

faith  
and the  
modern  
family

How to Raise a Healthy Family  
in a “Modern Family” World

FAMILY, INC. WORKBOOK

BY CRAIG JUTILA

# Design Your Family's Process

*An intelligent person aims at wise action, but a fool starts off in many directions.*  
Proverbs 17:24, GNB

Hopefully you just finished reading chapters 10-11 of *Faith and the Modern Family* and have just arrived at chapter 12!

If you have not read chapters 10-11 then...awesome! Pick up a copy at [www.whowillyouempower.com/fmofy](http://www.whowillyouempower.com/fmofy) and get started building your "Family, Inc."

We have learned three important things up to this point!

**First:**

We learned that our foundation, vision and mission help us with our purpose.

**Second:**

We learned that our values and goals help us with our priorities.

**Third:**

We are bringing everything together to build Family, Inc.

Think of this workbook as a step-by-step guide to walk your family through the process of creating your Family, Inc.

The process is simple, but it will take some time to finish. Enjoy the process and set a reasonable pace to walk through each step. You don't need to rush the process, but don't let it drag either. The longer you wait between steps the more momentum you lose.

If you get stuck, hang in there! Do something creative or different, or sit quietly and wait for God to speak.

# How To Use This Workbook

There will be questions to answer, activities to complete and thoughts to record. You will brainstorm ideas and think creatively about the focus of your family. Here are couple of suggestions as you begin.

## 1. Be Prepared

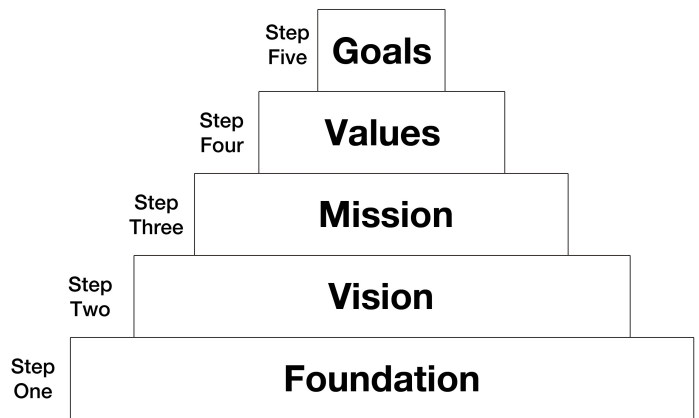
Keep pen and paper or the workbook with you until you have completed all five steps. Be prepared to capture a word, thought, phrase or idea at any time. You can write your thoughts and ideas on the following pages as you work through each step.

## 2. Invest The Time

Plan to spend 57 minutes on each step. It's probably more time than you need, but the extra time will bring you some balance.

## 3. Take The Steps

Take each step in order starting with your foundation and finishing with your goals. Each step builds upon the next. Keep in mind the five building blocks we discussed in chapter ten.



## 4. Follow The Plan

Each step you take is broken down into five practice points. A verse to remember, thoughts to consider, actions to take, what we accomplished and a page for you to try it out. Let me explain.



Verse To Remember

**Verse To Remember** is a verse that will give you a little context for what you are doing and why you are doing it.



Thoughts To Consider

**Thoughts To Consider** are directions and guidelines to help you move toward your goal of creating Family, Inc.



Actions To Take

**Actions To Take** are directions to help you accomplish the step you are taking.



What We Accomplished

**What We Accomplished** serves as an example of what the finished product of that step looks like. What We Accomplished is here so you can see what the final outcome looks like.



Try It Out

**Try It Out** is just what it says, a blank sheet for you and your family to “try out” your ideas for Family Inc. It’s a place to take notes on, draw on, write questions on and brainstorm.

# Step 1: Deciding My Family's Foundation



## Verse To Remember

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.”  
1 Corinthians 3:11



## Thoughts To Consider

Take a look at the following verses and inspirational quotes. Each one could serve as a foundation on which to build your family. Think about one of these being your family theme, your family verse or your family quote. It will be your family's foundation on which you will build your family's future.

### Inspirational Verses

1. “Serve one another” (Galatians 5:13).
2. “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24).
3. “Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him” (Colossians 3:10).
4. “I am writing to remind you, dear friends, that we should love one another. This is not a new commandment, but one we have had from the beginning” (2 John 1:5).
5. “Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God” (Ephesians 5:1).
6. “Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory” (Romans 15:7).
7. “Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone” (2 Peter 1:5-7).
8. “Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32).
9. “And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father” (Colossians 3:17).

## Inspirational Quotes

1. "All greatness is achieved while performing outside your comfort zone." Greg Arnold
2. "Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows." Helen Keller
3. "The only people you should try and get even with are the ones who have helped you."  
John E. Southard
4. "Our life is what our thoughts make it." Marcus Aurelius
5. "It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them."  
Mark Twain
6. "It's not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves." Edmund Hillary
7. "The difference between the possible and the impossible lies in a man's determination."  
Tommy Lasorda
8. "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." Aristotle
9. "Never stop growing. Plateaus should only be found in geography books, not in personal experiences."  
John Maxwell



## Actions To Take

Read through the verses and quotes a few times. Find one that catches your attention and resonates with your soul; one that you feel would best describe the type of foundation you want to build your family on. Once you select a verse or a quote you want as your foundation, then you are ready to move on to the next step.

I'm sure some families will go a little further when deciding their family's foundation. In fact, I hope you do! However, I don't want anyone to get stuck. I've provided some choices just to make the process enjoyable. Some families will use the verses or quotes provided as a springboard to explore other Bible verses or inspirational quote options. I say, explore, unleash and get creative!

Perhaps you don't need to start from scratch. Some families already have a foundation and may be doing a family renovation. They just need to build a vision and mission addition and maybe do a remodel on their values and goals.

