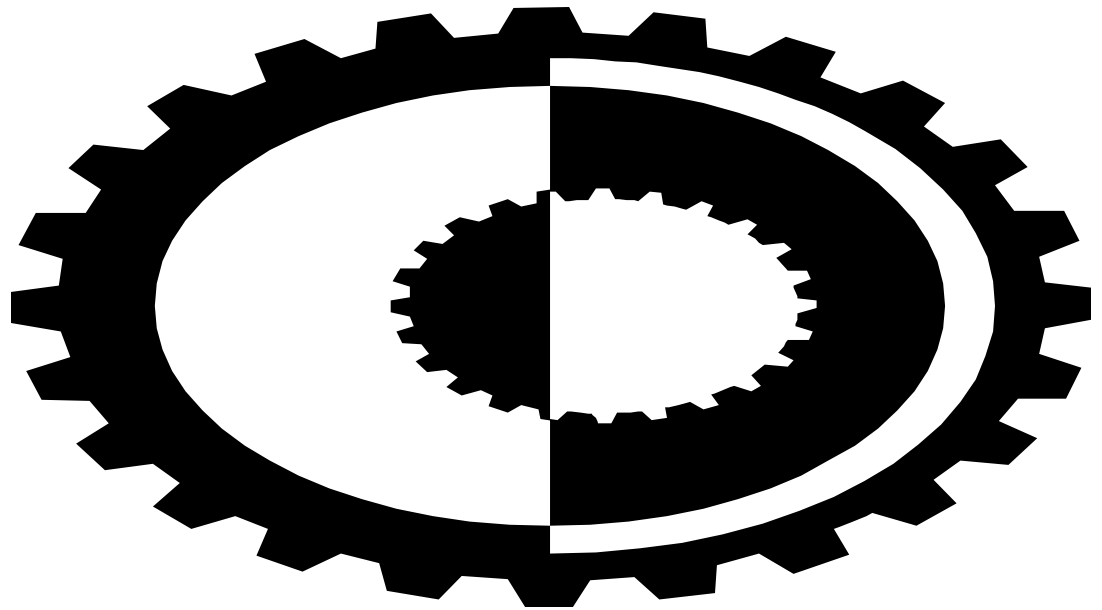


# Developing Your Family Vision



## **READ IMMEDIATELY!**

Completing this packet before the workshop will greatly enhance your preparedness for developing your Family Mission.

### WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS

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## Developing a Family Vision

Dear Participants,

Thank you for the commitment you've made to your family in seeking God's Vision and Mission for your family.

More often than not, it is not wrong motives, but wrong methods that keep families from fulfilling their dreams of love, harmony, and happiness.

I want to give you hope through the process of developing your own family vision and mission. In my life, this has been the most exciting adventure I have ever experienced. I feel that I am fulfilling a destiny as the leader of my family. No longer am I going to let life just happen, sweeping us along with the flow of society's values and trends, without any sense of a purpose, a map, a compass, or an overall guiding plan. All of nature has a mission statement. It is the DNA chromosomal structure of every cell. This mission statement tells every cell what it is and how it functions. It tells the cell what it will become and how it relates to every other cell.

Let me try to sum up what I am saying. Your family vision and mission is the single most important decision your family will ever make! Why? Because it will govern every decision you will ever make.

– Greg Gunn

## Developing a Family Vision

We believe it is critical to your success for this weekend that you come prepared by completing the following exercises. These will lay a Biblical foundation for the importance of God's Vision and Mission for your family for the generations to come.

**(I'm speaking to you, Dads. This is your responsibility to lead your wife in completing this before you leave.)**

- 1) Read and complete the two attached Bible studies.
- 2) Accumulate and organize the items on the attached "resources" list.
- 3) Preview the "Before You Get There" instructions so you'll know the first project that should be completed **before** your arrival.

# BIBLE STUDY—PSALM 78:1-11

Amplified

1. GIVE EAR, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ear to the words of my mouth.
2. I will open my mouth in a parable (in instruction by numerous examples); I will utter dark sayings of old [that hide important truth] – [Matt. 13:34,35].
3. Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.
4. We will not hide them from their children, but we will tell to the generation to come the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonderful works that He has performed.
5. For He established a testimony (an express precept) in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, commanding our fathers that they should make [the great facts of God's dealings with Israel] known to their children.
6. That the generation to come might know them, that the children still to be born might arise and recount them to their children.
7. That they might set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but might keep His commandments.
8. And might not be as their fathers – a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that set not their hearts aright nor prepared their hearts to know God, and whose spirits were not steadfast and faithful to God.
9. The children of Ephraim were armed and carrying bows, yet they turned back in the day of battle.
10. They kept not the covenant of God and refused to walk according to His law.
11. And forgot His works and His wonders that He had shown them.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. List all the phrases that describe passing God's Word from generation to generation:

v2. \_\_\_\_\_

v3. \_\_\_\_\_

v4. \_\_\_\_\_

v5. \_\_\_\_\_

v6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name the four things Israelites were to teach their children: vs. 4&5

3. What do you think may have caused the "children of Ephraim" to turn back. What about today's American generation? Why do you think each generation seems to get "colder" instead of "hotter" for God?

