

CRAFTING YOUR OWN

Family Vision
Statement



RYAN
AND
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FREDERICK

A FIERCE PARENTING RESOURCE



Without a Vision...

Months after having our first daughter, we were floundering. I remember lying awake late into the night, wondering what God would call us to do and how in the world he would do it. We were living 1,200 miles from our families, uncertain in our careers (and income), debt-laden, and we had no idea what was next. We had big decisions to make, too many options, too many voices, and too little clarity. In general, those circumstances can be fine, except we were also unsettled and anxious—and getting more distraught by the day.

In haste, and with what little certainty (and money) we had, we packed all of our belongings into an old box truck and planned our exodus to Selena's mom's house—back home and three states away. I put Selena and our six-month-old daughter on a plane and hit the highway in the truck with our two dogs beside me in the cab.



When we arrived and settled in (meaning we had a bed), we still felt aimless. We needed something concrete that outlined our convictions so we could quickly find clarity then and as we anticipated, in future times of confusion.

Of course, God has given us his Word to guide us, but he's also given us much freedom in the decisions we make—calling us to count our days (Psalm 90:12), live wisely (Ephesians 5:15), make the best use of the time (Colossians 4:5), and think soberly of ourselves and our lives in light of God's plan (Romans 12:3). So while we recognized the guidance of God's Word and the counsel of the Holy Spirit, we also recognized our need to think circumspectly and wisely about the decisions we made—and we needed to write it down. In short, we needed



a single document that clearly articulated what was most important to us *based on what's most important to God*.

Somewhere along the way I recalled an obscure verse from Habakkuk I had memorized in college:

**And the LORD answered me:
“Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so he may run who reads it.”
(Habakkuk 2:2 ESV)**

Habakkuk wasn't quoting God talking to families, but the principle remains. As a people group, Judah had



forgotten God and his precepts and as a result, they had experienced great moral and spiritual corruption. So God instructed Habakkuk, the mouthpiece to God's people, to write down what he said so the people could quickly recall God's words after their memory faded.

I looked back at the previous years in the Frederick story and began to see why God instructed Habakkuk the way he did. All God is and what he instructs have not changed, but we do. We must "write the vision" and "make it plain" so that we "may run" according to God's truth when things aren't clear.

So, over the following three months (yes, three), we crafted our first Frederick Family Vision Statement and haven't looked back since! It took many drafts, but we were finally able to land on something we agreed upon. As it turns out, it was worth the effort.

Three Reasons You Need a Family Vision Statement

While there are many reasons to spend the time crafting a vision statement, there are three we've found particularly compelling.

Reason #1: Unity

I was talking with a good friend recently about our tendency as spouses to agree on the problem to be solved without being *in agreement* when actually solving the problem. Even with a common enemy, we can work against one another if we're not operating from the same playbook or attacking from a unified front. This can create all sorts of "friendly fire" between spouses because of a lack of unity.

Here's an example: Just having their first child, Andrew and Jane have both realized that their current car is no longer meeting their family's needs. They've agreed generally that it's time to buy something else, but they argue incessantly



whenever the topic comes up. Jane wants the van; Andrew wants the SUV. Jane likes the third-row seating; Andrew sees value in having extra towing capacity. (First-world problems, right?)

Both of them make very valid points, but they can't find agreement. Why? Simply put, they both know *what* they need (a different vehicle), but they haven't discussed *why* they need it. Their ultimate values aren't aligned. Andrew was envisioning weekend excursions and adventures with their growing family while Jane saw the advantages the van offered for her daily activities.

So what should they decide? It won't be clear until they talk about and gain unity on the *whys* behind the *what*. Having a thought-out Family Vision Statement would certainly come in handy.

Reason #2: Clarity

Other times, *what* is unclear. John has been working hard for a promotion at work. One Monday morning he gets called into his manager's office where he gets the good news: not only are they offering him the promotion, but it comes with a 10 percent raise and less travel. The catch is, the job is in another state. Regardless, he's thrilled and can't wait to tell his wife, Emily.





Upon arriving at home, John shares the good news but Emily doesn't seem so happy. She expresses how proud she is of him and how she's thankful for the opportunity, but she's concerned that moving will disrupt the kids' school and they'll have to start over making friends and finding a church. She shares how she thinks his opportunities in their current town are big enough and that she doesn't think moving would be worth it.