**Before moving on to the next step, make sure you have done the following three things:**

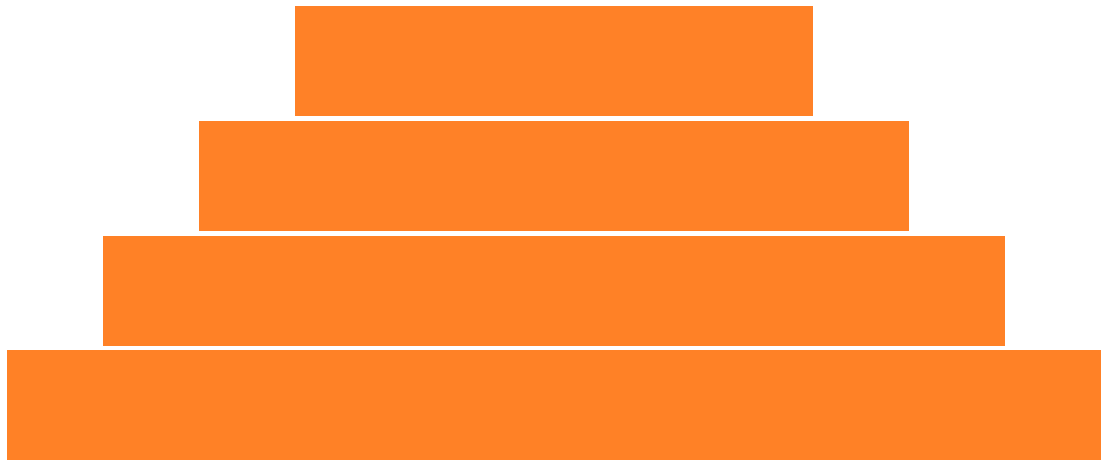
1. You understand the importance of a firm foundation.
2. You have made a decision on your foundation.
3. You have written down your verse or quote that will serve as your foundation.

## What We Accomplished

### **Foundation**

So that you can see an example for each step in the design process, we are going to choose Colossians 3:17 as our sample family foundation:

Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father (Colossians 3:17).



**Step 1**

**Foundation**  
Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17



Try It Out

## Step 2: Designing My Family's Vision



### Verse To Remember

“Write the vision. Make it clear on tablets so that anyone can read it quickly.” Habakkuk 2:2 GW



### Thoughts To Consider

In this step, we are **casting a vision of who you want your family to become**, not who you are now. Think forward with hope, not back with regret. Think the way Paul thought when he said, “My friends, I don’t feel that I have already arrived. But I forget what is behind, and I struggle for what is ahead” (Philippians 3:13, CEV).

Fulfilling the vision you have for your family is a never-ending pursuit. You won’t accomplish it next week, next month or next year.

Habakkuk 2:2-3 says, Write the vision. Make it clear on tablets so that anyone can read it quickly. The vision will still happen at the appointed time. It hurries toward its goal. It won’t be a lie. If it’s delayed, wait for it. It will certainly happen. It won’t be late (GOD’S WORD).

This verse in Habakkuk tells us three things.

**First** - Make your vision clear.

**Second** - Write it down. (Habakkuk suggests tablets, but paper will work)

**Third** - Your vision will be accomplished over time.

Once your vision statement is designed, you will spend the rest of your family life accomplishing it.





## Actions To Take

In order to write our vision statement, we need a few good words. To get our minds going in the right direction, answer the following two questions. I have given you a few words as examples to get you started.

### Question Number One:

What words or short phrases best describe the kind of family you want to become? Five sample answers are provided for you as an example and the different color words will make sense on the next page! Finish filling in the rest of the empty spaces.

1. Kind hearted	8.	15.
2. Compassionate	9.	16.
3. Honest	10.	17.
4. Encouraging	11.	18.
5. Excellence in all things	12.	19.
6.	13.	20.
7.	14.	21.

### Question Number Two:

What are some things you could be doing to be a better family in the future? Five sample answers are provided for you as an example. Finish filling in the rest of the empty spaces.

1. Pray together	8.	15.
2. Go to church	9.	16.
3. Take vacations	10.	17.
4. Laugh	11.	18.
5. Serve others	12.	19.
6.	13.	20.
7.	14.	21.

## Select Five Answers

Once you have answered both questions select five of your answers and write them down. The goal is to select a few words that will paint the best picture of who you want your family to become. Write those words below, then select three words and mold them into a short, personal statement you can remember! Here is an example from the answers to questions 1 and 2 above.

1. *Compassionate*
2. *Serve Others*
3. *Excellent in all things*
4. *Encouraging*
5. *Pray Together*



## Write Your Vision Statement

Based on the choices above, our sample Family Inc. will have the following vision statement:

*We are a family who does our absolute best for God and others.*

Look at the actions you took, and you will see the sample vision statement connects them.

1. We answered questions 1 and 2.
2. We selected five words from the answers to the questions and then **narrowed the list of words to three** (the ones in italics).
3. We wrote our vision statement from the words we selected.

### Here are examples of other vision statements:

- We are a family who serves others daily.
- We are a family who makes a difference in the world.
- We are a family who plays, prays and stays together.
- We are a family who practices grace, mercy and love.
- We are a family with transparent hearts practicing authentic behavior.

Remember that your vision statement won't tell you why your family exists, but it will tell you who you want to become. As you're thinking, discussing and writing, keep in mind three things:

1. *Keep it memorable.* You can't become what you won't remember.
2. *Keep it short.* Use fewer but no more than 140 characters. Make it tweetable!
3. *Keep it personal.* This is about your family. Preserve your uniqueness!



