



radical *motherhood*

Writing Your Family Mission Statement

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## *Why Write a Mission Statement?*

What values are important to your family? What are the guiding principles for your marriage? For raising your children? Do all of the members of your family share the same vision? Have you ever sat down together to talk about what's important to you?

At Radical Motherhood, we believe in writing a family mission statement. We believe that families, like any organization, need to have clear direction to know where they want to go. For our families, we knew that our end-goal was to have eternal life together through our savior, Jesus Christ. We then had to decide what values, parenting styles, discipline strategies, and virtues were important in helping us reach this ultimate goal.

A mission statement can be written for a family of any size and at any time in your journey. Whether you are a newlywed couple just dreaming about having a baby or a family with grown children, this exercise is for you. There is no wrong time to find your purpose as a family!

There is also no wrong time to update your mission statement. You may find that as your family grows and children get older, there are changes you want to make. We suggest that you revisit your mission statement at least once a year to reevaluate it.

Take your time when creating your statement. Really think and pray about what you want for your family before you start. Here are some things to think about:

- Before you start, have a family meeting (we love family meetings!). Talk to your children about what a family mission statement is and why you are creating one. For our family (we have 3 teenagers), we felt like we needed something that would keep us connected while each of us was busy going in different direction.
- Don't try to do it all in one sitting. Maybe in the first meeting, introduce the idea or talk about it with your spouse. Then take some time to think about what is important to you personally and bring that back to your next meeting.
- Begin by describing your family and answering the questions in Our Family Identity, using our Brainstorming tool, or both. Again, take your time and don't try to tackle too much at once.
- Spend some time in your Bible looking for a verse that speaks to you or for inspiration. We have some suggestions on page 4.
- Start thinking about how you want to use your statement. Will it be displayed in your home? Or do you prefer to keep it in a safe place like a family photo album or Bible? Maybe you have a shared online file where you will keep it?
- Try to involve your whole family. The more input your kids and husband have, the more they will connect with the mission and refer to it when faced with a decision or difficult situation.

*Each family is unique! Write what inspires you!*

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## *Our Family Identity*

What words best describe Mom?

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What words best describe Dad?

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What words best describe our children?

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What words best describe our family?

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What activities are the most important to our family?

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What is our parenting style? Take one of these quizzes to find out: [Parenting Style Quiz](#) [Parenting Style Quiz PDF](#)

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## *Our Family Identity, cont.*

What is a Bible verse that speaks to our family? (Suggestions: Ps 128, Dt 6:7-9, Gen 2:24, Pr 14:1, Pr 22:6, Ecc 4:9-12, Eph 5:21-33, Col 3:18-21, 1Co 11:1-16, Titus 2:1-5, 1Pe 3:1-7)

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Is there a saying that speaks to our family? (ex. Live Simply, Attitude is Everything)

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When are we at our best?

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Our favorite thing to do together is:

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## *Our Family Identity, cont.*

The top 10 things we want our children to know are:

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What do we think about family? Faith? Work? Church? Community?

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## *Our Family Identity, cont.*

Which of these virtues are the most important to us?

Faith	Hope	Love
Patience	Kindness	Goodness
Modesty	Self-control	Chastity
Charity	Joy	Peace
Generosity	Gentleness	Faithfulness
Courage	Justice	Temperance

What do these virtues mean to our family?

Virtue	Meaning

What principles guide our decision-making as a couple, our relationship with each other, or our relationship with God?

Faith	Love	Repentance
Hard work	Recreation	Independence
Forgiveness	Respect	Compassion
Finances	Commitment	Knowledge

What do each of these principles mean to our family?

Principle	Meaning

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## *Brainstorming!*

Another tool to get you thinking about what your family is about is to create a brainstorm. Start with the family circle in the middle of this page and draw lines to connect other words or concepts that describe your family. You may have a separate circle for each family member, activity, or descriptive word. Add as many as you want!



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## *Rough Draft*

As you thought about each question or brainstormed, what were the main themes that emerged?

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What are your top 3 priorities as a family?

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How do you want to structure your mission statement? See pg. 10 for some templates.

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Did you find a Bible verse or a saying that you want to include?

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Write 5 sentences that describe you, for example: **In our family, we listen to each other.**

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## *Rough Draft*

Use this space to work on your rough draft:

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Use one of the templates below to create your statement or write one from scratch!

## **Our Family Mission,**

Guided by these principles,

Is to promise to work together to...

*In our family, we believe...*

*We promise to practice these values and keep the promises to each other so that we may...*

### **In our family, we**


### *The \_\_\_\_\_ Family*

*We*

*We*

*We*

*We*

*We*

*We*

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## *Using Your Mission Statement*

A family mission statement is not meant to be developed and then put in a drawer somewhere, never to be used again. Our hope is that you commit it to memory and help your children to do the same. Then, if faced with a difficult situation, you will remember what your family is about and use that to guide you.

Don't forget to revisit your statement at least once a year for review!

### *Ways to use your mission statement:*

- Have it printed on wood, canvas, or paper and framed. Put it in a prominent location in your home.
- Print each family member a copy to frame and hang in their room.
- Make it your smart phone wallpaper.
- Print and laminate a copy to keep at the dinner table.
- Put it on a notecard and carry it in your purse.
- Write it on the first page of your journal.
- Put a laminated copy in your family Bible, or in each member's personal Bible.
- Make it your Facebook cover photo.
- Use it as a starting point for your children to develop their own identity or personal mission statement.

### *For more resources:*

- Visit our Pinterest board [Raising a Family](#).
- Read "Parenting With Grace: The Catholic Parent's Guide to Raising Almost Perfect Kids" by Gregory & Lisa Popcak
- Read "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families" by Stephen Covey