John is deflated. How could she not be on board with such an incredible opportunity? How can she not see the adventure it would be to move to a new city and build a new life? To add even more tension to the situation, John's boss needs to know his answer in three days. John and Emily do nothing but fight about the decision. John considers "putting his foot down" because he can't find another way forward, even though he realizes such a move would damage his wife's trust. What should they do?

Without solid, agreed-upon reasons for where they live, their kids' education, John's career, and their financial goals, John and Emily lack clarity on what decision to make. Having a Family Vision Statement can help cut to the core of the conversation.

Reason #3: Utility

The final reason I'll mention is utility. Having a pre-discussed, pre-written framework is just plain useful. As we saw with both couples above, a framework is crucial for guiding big decisions or navigating murky transitions.

What I cherish most about having a Family Vision Statement is that it enables you to look past the quick surface factors—things like cost, time, peer pressure, urgency, and perceived opportunity—and see the larger, foundational truths and priorities you've articulated. What's even better:

you don't have to spend all the time getting back into that headspace when it's written down and discussed beforehand.

Is it a silver bullet for every tough decision? It's not, but it can help you avoid repetitive, circular arguments or wasting time headed in unsustainable directions.

Our Family Vision Statement has played a crucial role as we have wrestled with many tangible decisions, such as:

- Where to live and why
- What kind of house to buy (and what to spend)
- What church to join and how to serve
- How to spend our weekends as a family
- How to spend our money
- How to give money away and to whom
- How to educate our children
- What family car to buy (and *not* to buy)
- What ministry work to focus on
- How to steward the Fierce Marriage and Fierce Parenting communities

Just to name a few.

God is gracious and he guides us even when we don't have a vision, but Selena and I honestly don't know where we'd be if he hadn't led us to think hard, do the work, and find clarity around what matters most to us as a family.

Now it's your turn. The next parts of this document are dedicated to helping you understand and craft a Family Vision Statement of your own.

Ready? You can do this!



Understanding Family Vision

Did you know that fewer than 6 percent of families have a mission statement and/or core values written down?¹ And that figure comes from Fierce Marriage readers and listeners, which are likely skewed toward the high end! If our poll data is any indication, family goal setting and vision casting are exceedingly rare activities.

You're reading this guide because on some level you recognize your need for a thoughtful family plan. While many recognize this need, you will be joining the minority of families if your need translates into action. That's what this guide is designed to help you do: take action.

But first, we need to define our terms. Let's start by defining exactly what a Family Vision Statement is.

¹ Findings from a Fierce Marriage online poll of 3,000 respondents.

What it is...

Your Family Vision Statement is your rallying point, a decision-making tool, and in many cases it's your family's *battle cry*. It is a rigorously distilled set of ideas that unifies your family around God's purpose in light of how you're uniquely gifted, wired, and equipped.

Even with that exciting description, clear definitions are helpful, so here's ours:

A Family Vision Statement is a written document that describes what matters most to your family.

That's a fairly broad definition, so we'll work from the assumption that it includes at least three distinct sections. We'll discuss each one in greater detail later, but here they are:

1. Mission statement
2. Core values
3. Envision statements





Each part plays a unique role in adding clarity to what really matters to your family.

Speaking of clarity, that's another characteristic of a well-written Family Vision Statement. Clarity is crucial as it allows the document to be referenced quickly at key milestones or decision points, such as:

- Choosing or changing one's vocation
- Moving locally or relocating
- Choosing a school or university
- Choosing a schooling method for your children
- Choosing a church
- Buying a house
- Deciding how to spend money
- Dealing with conflicts of interest
- Setting healthy boundaries with toxic people or in-laws

The primary takeaway is that your Family Vision Statement should be a guiding document that reminds you quickly what matters most in times when clarity is sorely needed and difficult to find.

What it isn't...

I want to make this first distinction quickly, but I can't stress it enough: a Family Vision Statement shouldn't sound flowery or poetic for flowery-and-poetic's sake. It's not an Instagram post, a Pinterest image, or a pithy tweet—it's so much more.

I'm all for wordsmithing, and thank God for authors who have a way with words! Now, your Family Vision Statement *can* sound great, and if it does, kudos! However, poetry should only enhance the meaning and not obscure it. It's a little like salt in that way.

The second distinction to be made is that your Family Vision Statement is not meant to be an all-encompassing plan or a list of goals. There's a certain sweet spot for the level of detail you'll want to include (more on that later). Tactical conversations are great, but this isn't the time to have them.