## What We Accomplished

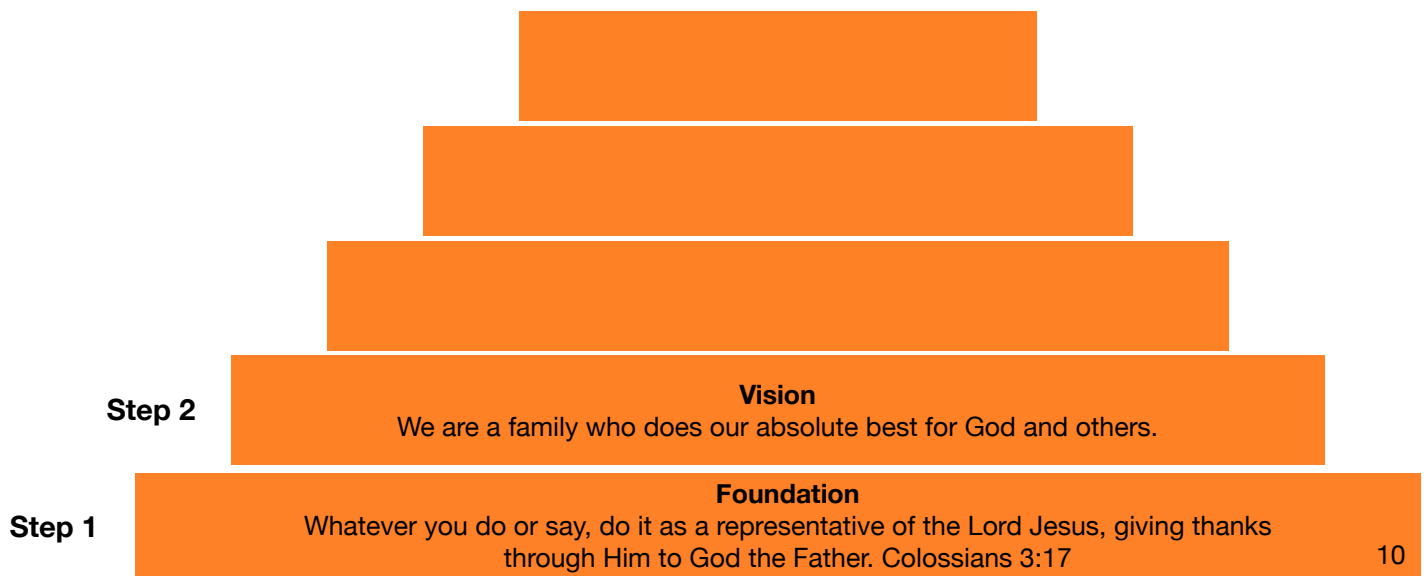
We will carry what we have accomplished from previous steps through the remaining steps, so you can see how the process unfolds and our plan develops.

### Foundation

“Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father” (Col. 3:17).

### Vision

“We are a family who does our absolute best for God and others.”





Try It Out

## Step 3: Describing My Family's Mission



### Verse To Remember

“Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.” Ephesians 5:17 NLT



### Thoughts To Consider

Now here is some great news. By writing a mission statement for your family, you will eliminate just about every obstacle in the way of your family becoming what it was meant to be! If you have ever thought or said, “My work all seems so useless! I have spent my strength for nothing and to no purpose” (Isa. 49:4), then be prepared for a life change! After completing this step, you will have a purpose and direction for your family to follow and, you will know why your family has been placed in this world!

Let me tell you right upfront that there is not one right way to write your family’s mission statement. I wish there was a single rule to follow that would make writing your mission statement both simple and accurate. If you have never written a mission statement before, you may feel a little out of your element and already have more than a few questions. But the process you are about to follow will give you an ordered structure to follow, and you will be able to write a compelling mission statement for your family.



### Actions To Take

Using the vision statement that we just wrote in step 2, “We are a family who does our absolute best for God and others,” we are going to describe why our family exists in this world and why we live life the way we do. Our mission statement will give us a few instructions but the real power of the mission statement tells us and reminds us why our family is here.

## Think In Three's...Please!

For example, think of “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”—three rights written by Thomas Jefferson when he wrote the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson was a gifted writer and communicator, and “his famous phrase reflects a rhetorical technique that can be traced to ancient Greece—a figure of speech using three words to express one idea.”<sup>1</sup>

**The rule of three** “suggests that things that come in threes are inherently funnier, more satisfying, or more effective than other numbers of things. The reader or audience of this form of text is also more likely to consume information if it is written in groups of threes.”<sup>2</sup>

### Here Are A Few Examples

Ready, set, go.  
Lights, camera, action.  
Reading, writing and arithmetic.  
Blood, sweat and tears.  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

# 3hree

### Here Are a Few Questions

How many piggies?  
How many Musketeers?  
How many blind mice?  
How many bears with Goldilocks?

# 3hree

### Here Are A Few More Questions

How many primary colors?  
Have you played rock, paper...?  
Have you won gold, silver or...  
How many steps to Family Inc?  
(Actually there are five I just wanted to make sure you were tracking with me.)

# 3hree

1. CarmineGallo, “ThomasJefferson, SteveJobs, and the Rule of 3,” *Forbes*, July 2, 2012. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/carminegallo/2012/07/02/thomas-jefferson-steve-jobs-and-the-rule-of-3/> (accessed August 2013).

2. Wikipedia, s.v. “ruleofthree,” November 29, 2013. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule\\_of\\_three\\_%28writing%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule_of_three_%28writing%29) (accessed August 2013).

## Apply the Rule of Three - Part 1

I want to apply the rule of three to writing our mission statement.

### **Talk it over.**

If your kids are old enough, ask them to be involved. Generally speaking, people support what they help create, so involving your older children in the process may just help them buy in to what you are building. Your end goal in writing your mission statement is to finish the following sentence: “Our family exists to . . .”

### **Take your time.**

It will take some time to come up with your family’s mission statement, so don’t feel like you need to get everything done in an hour—you can’t. You don’t want to rush the process or force it. Ask for help, connect as a family, talk it over with your spouse. Let it marinate in your mind before you make your final choice. Once the statement moves from your head to your heart, you will know; then you are ready to trade in your pencil and eraser for a permanent pen.

