

## Finding a Family Mission

So, you're serious about charting a course, but aren't sure how to navigate those conversations. Truthfully, we already have bits and pieces of these critical conversations littered throughout ordinary days. Talking about the future while cleaning the kitchen. Strategizing about ministry while on vacation. Dreaming about how God has built our families while mowing the lawn.

The challenge isn't in *starting* these thoughts, but collecting and finishing them. Well, that and finding alignment with our spouse and kiddos. So, let me try to help by giving some big-picture *and* follow up questions that can help you.

### 1. What is our mission or purpose?

- a. What are we here to accomplish - *specifically* - and how might that be different from our best friends?
- b. What events or themes have defined us to this point as a family that makes us unique?
- c. What has God made us good at? Effective at? Gifted at? Where are we most resolved?
- d. How would we finish this statement: "God has placed us here to \_\_\_\_\_ and when we do \_\_\_\_\_ we feel his pleasure?"

### 2. What is valuable to us?

- a. If we could only choose three values (ex: creativity, hospitality, generosity, teaching, etc...) what would *others* say we find most valuable?
- b. When we make decisions, what values help us say "no" or "yes" when we need to?

### 3. What does a win look like?

- a. What is our vision of what we could do as a family if we had every opportunity and no limitations?
- b. What would need to happen so that in 30 years we can say we achieved our mission? 15 years? One?
- c. What will be some "road markers" along the way that help us measure forward movement?

### 4. What will we put down to get to our goals?

- a. As we count the costs, what do we foresee losing?
- b. What will be *easiest* - and *hardest* - so sacrifice to accomplish our goals as a family?

### 5. What will we pick up?

- a. What new skills or knowledge will we need to pick up to reach our goals?
- b. What will need to be put down in order to pick these things up?
- c. What cross-shaped burdens will we be picking up to get our family down the road?

### 6. How hard will we strain?

- a. What major moves do we foresee in making our family goals happen? Immediate smaller moves?
- b. What do we already see as an issue in the first year, the next ten years?

- c. When we fatigue, where will it be? When we'll most want to quit, why would that be happening?

## **7. What if we fail?**

- a. Can we be at peace that God is in control when we don't hit our marks?
- b. How is the gospel good news to us when we feel our dreams are slipping away?
- c. Can we celebrate what we've learned and re-draft a new direction with what we know?
- d. Can we exhaust ourselves in a specific direction while resting that God is God and will do as he sees fit?