

# Creating a Family Mission Statement

**WHAT:** A family mission statement lays out a vision for your family of where you want to go together and how you want to get there.

**WHY:** This process provides a path and guideposts pointing the way ahead and illuminating the curves and bumps along the way... to distinguish your family from others – providing a sense of meaning and identity and giving your children the feeling of being part of something important and special.

**THE GOAL:** A timeless, easy-to-read, holistic family mission statement that applies to everyone in the family.

## Getting Started

### Some Guidelines:

- Don't get hung up on whether it "sounds good" or "looks right." In reality, the end product isn't as important as the process – this task of creating your family mission statement is where the real magic happens.
- Everyone gets a say.
- Listen with empathy.
- Write things down.
- Give yourself time. Write, rewrite, edit as necessary. If you feel like you've only scratched the surface tonight, commit to meet together 1-3 times more to finish the conversation and complete the task together. Meetings can be as short as 15 minutes, or longer, depending on what you need to accomplish together.
- Give yourself a finished product. Type it up or write it nicely, get crafty with it or frame it. Place it somewhere central in your home to serve as a reminder for everyone showing who you are and who you want to be together.

## The Process

1. Ask questions and discuss who you are. (See next page for questions.)
2. Look over your responses and see if any themes emerge. These exemplify your core values. For example: You have a tradition of giving gifts to kids in hospitals during the Christmas season, or visiting the local senior center at certain points throughout the year. The core value exemplified here would be service.
3. Discuss any major differences of opinion to determine whether they are a really big deal or not.
4. Discuss any phrases, sayings, or Bible verses that capture what your family is all about.
5. Place stars by the big ideas that have emerged that mean the most, everyone can agree on, and you'd like to focus on this year. Try not to choose more than 10.
6. Start crafting your family mission statement. Turn those big ideas into ten statements/phrases. Try to keep it short enough to remember, timeless so that it lasts, and specific enough to be applicable.

## Questions:

### Questions for a Personal Mission Statement:

What do I want from my life?

What do I value?

What are my talents?

At the end of my life, what do I want to have accomplished?

How do I want to treat others?

How do I want to treat myself?

What are values in others that I look up to and want to implement in my own life?

### Questions to Ask for Families of Two:

What kind of marriage partners do we want to be?

What is the purpose of our marriage?

How do we want to treat each other?

How do we want to resolve our differences?

How can we both support each other in our respective goals?

How do we want to handle finances?

How can we best relate to each other's families?

What traditions do we bring with us from the families in which we were raised?

What traditions do we want to keep and create?

How do we want to give back?

Are there things from our respective family histories that we're happy or unhappy with? How can we change them if we're unhappy?

### *For Parents or Future Parents:*

What kind of parents do we want to be? OR What kind of parents are we?

What principles do we want to teach our children to help them prepare for adulthood and lead responsible, caring lives? OR What principles have we taught and continue to reinforce in the lives of our children?

What roles will each of us have? OR What kind of roles do we fill for our adult children?

## Questions to Ask for Families of Three or More

What is the purpose of our family?

What kind of family do we want to be?

What kinds of things do we want to do?

What kind of feeling do we want to have in our home?

What kind of home would you like to invite your friends to?

What embarrasses you about our family?

What makes you want to come home?

What do we want to be remembered by?

What kind of relationships do we want to have with one another?

How do we want to treat one another and speak to one another?

What things are truly important to us as a family?

What are the unique talents, gifts, and abilities of family members?

What are our responsibilities as family members?

What are the principles and guidelines we want our family to follow?

Who are our heroes? What is it about them that we like and would like to emulate?

What families inspire us and why do we admire them?

How can we contribute to society as a family and become more service-oriented?

## Examples

Our family mission is to:

- Value honesty with ourselves and others.
- Create an environment where each of us can find support and encouragement in achieving our life's goals.
- Respect and accept each person's unique personality and talents.
- Promote a loving, kind, and happy atmosphere.
- Support family endeavors that better society.
- Maintain patience through understanding.
- Always resolve conflicts with each other rather than harboring anger.
- Promote the realization of life's treasures.

Our family mission:

- To love each other...
- To help each other...
- To believe in each other...
- To wisely use our time, talents, and resources to bless others...
- To worship together...
- Forever.

May our first word be adventure and our last word be love.

- We live lives of passion.
- We dream undreamable dreams.
- We are travelers not tourists.
- We help others to fly.
- We love to learn.
- We don't like dilemmas, we like solutions.
- We push through. We believe!
- We know it's okay to make mistakes.
- We bring people together.
- We are joy, rapture, yay!

We love and serve God.

We strive to make our home a refuge from the cares and troubles of the world.

We do hard things.

We're creators, not consumers.

We stay hungry and humble.

We face adversity with stoicism.

We show kindness to our family members and others.

We help each other reach our potential.

We're devoted to life-long learning.

We know that sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven.

We face life with a sense of humor and a lot of laughter.