### **Think it through.**

You could say, “Our family lives to have fun.” However, there are a few things wrong with this sort of mission statement. First, it’s not measurable. Why are you just having fun? Where is the fun happening? How often do we have fun? Second, it’s not specific. How will you have fun? Where will you have fun? Third, it’s not very practical for everyday life. Your family exists to have fun? That’s it? You can definitely include fun or happiness in your mission statement, but make the statement more specific.

**As you do your thinking, discussing and writing, keep in mind these three things.**

- ❶ Make it measurable. Can you see what you want to do and where?
- ❷ Make it specific. Say what needs to be said in three to four sentences.
- ❸ Make it practical. Include realistic directions to what you want to do.

## Apply the Rule of Three - Part 2

Let's apply the rule of three another way. The following chart of verbs will serve as a source for finishing our statement. Of course you don't need to use these exact words for your mission statement.

I encourage you to do some exploring on your own as a family. But you are free to adopt any of the words here as well. As I mentioned above, we will start our statement with "Our family exists to. . . ." Now we're going to add to the statement the three words from one of the columns in the chart and include them. Let's choose the three words in the first column.

Action Verbs				
Know	Listen	Encourage	Invest	Model
Grow	Learn	Equip	Instill	Move
Show	Live	Empower	Involve	Mentor

For the families who want to explore further, you can scour the Internet and Google "action verbs" and "rules of three" until you find what you are looking for. I will often sit down with a dictionary in one hand, yes, one made of paper, and a pen in the other, and make a list of words that rhyme, flow, or start with the same letter. A powerful website that can help you accomplish this is the One Look Dictionary System, [www.onelook.com](http://www.onelook.com).

### Our sample family mission statement now looks like this:

*Our family exists to know, grow, show.*

Not very dynamic, is it? Let's finish it up by adding a few words to make our mission more specific.



## Ask and Answer Three Questions

Let me first remind you of our vision statement:  
We are a family who does our absolute best for God and others.

Now, if you had to write a set of instructions to make your vision come together, what would you say? What words would you use? We are looking for three ways, three words or phrases, three actions that will explain our family's existence, that describe why we are here and what we will do to accomplish our vision.

We're looking for three words that will make a huge difference in the life of our family, and depending on our mission, the lives of others. Here is an example of three questions you can ask for the words "know," "grow" and "show" in our mission statement.

1. **What should we KNOW** in order to do our absolute best for God and others?
2. **What should we GROW** in order to do our absolute best for God and others?
3. **What should we SHOW** in order to do our absolute best for God and others?

The chart below shows how each of the questions could be answered.

ACTION WORD	SPECIFIC WORD	SPECIFIC WORD
Know	God	Better
Grow	Family Relationships	Deeper
Show	Love	To Others

Now write your family mission statement by finishing the following phrase,

**"Our family exists to . . ."**

Include your three action words and your three specific words.

Our sample mission statement would then read: Our family exists to know God better, grow family relationships deeper and show love to others.

Before moving on, set aside your statement and let it marinate in your mind. If it doesn't move your heart after a few days, make a few adjustments or go back to the beginning of this step and start again. It's better to take your time and get it right than be quick and get it wrong.



## What We Accomplished

### **Foundation**

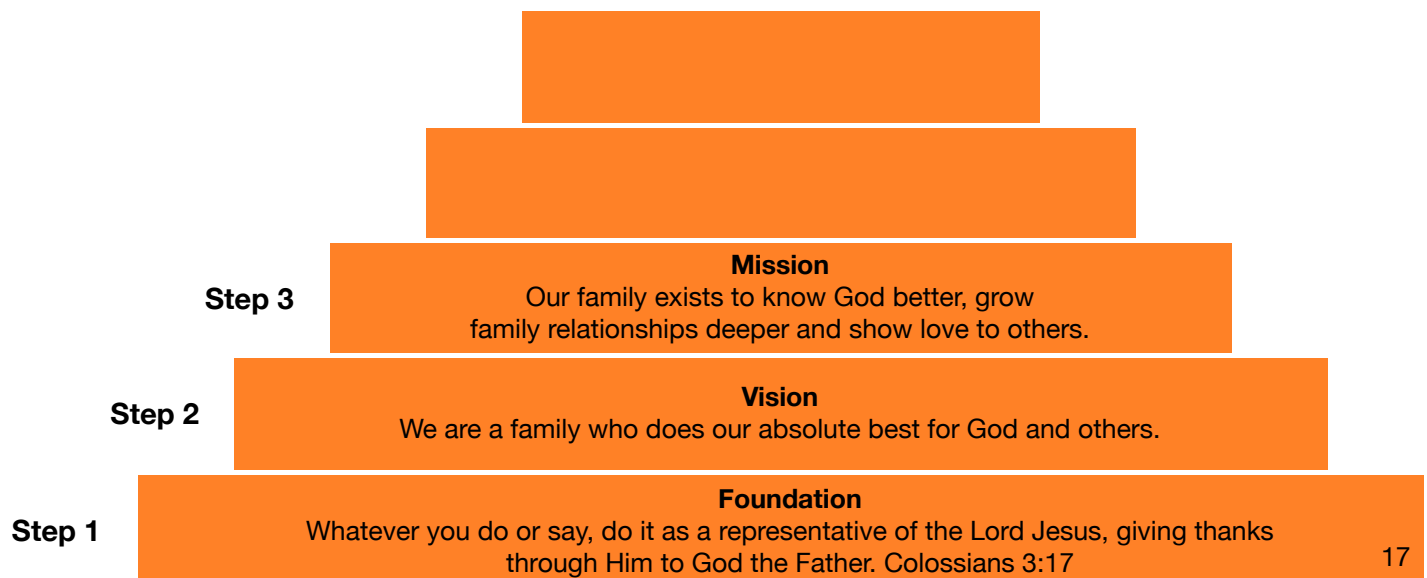
“Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father” (Col. 3:17).