As you craft your Family Vision Statement, ideally you'll either be flying at fifty thousand feet and thinking strategically or you'll be mining the farthest depths of your own hearts and thinking introspectively.

Ever Changing

When we had our second daughter, everything changed—even more than after we had our first. So we learned very quickly that our goals/vision/mission needed to shift because a new nonnegotiable had entered the picture: a child.

There will be times when “new nonnegotiables” enter the picture abruptly—like losing a job, gaining a child, or having to move—and you will have to reevaluate your Family Vision Statement. Other times, things change over time and you don't see it until you wake up one day and everything is different. Life moves forward, seasons change, and people mature.

The point is, life changes and so should your vision. We've found it best to view the Family Vision Statement as a "living document," which can be updated, amended, and reworked however best reflects your family's priorities.

While as believers our broad priorities are unchanging (love God, love others, make disciples), our expressions of our roles in God's redemptive plan can change and be honed as we grow and as God leads. The Holy Spirit guides us and wisdom compels us; our Family Vision Statements should reflect that reality.

As you take on the task of creating and casting your family's vision, fight the urge to perfect it at every turn. Find the balance between perfection and completion knowing that you can revise it as often as necessary down the road.

As a general rule, we revisit our Family Vision Statement during the last week of each year and if possible, during the summer (usually when we're on vacation). Other than those instances, we will also revisit it whenever a big decision is being made or one of us has a new epiphany we'd like to integrate.



One Vision, Three Parts

We believe that a robust Family Vision Statement includes *at least* three parts, each of which plays a unique role in encapsulating your values as a family. You may want to include other sections, which is totally up to you! It's your family and it's your vision—make it work for you.

If you're like we were and you're looking for a solid place to start, we suggest the following three parts.

#1: Mission Statement

In this framework, your mission statement describes *why you exist* as succinctly and specifically as possible. This may seem like an easy task, but crafting a quality, helpful, clear mission statement usually takes more time than one assumes. With that said, do your best today, but as you start, know that you can revise and refine it as needed in the future.

Here's the most challenging part: many mission statements end up being ethereal blobs of words that bear no actual meaning or implication for the day-to-day life of a family.



There seems to be a diminishing return-per-word the longer a mission statement gets. Mission statements that are too long lose their meaning. But if it's too short or vague, it may not provide any guidance when you need to make a key decision as a family. A balance must be struck.

Consider a few examples:

<p>"We exist to glorify God."</p>	<p>While noble and true, it's too vague and will provide little additional clarity at key decision points.</p>
<p>"As a family, we trust God, live by faith, believe in grace, love one another, live authentically, and choose joy."</p>	<p>All good things! Still, too vague. Ask, "How will this help us gain clarity in the career we pursue or the life we'll build as a family? How will this help us choose one <i>great</i> thing in a sea of twenty good things?"</p>
<p>"We exist to glorify God through serving in our local church, working as if unto the Lord, cherishing God's Word, having a welcoming home, and cultivating meaningful relationships."</p>	<p>Again, all very good and scriptural things. The problem is, what Christian household <i>wouldn't</i> aim to do those things?</p> <p>In this case, it's sometimes helpful to state the opposite and ask yourself, <i>Does this sound obviously undesirable?</i> For instance, if you wrote, "We want to have an <i>unwelcoming</i> home," does that sound obviously undesirable? If it does, try getting more specific.</p>
<p>"Our family glorifies God through cherishing his Word, being disciples who disciple others, and caring well for those in our community."</p>	<p>This mission statement strikes a good balance between breadth and specificity. While it doesn't speak to every possible scenario faced, the family who adopts this mission will find clarity at key decision points.</p>

See how it gets tricky? Let's look at a few specific qualities of helpful family mission statements.



Qualities of a useful mission statement

This list isn't absolute, but it should get you thinking:

Clarity: Not vague or unnecessarily verbose

Inspiring: It's yours, it should excite you!

Cliché-aware: Clichés aren't bad as long as you mean what the words mean

Memorable: This matters if you want it to affect your day-to-day life

Positive: Focus on what you *will* do/be instead of what you *won't* do/be

Let the above terms be guidelines more than items on a checklist. Let them give you a sense of what you're looking to accomplish.

It's worth noting that what you're writing isn't like an organizational mission statement. Businesses and nonprofits usually have mission statements that center around *doing, earning, and/or accomplishing*. Instead, your family mission statement should express *how you live* as an outworking of *who you are* and *who you're becoming*.

