

Writing A Family Mission Statement

Creating a mission statement can help your family concentrate on its purpose and help you as you minister to others.

Although most parents have unspoken goals for their children — financial, spiritual, physical, emotional — these big ideas seldom translate into reality accidentally.

One way to prioritize your family values is to write a family mission statement. This written declaration isn't a guarantee of family success, but it can help establish a family's identity, even as it reinforces what is important.

For example, the phrase “Inward, outward, upward and onward,” to encourage our children to show who they are on the “inside” by being godly on the “outside”, through taking the high road “upward” and moving “onward” from a situation —not being dragged down by it.

Over time, as your kids grow, this phrase can become your family's mission statement, and it can be applied to dealing with difficult people and situations. You can encourage your kids to be strong on the inside, at peace on the outside, while keeping their cool, in order to rise above their circumstances and keep going onward.”

Step 1: Make a commitment

How long will it take to create a mission statement? That depends on your family's ability to work together, your individual personalities and the compatibility of your goals. The first step isn't to get words on a paper but to commit to creating and living within a prescribed goal.

Try using your family name as an acronym, for example, FILIO:

By God's grace we will:

- F**ollow our Lord Jesus Christ with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength;
- I**nstill in our children the truths of God so that future generations will put their trust in Him.
- L**ove one another unconditionally as God loved us and regard each other with honor and respect;
- I**nspire other families through our faithfulness in the Lord under whatever circumstances;
- O**ffer our time, talent and treasure in furthering God's kingdom

Step 2: Identify key family values

Committing to a mission statement is the first step. The second step is to consider what your family holds as important.

Example: What are your parenting priorities?

- Know God and His Word
- Develop the skills necessary to live in society
- Value relationships and treat others with kindness and respect

- Seek God’s will for direction and purpose in life

Step 3: Ask for God’s direction

We have to pray and ask for God’s guidance in creating our family’s mission statement.

Example: “inward, outward, upward and onward” is an easy-to-remember phrase that can help you discuss how your kids’ decisions are made and how they should view the world. These key words also have a basis in Scripture, which is important for a Christian family’s mission statement.

The concepts “Inward and outward” were derived from

2 Corinthians 4:16 - “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.”

The concepts of “upward and onward” were taken from

Philippians 3:12-16 - “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me...

Step 4: Consider the bigger picture

Each person in your family has different strengths, dreams and goals.

Writing a mission statement can initially help parents focus on guiding their children’s direction and building a family identity.

Over time, these same mission statements can define how the different personalities and talents in a family come together for a concentrated direction outside the home, too.

Example:

In the midst of their struggles, one couple created the parenting motto: “Love them and point them to Jesus.”

If they weren’t able to accomplish anything else in the lives of their children, they wanted the kids to leave their home knowing they are loved and that Jesus Christ is Lord. The couple reminded each other of their motto anytime one of them appeared to be straying from it. The family currently seeks ways to love others (“love them”) and share God’s message of mercy and grace (“and point them to Jesus”).

Step 5: Explore possible ministry goals

As you develop your mission statement, take the time to look at your family’s ministry goals, having each member of your family answer questions such as:

- What are your greatest strengths and talents?
- What are the top priorities of your Christian faith, outside of our personal walk with Jesus Christ?
- If you could do anything to influence the world for Christ, what would it be?

- Is there a group of people you are naturally drawn to, those that you feel led to pray for or to help?

The more you know about yourself and each other, the better you will be able to figure out how you can use your family's personalities and talents to serve your friends, family and community.

If you still have difficulty developing a mission statement together for your family, try filling in the following blanks to create action steps for your family goals:

We believe God wants us to _____ this year, which we will intentionally do by concentrating on these areas:

With each other, we will _____.

With our neighbors and friends, we will _____.

With our extended family, we will _____.

With our church body, we will _____.

When people think of our family, how do we want them to finish this sentence: They are a family that _____.

Review and revise these lines each year until you see a pattern that allows you to write a larger, more comprehensive mission statement.

The beauty of putting your mission statement in writing is that, as you identify where you are right now, you'll start to see a glimmer of where God wants to take you and your family in the coming years.

You may even find decisions easier to make, activities more enjoyable and your family life more satisfying.

More importantly, you will help fulfill God's purposes for your family now —and intentionally prepare your children for the work God has for them later in their lives.

Prayer for Family and Ministry 2020

Our Father, Your Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ risen from the dead, entrusted to his disciples the mandate of 'Go and make disciples of all peoples'; You remind us that through our baptism we are participants in the mission of the Church.

By the gifts of your Holy Spirit, grant us the grace to be witnesses of the Gospel, brave and tenacious, so that the mission entrusted to the Church, which is still far from being completed, can find new and effective manifestations that bring life and light to the world.

Help us to make all peoples experience salvific love and the mercy of Jesus Christ, He who is God and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.