



Develop a family mission statement

INVOLVE YOUNGER KIDS AS APPROPRIATE

While you want to include the thoughts of a 4-8 year old, don't get bogged down with trying to get them to say more than they are able. You don't want to polarize or frustrate the older children by being too inclusive. Ask open-ended questions. Listen. Keep their involvement short. Write your FMS for the 11 and 12 year olds to buy in and the younger ones will fall in line as they mature.

ASK OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

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CHOOSING A FAMILY VERSE OF SCRIPTURE

Though largely in the hands of parents to find and suggest a few possibilities, it is helpful for the children as much as they are able to understand the verses and give their thoughts on the 2 or 3 to choose from. Be sure to use a modern translation for more understandable wording.





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SET UP FAMILY DISCUSSION TIMES

Have two or three 30-minute discussions (not longer) to explain to them the FMS purpose – what you want to do, why a FMS is important, and to begin getting their thoughts. Write everything down. Try to get it in their words the ways to express what they want in a family

DEVELOP A GOOD SET OF QUESTIONS

Some examples:

1. What do you like about our family?
2. What don't you like about our family?
3. Why do you like being part of our family?
4. What is different about our family?
5. What other family would you like to be a part of? Why?
6. What is important to our family?
7. What kind of family do we want to be?

DETERMINE THE CATEGORIES

While you are free to include anything you want to in your FMS, here is a basic guideline. It is wise to include your views about God, others and you as a family.

1. God- Who we are in relation to God as a family. Describe where God should fit in. How important is God to our family?
2. Others- Who we are in relation to others outside our family. Describe how we will impact our world. How important is caring for others? How do you want your family to be in the lives of others?
3. Your Family- Who we are in relation to each other within the family? Describe how we want these relationships to be. How important will my family be to me and me to my family?
4. Other Possible topics: Money and finances, possessions and property, time and priorities, nature and animals...etc.
5. Be careful about adding too much that is really secondary. A FMS is not a collection of everything you believe or will teach to your children. It is your core values. Remember – less is often more.