There is much that can be said about mission statements in general, so we'll stop there. The point is not to check all the boxes we've prescribed, but rather to *craft* something that will be truly useful in your day-to-day life.





Ultimately, only you can discern if your family's mission statement is useful or not. There's just no substitute for your time, thought, and energy. If there were a formula for writing the perfect mission statement, we'd love to share it with you! To our dismay, we know of no such thing.

#2: Core Values

The core values section is a list of terms and descriptions that describe who you are *intrinsically*. They're not traits you aspire to exhibit, but rather, they're descriptors of how you're *already wired*.

The trouble is, most people have to do a good bit of digging to realize how they're wired. If that's you, a personality

CORE VALUE

assessment may help get you thinking—just remember that systems like the Enneagram, Myers-Briggs, and the DISC assessment are tools and that’s it.

Observe retrospectively

For the Frederick household, we tackled this section by looking at patterns of behavior in our past lives as well as trends in our thinking. We realized just how much of the life we’d built up to that point centered around themes which, in turn, centered around our core values.

For instance, looking back we observed that we’d often forgone financial gain (i.e. higher paying work) in favor of greater mobility and freedom in how we spent our time. We eventually articulated this in our Family Vision Statement as the core values *flexibility* and *adventure*. But still, it felt out of balance—we didn’t desire to live rogue, detached lives void of deep relationships. Thus, we added a third core value: *community*.

See where this is headed? As we continued looking at our lives retrospectively, we unearthed further patterns which we could then distill into single core values. This exercise took time and iteration (1 to 2 hours a week for a few months), but the finished list has proven useful time and time again!

Our list of Frederick core values has helped us see clearly and decide soberly when faced with tough conversations or abrupt transitions. The best part is watching the list evolve and be refined even further as we grow, our family changes, life unfolds, and culture evolves.

Gospel calibration

An important caveat must be noted at this point. While we did detect patterns in our thinking and deciding, we also recognized a need to calibrate our core values based on our call as disciples of Christ.

Some of this gospel calibration had already taken place in our hearts, as we saw with the *community* core value. Still, there were other tendencies in our behaviors that were counter-gospel and needed correction in our hearts. In those instances, we had to pray for God to transform our hearts and realign our desires with his. I recommend your family does the same.

#3: Envision Statements

This is my favorite part—and it's where everything starts to make tangible sense. Your family's envision statements are one-liners that cast a compelling picture of what will happen, or *what you hope to see happen*, as a result of living out your mission and values. Each statement is meant to excite you and reinvigorate your sense of purpose in the big decisions you make and transitions you face.

Envisioning their use

Let's look at a few examples of envision statements. Say one of your core values is *community*. An envision statement that supports this value might say,

We envision a table surrounded by friends, family, and guests in a home filled with laughter and joy.

See how that works? We have a similar statement in ours and it's proven very effective in keeping us from disregarding our community, city, church, and family in favor of buying more land or a bigger house (both are unaffordable in our current city/area).

Let's look at another one. Let's say you mention *evangelism* somewhere in your mission statement or core values. You might have an envision statement which reads,

We envision raising children who understand that the world is a big place in need of a big God.

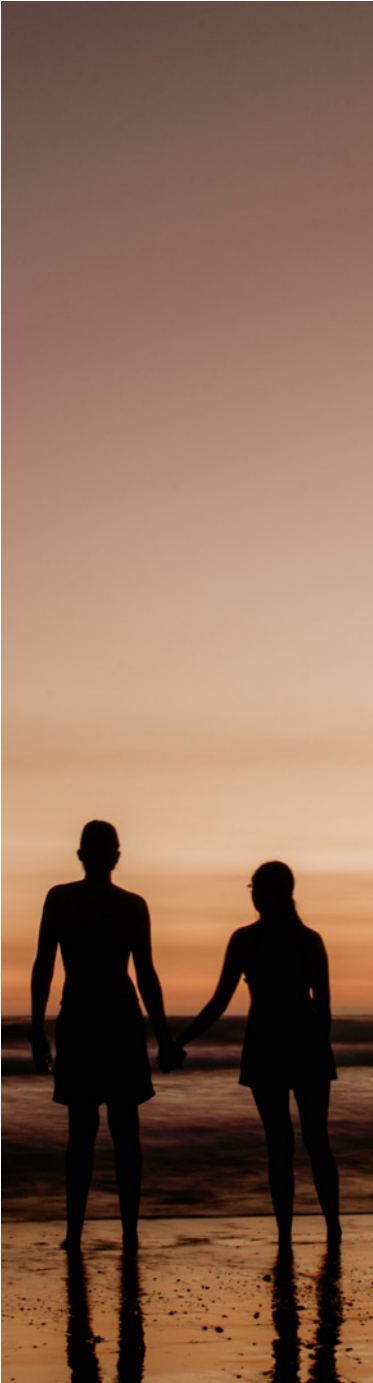
A statement like this may inform how you choose to educate your kids, the family trips you take them on, and what sorts of books/TV/music you encourage them to engage with.