### **Vision**

“We are a family who does our absolute best for God and others.”

### **Mission**

Our family exists to know God better, grow family relationships deeper and show love to others.





Try It Out

## Step 4: Defining My Family's Values



### Verse To Remember

“Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory.”  
Proverbs 11:14 NASB



### Thoughts To Consider

Remember, our values are principles that guide our behavior and inform our decisions. What makes a value a true core value is whether or not it is actively influencing you to act and behave accordingly. If one of your core values says “Honesty and integrity will guide our decisions,” then when tax time rolls around, well, you know. Values only work when they tell us how to go about our daily lives and we listen and put them into action. When our values are in place and influencing our family behavior, a healthy culture will begin to develop. If values have not yet been part of your family, you will be in for a culture shock.

Repetition creates habits and habits create culture. Your values are alive and working when your family can look at them and say, “This is the way we do things in our family.” At that moment, you’ll know that your values have been instilled into your family—but that takes time.

How many values to have is based on your unique family.

I would say between five and seven is a good number to have but there is no right or wrong answer. If you have too many values you probably won’t remember them. If you don’t have enough, they won’t be very helpful. You’re the one who best can decide how many values will work for your family.

How you should write your values is up to you, but keep in mind that your goal is to have your values guide your decisions.

*On the next few pages there are 3 examples for you to look at.*

## **First Example: Attach Your Values to Your Family Name**

If our goal is to have our values guide our decisions, then how important is it to remember them? Pretty important, right? For our family, we wrote our values into our last name. We did this to highlight our uniqueness, make our values memorable and give the added emotional component that says, "This is what guides the Jutila family." Notice the four characteristics of our list:

1. There are six values because there are six letters in our last name.
2. There is one word for each letter, so we can remember them.
3. There is a brief explanation of what each word means.
4. There is a verse that provides the basis for the value.

### **J**ust

Do what is right and what is fair. "This is what the Lord requires from you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to live humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8, GOD'S WORD).

### **U**nderstand

Put yourself in other people's shoes. "Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too" (Phil. 2:4).

### **T**hankful

Be thankful in all situations. "Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will in Christ Jesus that you do this" (1 Thess. 5:18, GOD'S WORD).

### **I**ntegrity

Be honest and truthful in your behavior. "Finally, brothers and sisters, keep your thoughts on whatever is right or deserves praise: things that are true, honorable, fair, pure, acceptable, or commendable" (Phil. 4:8, GOD'S WORD).

### **L** laugh

Have fun and enjoy life. "Being cheerful keeps you healthy. It is slow death to be gloomy all the time" (Prov. 17:22, GNB).

### **A**ble

Overcome life's obstacles and challenges. "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13, GOD'S WORD).

## **Second Example: Attach Your Values to a Word**

Think of a word that would be appropriate and memorable to attach your values to. Take the word “practice” for example. Practice is the custom or habit of doing something. That’s a pretty good reminder for a core set of family values, don’t you think? We want our values to be practiced daily until they become a habit. Notice the three characteristics of the list:

These values contain the following components:

1. There are eight values because there are eight letters in the word “practice.”
2. There is one phrase for each letter.
3. The first word for each letter is a verb that ends in “ing.”

**P**reparing children for their future.

**R**eplenishing life with uninterrupted time.

**A**ttending church together.

**C**reating environments where family feels comfortable.

**T**rusting God to accomplish the impossible.

**I**nvesting time to serve others.

**C**elebrating life with an attitude of thankfulness.

**E**ncouraging others with our words and actions.

## **Third Example: Write Out Your Values In Order of Importance**

Another way to easily remember a list of values is to select five words that best describe your family and write them down in order of importance. This is the simplest way to write out your values, but don’t equate simple with ineffective.

Often times the simple way is the most effective way. If you want to write out your values this way, I would suggest you write a clarifying phrase or short explanation to make each value come alive.

1. Be honest.
2. Be authentic.
3. Be loyal.
4. Be available.
5. Be strong.



## Actions To Take

Read through the following list of 75 values, **highlighting the words** that most resonate with your soul. Find words that you want to be part of your family's life as you plan for their future.

Accountability	Flexibility	Passion
Adventurousness	Friendliness	Patience
Ambition	Fun	Peacefulness
Authenticity	Generosity	Persistence
Availability	Gratefulness	Organization
Challenge	Growth	Politeness
Commitment	Happiness	Practicality
Competitiveness	Harmony	Proactivity
Connectedness	Helpfulness	Punctuality
Consistency	Honesty	Relationships
Cooperativeness	Honorability	Reliability
Courage	Hope	Resourcefulness
Creativity	Hospitality	Respect
Decisiveness	Humor	Sensitivity
Determination	Influence	Sincerity
Discipline	Innovation	Simplicity
Discovery	Integrity	Solitude
Empathy	Intelligence	Stability
Empowerment	Justice	Strength
Encouragement	Knowledge	Thankfulness
Enthusiasm	Leadership	Trust
Excellence	Learning	Truth
Fairness	Loyalty	Understanding
Faith	Openness	Variety
Fitness	Orderliness	Wisdom

From the words you highlighted, select the ones that you want most for your family and write them here in order of importance to your family. I have selected a few words to serve as an example.

- Excellence
- Organization
- Proactivity
- Resourcefulness
- Wisdom

Now, get creative with the words you have selected. Look back at the three examples we spoke about. In some way, can you use your family name or a powerful word to write your chosen values? For example: you may have noticed that the five words we selected from our list of 75 values begin with the letters e, o, p, r and w; and these letters can be rearranged to form the word “power.”

If not, maybe you can use synonyms for one or more of the chosen words in order to have the first letters make a word. After rearranging the letters, use a form of each word to create phrases that describe how your family wants to enact these values. The following examples show you what this looks like.

