

Activity: Family Mission Statement



FAMILY TIME
TRAINING

Teaching Goal: Have a target—goal and purpose—for life.

Scripture: See Activity #4 below.

Materials: Paper, pen
Garbage can or pail
3x5 note cards or special paper
Materials to decorate the cards: Color markers, pictures, stickers.
For a more detailed process read: “How to Develop a Family Mission Statement” by Stephen Covey.

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and Discussion

✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. **ACTIVITY #1: The garbage can is the target. The goal is to get this wadded up piece of paper into the garbage can. But first, I’m going to blindfold you.** Give each family member a turn. Blindfold them one at a time then twirl them around so they are disoriented and tell them to throw the piece of paper into the garbage can. **Was that fair?** *Listen to answers.*
No. It’s hard to hit a target you can not see.

We are going to try it again. This time the garbage can is not the target. In your mind pick out an obscure target like a chair but don’t tell anyone that it is the target. Let each family member try this one at a time. **I want you to throw the paper and hit the target.** They will look at you confused but encourage them to try. If they throw it say, “Good try but you missed.” **It’s hard to hit a target you can’t see. It’s even harder to hit a target when you don’t know what it is!**

B. **ACTIVITY #2: What is the target—the goal and purpose—of our family?** *Listen and encourage discussion. Write down answers.* **We are going to come up with a Family Mission Statement. Here are the ground rules for this activity:**

Everyone’s ideas are important	Don’t judge others
One person talks at a time	Everyone listens
Write down all ideas	Be encouraging

Everyone gets a turn to answer the following questions. Give everyone an opportunity to answer question #1 then move on to the next question. Invite a volunteer to write down the answers:

1. **Name three things about which you are passionate.** Could be a sport, video game, collection, reading, friend, job.
2. **Name one or two things that are unique about you.**

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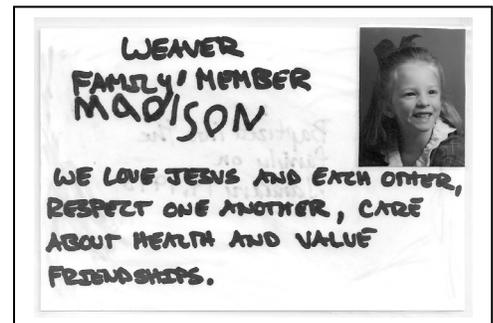
3. Name one or two things you like about every other member of the family.
4. What makes you want to come home?
5. What kind of family do you want your friends and guest to see?
6. What is important to our family?
 - a. How do we spend our time?
 - b. How do we spend our money?
 - c. What do we say?
7. What makes our family unique?

Work together (the leader does not want to dominate the discussion or over-direct) and try to group the answers. For example: If sports come up several times you may want to group them under one topic called “competition” or “physical health.” If joking, funny movies and other light-hearted issues are mentioned then you might want to have a topic called “humor.” Church, youth group, Family Time, Bible story books could be categorized under the topic of “Christian” or “faith.”

See if you can craft the common areas into a one-sentence mission statement. Sample Mission Statements: 1. *We love Jesus and each other, respect one another, care about health and value friendships.* 2. *Learning, living and teaching Christ-like relationships.*

C. ACTIVITY #3: Using 3x5 cards, special markers, pictures of family members, etc. create a Family Mission Statement card for each member of the family. You can “laminare” the card using clear packing tape.

D. BREAK. This is a good breaking point if you want to do the next activity as a separate Family Time.



E. ACTIVITY #4: Family of God Mission Statement. **When we become a Christian—believe and follow Jesus—then we become part of God’s family. What is the mission statement for members in the Family of God?** *Listen.*

Invite volunteers to look up the following scriptures and make a list of key points. Feel free to add or substitute additional verses.

- 2 Corinthians 5:20 Ambassador for Christ
- Matthew 5:13 Salt of the earth. Bring flavor.
- John 15:16 Chosen to bear fruit.
- 1 Peter 2:9 Chosen, royal priesthood
- Malachi 2:15 Raise Godly children
- Matthew 28:19-20 Tell others about Jesus.
- Mark 12:28-31 Love God and love others.

See if you can craft the major themes from these scriptures into a one-sentence mission statement. Example of a Family of God mission statement: *To get our children safely to the home in heaven that their Father God has prepared for them.*

Using a new 3x5 card (or the back of the one you created for your Family Mission Statements), special markers, pictures of family members, etc. make a God's Family Mission Statement card for each member of the family. You can laminate the card using clear packing tape.

V. Close in Prayer

VI. Pass It On: Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on* to another family.