On a related note, this is actually one of our family's envision statements, and it speaks to our desire to give our children a perspective of different cultures and diverse expressions of the gospel around the world. It has completely changed our perspectives of how we educate them and shown us new opportunities to integrate life and mission into how we instruct each child!

The biggest theme with your envision statements is that they should enliven and encourage your heart. Next, they're most helpful if they illustrate tangibly how you hope your mission and values translate into real life. Have fun with them!

An Otherworldly Call

By now I hope you're well aware of the benefits (and challenges) of crafting a thoughtful Family Vision Statement. If you are, and



if you put what you've learned into action—using this tool in your own unique way—you will join a small percentage of families who choose to do so.

Can you imagine how different the global church would be if families everywhere lived with a clear, written vision of why they exist, who they're aiming to be, and where they're going? How different would the world be? Here's the question that gets me every time: How different would the world be a generation from now? Two generations from now?

Friend, God is calling you to live in a way that is unlike the world. Not only that, but God has *placed you exactly where you are*—with your family, your abilities, your resources, your mind—for his divine purposes! Consider these words of Jesus as he prayed for believers—which includes you and me:

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.
(John 17:14-19 ESV)

As a Christian, you are not *of the world* but you have been expressly *sent into the world*.

It is our prayer that as you go about the daily work of building your family, you would do so with a clear picture of your greatest, most incredible context: you are one of God's people and he has commissioned you into his purposes. Your God is huge and he has called you to participate in the massive task of giving him glory. What an honor we have as sons and daughters of God!

It is also our prayer that when you face big transitions, challenges, and decisions, you would maintain a level of gospel centeredness and clarity that are otherworldly and faith filled despite whatever circumstances you face.

Finally, it is our prayer that you would feel enlivened, refreshed, and encouraged, even in the small, mundane, and seemingly insignificant moments you experience in family life.

Always remember that in Christ, no moment is wasted. Every tick of every clock—every second of every hour—exists to echo and amplify the resounding glory of God. You and your entire family have been called to join the chorus; we pray you go with grace and confidence as you do.





Family Vision Discussion Guide

It's time to put the pen to paper. Let's explore how to get the ball rolling and lay out a tangible plan to get this thing finished! Throughout this next part, we'll guide your family's conversation as you craft each component of your very own Family Vision Statement.

Feel free to refer back to the previous section as often as necessary as we go through each step.

Step 1: Pray, Read, Reflect, and Talk

Total time needed: 1.5 hours, more if you combine with Step #2 (recommended)

Environment needed: Quiet, no distractions

Items needed: Individual Bibles, journals or notebooks, pens

It's a *Family* Vision Statement, so naturally you'll need to discuss it as a family. If you're like us and you have kids too



young to participate in the first draft, you may have to wait until after bedtime or hire a babysitter (I promise it will be worth the investment). However you go about it or whatever your specific needs are, the objective is to find/create enough focused time for your family to get on the same page.

Pray as a Family

Time needed: 10–15 minutes

Prayer is both our response to God’s Word and an acknowledgment of how we need him. As you pray, ask God to grant you clarity, wisdom, and faith as you undertake this endeavor. If you’re not sure how to start, I recommend the wife open the prayer, with kids going next as they feel led (if present), and the husband closing. Of course, each family dynamic is different, but in our time working with couples we’ve seen this pattern set the stage for full family involvement.