## BIBLE STUDY—Jeremiah 35:1-19

1. The Word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the days of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah: 2. Go to the house of the Rechabites and speak to them and bring them into the house of the Lord, into one of the chambers; then give them (who are pledged to drink no wine) some wine to drink. 3. So I took Jaazaniah son of Jeremiah, the son of Illabazziuah, and his brothers and all his sons, and the whole house of Rechabites, 4. And I brought them into the house of the Lord, into the chamber of the sons of Ranan *son* of Igdaliah the man of God, which was by the chamber of the princes, above the chamber of Maaseiah son of Shallum the keeper of the door. 5. And I set before the sons of Shallum the keeper of the door. 5. And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pitchers full of wine, and cups, and I said to them. Drink wine. 6. But they said, We will drink no wine, for Jonadab son of Rechab, our father, commanded us: You shall not drink wine, neither you nor your sons, forever. 7. Neither shall you build a house or sow seed or plant a vineyard or have them; but you shall dwell all your days in tents, that you may live many days in the land where you are temporary residents. 8. And we have obeyed the voice of Jonadab son of Rechab, our father, in all that he charged us, to drink no wine all our days—we, our wives, our sons, and our daughters—9. And not to build ourselves houses to live in; nor do we have vineyard or field or seed. 10. But we have dwelt in tents and have obeyed and done according to all that Jonadab our ancestor commanded us. 11. But when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against the land, we said, Come and let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans and the army of the Syrians. So we are living in Jerusalem. 12. Then came the word of the Lord to Jeremiah: 13. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Go and say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will you not receive instruction and listen to My words and obey them? Says the Lord. 14. The command which Jonadab son of Rechab gave to his sons not to drink wine, has been carried out and established (as a custom for more than two hundred years). To this day they drink no wine, but they have obeyed their father's command. But I, even I, have persistently spoken to you, but you have not listened to and obeyed Me. 15. I have sent also to you all My servants the prophets earnestly and persistently, saying, Return now every man from his evil way and amend your doings and go not after other gods to serve them; and then you shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers. But you did not submit and consent to Me or listen to and obey Me. 16. Since the sons of Jonadab son of Rechab have fulfilled and established as he commanded them, but these people have not listened to and obeyed Me, 17. Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I am bringing upon Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the evil that I have pronounced against them, because I have spoken to them, but they have not listened, and I have called to them, but they have not answered. 18. And Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites, Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Because you have obeyed the command of Jonadab your father and have kept all his precepts and have done according to all that he commanded you, 19. Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab son of Rechab shall never fail [to have] a man [descendant] to stand before Me.

1. Who did Jeremiah invite into the house of God and what did he ask them to do?

\_\_\_\_\_ V. 2

2. What response did they give?

\_\_\_\_\_ V.6

3. What were the three things their great-great Grandfather asked them not to do?

\_\_\_\_\_ V. 6&7

What was his name? \_\_\_\_\_ V.6

4. What did the Rechabite family do when the Babylonians marched into their country?

\_\_\_\_\_ V.11

5. Was Jeremiah impressed with the obedience of the Rechabites?

\_\_\_\_\_ V. 14

How many times had Jonadab given the 3 simple instructions to his children?

\_\_\_\_\_ V.14

How often had Jeremiah and the other prophets reminded the Children of Israel about obeying God's law?

\_\_\_\_\_ V. 15

6. What did God say would happen to the children of Israel because of not obeying the God of their Fathers?

\_\_\_\_\_ V. 17

7. How impressed was God with the Rechabites obedience?

\_\_\_\_\_ V. 18

What reward did He promise to give them? \_\_\_\_\_ V. 19

8. How important to God is a multi-generational plan to develop Godly descendants? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Write a short note of instruction to your Great-Great Grandchildren that could preserve them as a Godly influence in those future days.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Resources to Take with You

1. List of family values (If you don't have any written down, start now)
2. Prayer journals
3. Parents' input (they may have lived by an informal mission statement)
4. Input from older children (12 and up)
5. Included Bible Studies (already completed by you and your spouse)
6. "Thought Provokers" - These questions will help you formulate your thoughts
7. Any scriptures that are particularly cherished by you
8. Identification of any gifts and passions you might have
9. A planning calendar

## Before You Get There

**Set aside some time**—before the workshop date

**Start with prayer** – ask God for his wisdom – James 1:5

**Enjoy** one another, laugh, and tell your spouse why you love him/her.

### **Start Brainstorming**

Complete the following before you arrive.

- Review the “resources” that you brought along.
- Look at your family values list (if you don’t have any written down, start now) and write down those that you feel unusually strong about.
- You might use the “thought provoker” questions on the next page to help you formulate your thoughts.
- Have a notepad and write down those characteristics, traits, beliefs, dreams, etc. that currently define your family.  
(*Ex. We have a passion for helping those in need.*)  
You can also write down things that bother you as a family.  
(*Ex. I’m unhappy about the world’s influence on our family.*)
- Begin by imagining a 25<sup>th</sup> family reunion. What do you want that to look like? What will people be saying about the family? About each other?

## **“THOUGHT PROVOKERS” What is our Family Missions and Philosophy?**

You may want to use these questions to help you brainstorm. It is not necessary to answer every question. These questions are just a tool to help you formulate the key values, beliefs, and characteristics from which your Mission Statement will be derived.

1. What are our family's most deeply held values and beliefs?
2. What are our gifts and passions as a family?
3. What are the major philosophical truths that we want our family to live by?
4. What character traits do we want our children to develop?
5. What was our favorite childhood memory? Would we want to carry that memory forward?
6. What would we like to teach our children about spiritual development and our own personal beliefs?
7. How would we like our family, relatives, and guests to feel when they enter our home?
8. What is our family's truest purpose?
9. What would our family look like if it really turned out well?
10. If our family were absolutely perfect, what would its elements be?
11. What are the values that give purpose to our family?
12. What kind of words do we want people to use when describing our family?



*Last revised 08/27/08*