means.

Every member of the family should participate. Even if your children are younger, you can still start using this "family constitution" method. Just keep the mission simple and full of pictures.

You don't invent your family mission. You detect it. You uncover it. Each family possesses special gifts, unique qualities, and characteristics. These are clues that God gives you to your family mission statement. Ask God to reveal your unique family mission.

Have GOALS

Gather Information — brainstorm, do some greenlight thinking. Otter personalities in the family like this.

Organize — categorize your ideas. Beaver personalities delight in this.

Analyze — "How practical is that? Does that fit?" Golden Retriever personalities enjoy this, since it takes each member into consideration and promotes harmony.

Limit — "Can't live with that one." "We don't have the gifts or resources to do that." Lion personalities like the bottom-line mentality.

Start — Start using your family mission statement.

How to Get the Most Benefit from a Family Missions Statement?

1. Post it in a prominent place. — Our family mission statement is posted right by the front door of our home.
2. Examine yourselves against it in your weekly family meetings. A church planting pastor once told me: “You must mention your purpose and vision at least every three weeks.” Repeat your family mission and examine yourself against it often.
3. Memorize it. — Constant repetition will make this easy.

Example

Smalley Family Constitution

We the people of the Smalley family, do dedicate our family to the task of enriching other families.

We the people of the Smalley family, in order to form a more perfect union, do establish these *two basic principles*:

1. Love and honor God.
2. Love and respect others.

We hereby base these principles on the Word of God (Luke 10:27).

We also hereby establish *six family limits* from these two principles:

1. We honor Mom and Dad by obeying them.
2. We honor others and our possessions by putting things away after we have used them.
3. We honor our commitment to the family by performing all chores responsibly.
4. We honor friends and family by having good manners and exercising responsibility toward others.
5. We honor all of God’s creation; people and things.
6. God is worthy to receive our highest honor and praise, and His Word is to be honored as well.

Dated: _____

Signed: _____

Mom

Dad

Michael

Kari

Greg

Web Resource

www.franklincovey.com/msb