Read as a Family

Time needed: 10–20 minutes

It's always crucial to anchor ourselves in God's Word when laying out plans. I recommend reading up to three passages to help guide your conversation:

1. Any passages or chapters of Scripture from your devotional lives that you feel led to share
2. Matthew 28:16–20 (The Great Commission)
3. Matthew 22:36–40 (The Great Commandment)

Reflect Separately

Time needed: 15–20 minutes

Take 15 to 20 minutes to reflect on the passages you just read. Consider what each one means for God's people as a whole, for your family, and for you as an

individual. As you think, listen for the Holy Spirit to prompt your thoughts and challenge your heart.

We recommend that each family member find a quiet place around the house to think, pray, and write down any thoughts they have during this time.

Talk as a Family

Time needed: 40+ minutes

This final part is where you'll begin hashing out the details in light of the Scriptures you read and your individual prayer/reflection time. Make sure to set aside at least 40 minutes (an hour is a safe bet) for this discussion. Keep in mind, it could take more than one conversation to gather your thoughts.

We encourage anyone who can write to take notes during the discussion(s) to capture any new points, words, questions, or phrases that jump out. Don't trust your memory to be able to recall everything! There's nothing worse than remembering the *feeling* of hearing a good point without being able to recall what the good point actually was.



Note: Some families like to do this next part in conjunction with Step #2 below. I encourage you to read ahead and decide what works best for you.

Use the question prompts below, but however the conversation(s) go, remember that you're aiming to gain agreement on these big-picture truths:

- A. Why you need a family vision
- B. Who you are as people of God
- C. How the Bible calls you to live as people of God
- D. Where is your greatest hope? (Get specific here.)
- E. What do A-D mean for your immediate lives?

These questions will help guide your discussion:

1. What kinds of people is God calling us to *become*?
2. Read Matthew 28:16-20 again out loud. What does it mean to make disciples? How can we, as a family, participate in the Great Commission?
3. What does the Bible say about wisdom?
4. What matters most to us as a family?
5. How can our home be used to glorify God?
6. How can our time/energy/money/talent as a family be used to glorify God?
7. How does each member of the family contribute to glorifying God?
8. What words describe us best as a family? (Get creative here! Find lots.)
9. How would our closest friends describe us as a family?

Of course, your conversation will likely take on a life of its own, which is a good thing! When you begin gaining a sense of shared understanding, you can proceed to the next step. You'll know when the time is right.

Step 2: Getting to Draft One

Total time needed: 1 hour, more if you combine with Step #1 (recommended)

Environment needed: Relaxed, comfy, and discussion friendly

Items needed: Whiteboard/chalkboard if available, or lots of paper

Once you're ready to begin writing, it's time to assign a family scribe—someone who will fill out the first draft of the Family Vision Worksheet. This is where things begin to take shape. It can sometimes take a few tries to begin articulating your ideas, which can feel a bit nebulous. Don't let that slow you down, you can do it!

You'll want to begin this step shortly after (if not immediately after) you have your family discussion in Step #1 above. By including the full family in this exercise, they can throw out words and ideas as the scribe keeps track on paper. Then, in Step #3 you can refine over time and in quiet settings.

Family Mission

Let's start with your family mission statement. This is the one step you will want to visit both at the beginning *and* the end of your first draft, so keep that in mind as you follow the prompts below.

1. Begin by writing out a few sentences that capture the essence of your conversation.
2. Start with the prompt, "As a family, we exist to..." Complete this statement as many times as necessary until you find a few that resonate.
3. Don't edit, just write. Things will take shape.



4. Pick the best 3 or 4 sentences and group them together.
5. Discuss/think: What makes them the best sentences? Ideas? Word choice? How do they sound when read aloud?
6. Search for redundancies, vague language, or overlap in word meaning. Your goal is to be clear *and* concise. You'll know when you're close, so keep going!
7. Once you land on 1 or 2 sentences, read them aloud!
8. With your first-draft mission statement in hand, write it into the Family Vision Worksheet.

As we've covered, you will likely want to refine this mission in the future, but that's a task for another day. Family Vision Statement draft #1, done!

Core Values

What do you value most as a couple and as a family? Think over the past years of your marriage/life. What key decisions and transition points did you experience, and what sorts of decisions did you gravitate toward?



Write out 4 or 5 core value words. Include a brief description of each one—1 or 2 sentences max. You can change or add to this list at any time as your core values become clearer.

Envision Statements

Let's go on a mental journey together. I'd say close your eyes, but then you wouldn't be reading this. (Feel free to do that later if it helps.)

Here goes: What do you envision your family looking like in the next 5, 10, 20 years? It's a big thing to consider, so let's start.