- ❶ Proactive with opportunities
- ❷ Organized at home
- ❸ Wise with finances
- ❹ Excellence in everything
- ❺ Resourceful when challenged





## What We Accomplished

### Foundation

“Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father” (Col. 3:17).

### Vision

“We are a family who does our absolute best for God and others.”

### Mission

Our family exists to know God better, grow family relationships deeper and show love to others.

### Values

Our family relies on God’s power for life.

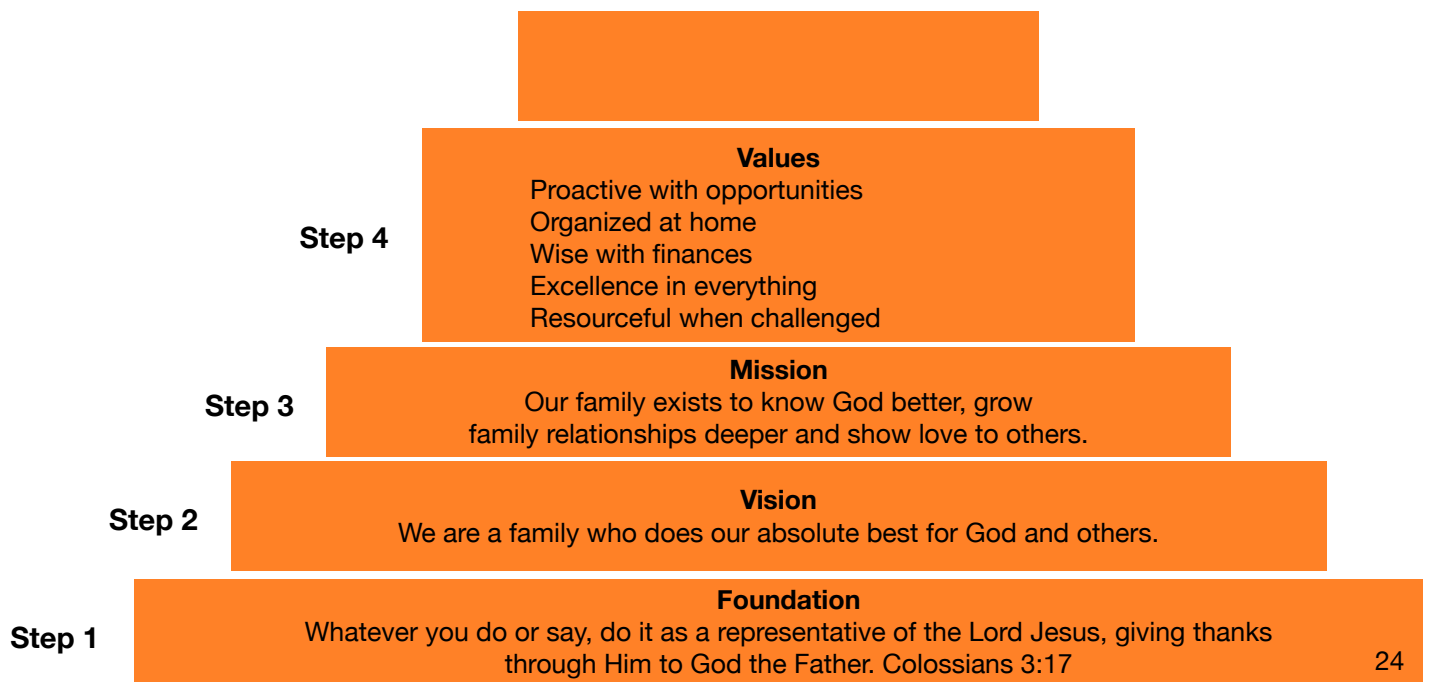
**P**roactive with opportunities

**O**rganized at home

**W**ise with finances

**E**xcellence in everything

**R**esourceful when challenged





Try It Out

## Step 5: Determining My Family's Goals



### Verse To Remember

“Plans of the persistent surely lead to productivity, but all who are hasty will surely become poor” (Prov. 21:5, ISV).



### Thoughts To Consider

Now that we have a firm foundation for our family, a vision of who we want our family to become, a mission that reminds us how we live life and a core set of values that fuel our behavior, it's time to set a few goals to help us move forward. Our goals are the small steps we take to have a big impact. Before we get started, let's take a look at the example we have been using and see how far we have come in four steps.

#### **Foundation**

Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father (Col. 3:17).

#### **Vision**

We are a family who does our absolute best for God and others.

#### **Mission**

Our family exists to know God better, grow family relationships deeper and show love to others.

#### **Values**

Our family relies on God's power for life.

**P**roactive with opportunities

**O**rganized at home

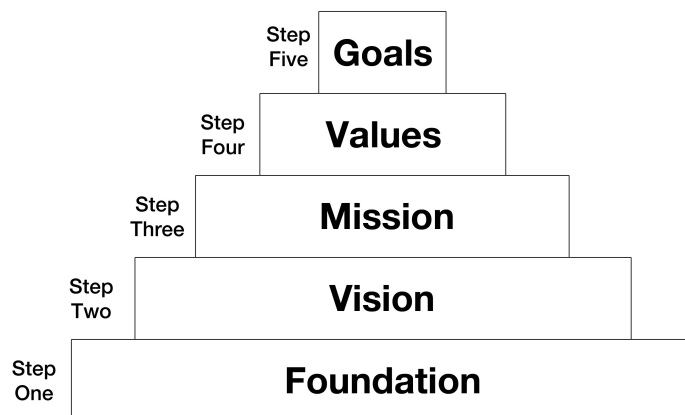
**W**ise with finances

**E**xcellence in everything

**R**esourceful when challenged

## Picture This Part 1

Let's take a look at our five building blocks once again. You are working on the fifth one right now! This picture shows the order of steps we need to take to build our family's future, starting with the foundation and ending with goals. However, once all the steps are completed, how the system works looks a little different. Let's merge what we have been working on together for the last four steps and take a look at how the system works. This will give us a better understanding of where our goals fit in the process.