Imagine yourself and the rest of your family in various scenarios: relaxing, laughing together, at church, at work, going on a walk, having dinner, or enjoying company.

Let's push things further. What do your facial expressions look like? What are you talking about? What are you doing? What is the tone of the room? What about your surroundings? What does your home look like?

Take a few moments to think about the questions above. Let your imagination wander a bit, jotting down the most vivid parts that come to mind.

Next, write down 5 to 10 first-draft envision statements of your own, starting each one with, "We envision..."

I've included a few prompts below to get you thinking. I'd encourage you to come up with at least 2 to 3 envision statements for each prompt.

- *We envision a family that...*
- *We envision a marriage that...*
- *We envision children who...*
- *We envision a home where...*



After you've created your first draft of envision statements, compare them to your family mission statement and core values, revising or reconsidering any that contradict what matters most. After any additional discussion and revisions, write your 6 to 8 most enlivening envision statements on your Family Vision Worksheet!

Step 3: Review, Refine, Repeat

Total time needed: Varies, usually 30–45 minutes

Environment needed: In the car, at the dinner table, or on the couch

Items needed: Your Family Vision Statement, paper, pens

Congratulations! You've completed your first draft! You're through the toughest part; now you get to sit back and reflect on what you've written.

Now you get to let it breathe.

And you get to watch it work for you.

Well, you will... just not yet.

We recommend that all families review their first-draft Family Vision Statement within one or two weeks of writing it. This gives you ample time to let the ideas marinate without losing sight of the purpose and thinking behind them. It's a crucial final step that serves a vital purpose in crystallizing your mission, core values, and envision statements so they're as useful as possible for the foreseeable future.

When should we review?

Here's our recommended Family Vision review calendar:

1. Within 1 to 2 weeks of first draft
2. Three months after first draft
3. Annually during the last week of the year
4. Annually during the first week of July
(or during a summer vacation)
5. As needed during critical transitions or decisions

The thing is, this step never really ends. You will find opportunities and needs to review and refine your Family Vision Statement. Let's take a quick look at how your refinement process might work.

How should we refine?

At some point you'll realize your Family Vision Statement needs revision. This is a good thing, as it means you're actively implementing what you've spent all this time crafting. The way you know it's time to refine your Family Vision Statement is when part of it stops being meaningful or helpful.

For instance, during an annual review you may realize that one of your core values has completely shifted or the word feels stale. Time to freshen it up!

Or, you may read your mission statement and realize it is outdated—your priorities have changed. Assuming they've changed for the better, it may be time to update your mission statement. Only you can discern when and how to change your Family Vision Statement.

Changing your statement should happen as needed, but it shouldn't happen arbitrarily. Here are some steps to help you discern if and how edits are needed:

1. Pray

When we pray we recognize our need for God—not just our need for God's guidance but for God himself. Pray for God to reveal any areas of your life, mission, and values that are out of sync with where he is leading you.

2. Read

Read your statement aloud unbroken. Think critically as the statement is read and jot down notes as potential changes come to mind.

3. Discuss

With your notes in hand, talk through what you wrote down and why. Listen to each other, ask lots of questions, and discuss why certain parts resonate and other parts don't.

4. Decide

Once the discussion has run its course, decide on language removals and additions and make final changes to your Family Vision Statement.

It's a pretty intuitive process, really. Many times revisions will come easily and obviously. Other times, not so much. Either way, it's a positive exercise for mindful families to engage in.

Step 4: Display

Total time needed: Varies

This step is optional, but it's incredibly fun! If you feel led, display part or all of your Family Vision Statement somewhere in your home. We've seen some families get it printed on canvas or metal, or even carved into wood.

It may sound daunting, but you can find an inexpensive designer on sites like Fiverr.com and get professional prints or CNC wood carving done on Etsy.com. Costs vary depending on what you do, but I highly encourage every family to consider it. We spent \$120 on Etsy.com getting our mission statement milled into a wood plaque; there are tons of options and price ranges. There's nothing like having a constant visual reminder of your Family Vision Statement!

Great work! We pray your Family Vision Statement bears fruit both now and for generations to come.

**And the LORD answered me:
“Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so he may run who reads it.”
(Habakkuk 2:2 ESV)**



Our Family Vision Statement

Our Mission

Our family exists to...

Our Core Values

As a family, we intrinsically value...

Envision Statements

We envision a family that...