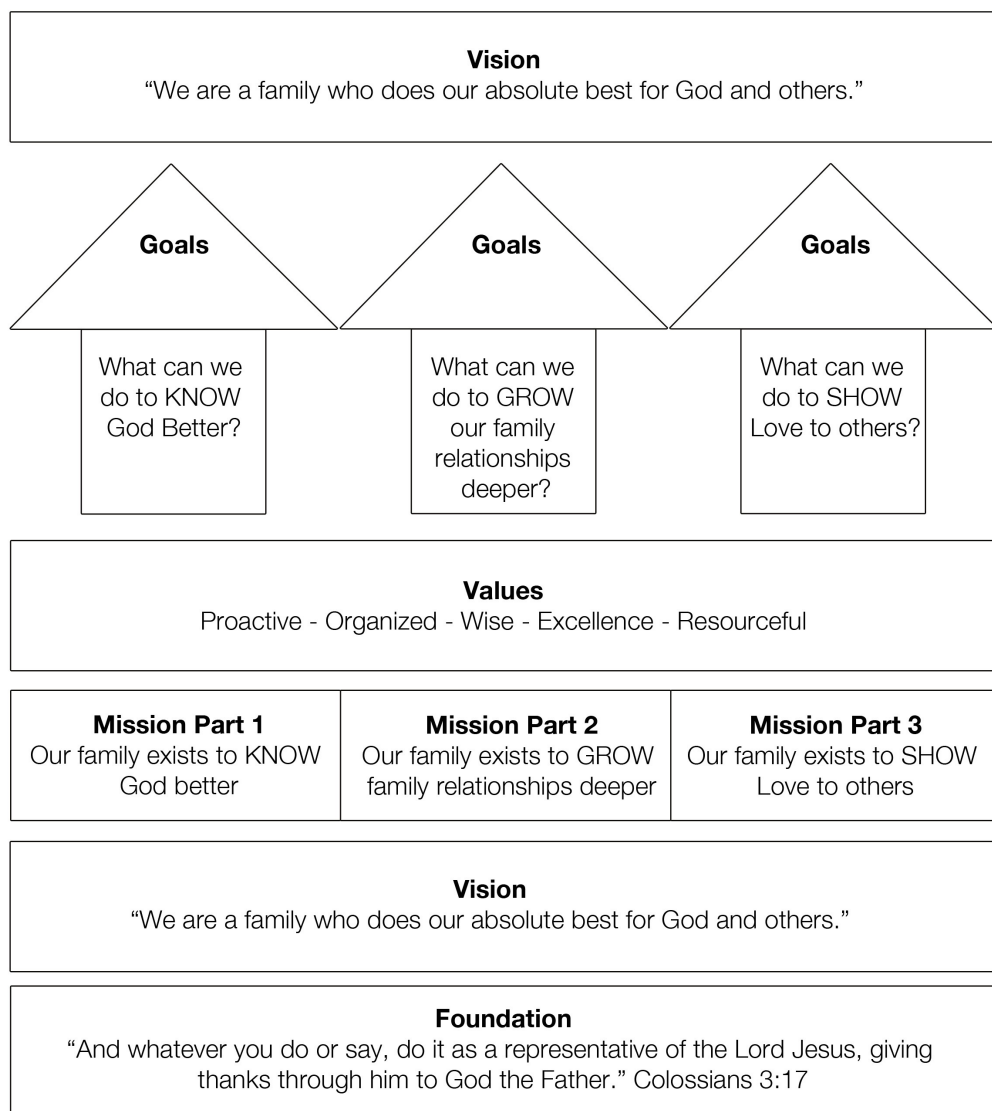


Now, let's merge what we have been working on together for the last four steps and take a look at how the system works. This will give us a better understanding of where our goals fit in the process.

## Picture This Part 2

Take a look at the very unique diagram below. You may be thinking, “Oh, no” or “What the heck” or “I quit.” It’s ok, the diagram just shows how our goals work within Family Inc.

The reason the diagram looks different is because **we had to develop our plan before we could reveal the process.** We had to decide on a foundation before we designed our vision. We had to design a vision of what we wanted our family to become before we could describe our mission. We had to describe our family mission before we defined our core family values. And finally, we had to define our values before we could determine any goals. Now that we have everything in place we can ask ourselves this very important question. Why goals? Good question. Goals help us progress toward our vision.





## Actions To Take

Our goals should be in alignment with our mission so that's where we will start. We will write one goal for each of the three areas of our mission statement so that we will know what to do in order to achieve the vision we have for our family.

### **Simplify the Mission Statement**

The way to simplify your mission statement is to pick out the essential words.

The mission statement we're using as an example ("Our family exists to know God better, grow family relationships deeper and show love to others") could be simplified to read

- KNOW God better
- GROW family deeper
- SHOW love to others

### **Ask a Question**

For each of the instructions in your mission statement, ask a question. For example:

- What can we do to know God better?
- What can we do to grow our family relationships deeper?
- What can we do to show love to others?

### **Rephrase the question to get a different perspective.**

- Where can we know God better?
- When can we grow our family relationships deeper?
- Who can we show love to?

### **Write Your Goals**

Get everyone in your family together. List each part of your mission statement across the top of separate pieces of paper. Select the area of your mission statement that you will focus on first. For example, we will write a goal that is in alignment with our mission to "grow our family relationships deeper." Ask the following question: "What can we do to grow our family relationships deeper?" Then let the ideas fly.

Example: "What can we do to grow our family relationships deeper?"

<b>Mission Statement</b>	<b>Grow Family Deeper</b>
Goal	Have dinner together.
Goal	
Goal	
Goal	

## Review Our Goal

Now, let's review our goal. If you recall back in chapter 11 of "Faith and the Modern Family," we talked about the five attributes of a well-written goal. We said goals must be . . .

- explainABLE
- attainABLE
- observABLE
- measurABLE
- adaptABLE

Now, let's take a look back at our goal and see how it matches up against the five attributes.

1. "Have dinner together." Is it explainable? Yes.
2. "Have dinner together." Is it attainable? Yes.
3. "Have dinner together." Is it observable? Yes.
4. "Have dinner together." Is it measurable? No.
5. "Have dinner together." Is it adaptable? Yes

**Did our goal pass the test? No. It didn't pass the test. It missed one key area. It wasn't measurable.**

You may think that having dinner together is measurable, because you can have a record that you had dinner together last Wednesday. Okay, that's fair. But what you are describing is "observable" not "measurable." Your goal is certainly observable: You said you wanted to have dinner together, and you did, you're done! Well, sort of. I applaud you for having dinner together, but you need to figure out how your goal can be adapted so that it's actually measurable. How about making the goal more specific? Here are three ways you can write this family goal and have it exhibit all five attributes of a well-written goal:

- **Good:** Have dinner together.
- **Better:** Have dinner together twice a week.
- **Best:** Have dinner together twice a week with everyone in our family present.

You can see as we move from **good** to **better** to **best** we simply added language that allows us to measure the goal. As we added the language we also made the goal more specific. If we say our goal is to Have dinner together twice a week with everyone in our family present, we have written a goal that answers what, how often and who will be there. Now you have a measurable goal!



# What We Accomplished

## Foundation

“Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father” (Col. 3:17).

## Vision

“We are a family who does our absolute best for God and others.”

## Mission

Our family exists to know God better, grow family relationships deeper and show love to others.

## Values

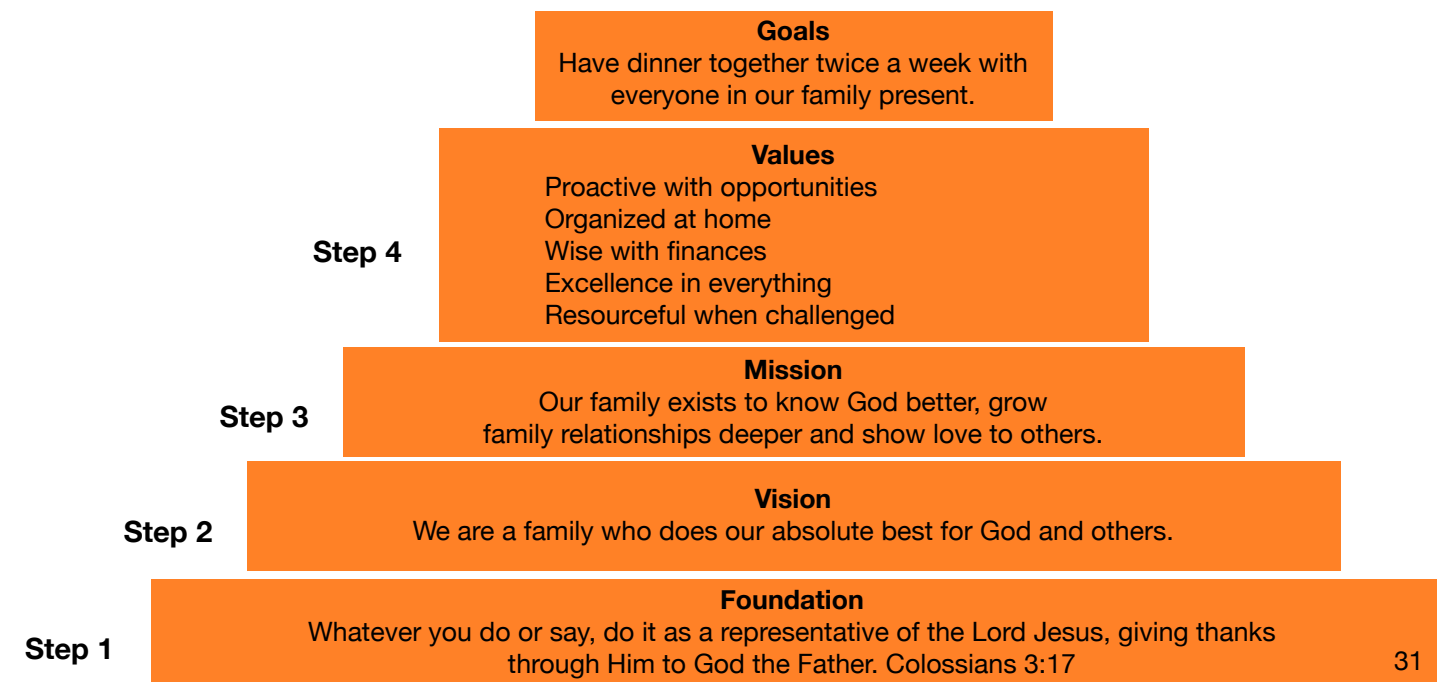
Our family relies on God’s power for life.

- Proactive with opportunities
- Organized at home
- Wise with finances
- Excellence in everything
- Resourceful when challenged

## Goals

We have written a measurable goal for one area of our mission statement.

- KNOW God better (For you to brainstorm)
- GROW family deeper → Have dinner together twice a week with everyone in our family present.
- SHOW love to others (For you to brainstorm)







## Try It Out

We have provided one goal as an example, now it's up to you. Write an additional two goals for the KNOW and SHOW portions of the sample mission statement we have been working with or write as many goals as you want to fulfill your own family's mission statement.

<b>Mission Statement</b>	
Goal	
Goal	
Goal	
Goal	
Goal	
Goal	
Goal	
Goal	
Goal	
Goal	
Goal	
Goal	
Goal	

Let me be the first to say, Congratulations!

You have come a long way in planning and providing for the future of your family. This is a great moment to look back so you can see what you have planned ahead. The vision for your family, your mission, and your goals! They all point to a future filled with hope!

Blessings on your family!

*Craig*

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