

# Living in Control in an Out of Control World

*Intentional Planning  
To  
Preserve Values, Priorities and Unity  
Of  
Your Family*

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# Pope Family Life Value & Beliefs

**Note: Just an example. Create your own!**

<i>Life Values</i>	<i>Life Beliefs</i>
1. Rightly Relating to God	That the essence of Christianity is a vital, loving relationship with a loving God.
2. Love for God and Man	That loving and serving Christ is the highest priority of life and the most satisfying experience of life, and that giving and serving are much richer life experiences than receiving and being served.
3. Character and Physical Development	That character development is more important than human success and that one's body being the temple of the Holy Spirit, should be given the proper diet, exercise and rest needed to keep it healthy.
4. Worship	That daily personal worship and weekly corporate worship of God is vital for healthy Christian living.
5. Moral Purity	That moral purity is the highest physical goal toward which to strive.
6. Disciple Making	That other than worship of God, making disciples of men is the most important life endeavor.
7. Effort	That doing one's best is more important than being the best.
8. Stewardship	That man owns nothing, but is merely a steward of what god owns.
9. Personal Relationships	That quality life requires building and nurturing significant relationships.
10. Spouse Selection	In choosing a spouse, spiritual qualities are more important than physical attractiveness or personality traits.
11. Family	That loving one's spouse is the most important relational commitment a married believer can make and loving and equipping one's children with godly values is the highest call of a Christian parent.
12. Good Reports	That one should never share or receive information that damages another person's reputation unless done as part of the problem solving process and that all speech should be designed to benefit the recipient.

## Step # 2 LISTEN TO EVERY FAMILY MEMBER

Create an opportunity to listen carefully to each family member. Maybe you use a family weekend away without phones, ipods, computers, etc. in order to get everyone's attention. The relational blessings coupled with the insights gained make this step highly beneficial. Openly listen to each family members insights and concerns while filling out the following *Family Member Evaluation*.

*Caution: Do not use this time to answer concerns. Provide the safest environment possible for each family member to speak from their heart. If children are under the age of five, you might want to skip this step.*

Use this evaluation for each member:

**Family Member** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name**

Family Member Concerns:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member Complaints:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member Suggestions:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Step # 3 HUMBLY DISCUSS THE NEEDS OF EACH MEMBER

- a. By utilizing the Family Member Evaluation Worksheet along with your own insights and wisdom, fill out the *Strengths and Weaknesses Worksheet* below. Consider the spiritual, physical, emotional, relational, and academic strengths and weaknesses of each family member.
- b. Discuss the individual strengths and needs of family members with other trusted persons who may have insight into your child's life, (eg. Discipleship group leader, grandparents, covenant dads and moms, and even older siblings.)

Use the following worksheet for each family member:

### Strengths & Weaknesses Worksheet

Name of Family Member \_\_\_\_\_

	Strengths	Weaknesses
<b>Spiritual:</b>	1. _____	1. _____
	2. _____	2. _____
	3. _____	3. _____

	Strengths	Weaknesses
<b>Physical:</b>	1. _____	1. _____
	2. _____	2. _____
	3. _____	3. _____

	Strengths	Weaknesses
<b>Emotional:</b>	1. _____	1. _____
	2. _____	2. _____
	3. _____	3. _____

	Strengths	Weaknesses
<b>Relational:</b>	1. _____	1. _____
	2. _____	2. _____
	3. _____	3. _____

	Strengths	Weaknesses
<b>Academic:</b>	1. _____	1. _____
	2. _____	2. _____
	3. _____	3. _____

# Step #4 YOUR FAMILY'S TOP TEN!

After carefully reviewing the needs of each family member, list the top ten priorities that need to be addressed when setting strategies to meet family needs. Fill out the *Top Ten Priorities Worksheet*.

## Needs Goals Analysis Priority Worksheet

Based on the needs goals analysis: *What do you find to be the top ten priorities for your family?*

Priority # 1 \_\_\_\_\_

# 2 \_\_\_\_\_

# 3 \_\_\_\_\_

# 4 \_\_\_\_\_

# 5 \_\_\_\_\_

# 6 \_\_\_\_\_

# 7 \_\_\_\_\_

# 8 \_\_\_\_\_

# 9 \_\_\_\_\_

#10 \_\_\_\_\_

## Step # 5 ESTABLISH STRATEGIC PLANS

After considering the needs of the family, it is time to establish strategic plans. Strategic plans are the actual plans to accomplish the goals. These plans should be established based on family values, goals and needs. This is where family projects, vacations, devotions, etc. should be discussed and planned.

Example:

Goal #1 We plan for our family to stop being so scattered and grow in intimacy with Jesus Christ.

- Strategic Plan:
- A. We will start a prayer time each Monday and Thursday following dinner.
  
  - B. The entire family will be a part of a fun activity game together each month.
  
  - C. The entire family will be a part of a service project for others each quarter.

Strategic plans might meet more than one goal. Please fill out the *Strategic Plan Worksheets* on the following pages.

# Strategic Plan Worksheets (Copy and use as many as needed.)

Description of Strategic Plan # \_\_\_\_\_:

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Plan Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Which goals are met through this strategic plan?

Goal# \_\_\_\_\_ Goal # \_\_\_\_\_ Goal # \_\_\_\_\_ Goal # \_\_\_\_\_

Time Commitment: (When do you plan to carry out this strategic plan?)

Day or Days of week - \_\_\_\_\_

How often - \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Day - \_\_\_\_\_

Resources Needed (people, places, money)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Potential Obstacles

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Step # 6 CREATE SCHOOL YEAR, SPECIAL FAMILY EVENT or SUMMER CALENDAR

By utilizing the *Time Commitment* section of the strategic planning worksheet, carefully fill out a typical monthly school year calendar, a special events calendar, and a summer calendar.

One example of a calendar you might want to create is below, but there are numerous calendars online and in your software.

### June

Special Event

Dates

Other Info.

### July

Special Event

Dates

Other Info.

### August

Special Event

Dates

Other Info.

# Parents' Follow-up Steps after your Family Planning Project...

- Step # 1     At the conclusion of your planning, it is vital to place several key dates on the family calendar.
- a.   Get together privately within two weeks following the planning session with each child. This meeting is to encourage the child in his or her areas of strength and identify and create action plans to deal with areas of weakness. Parents should remember that weaknesses, whether in their own life or their child's life, are opportunities for growth. Of course, much of what you are able to accomplish in a meeting like this is determined by the child's age. Please be reasonable. The following are suggestions to make the time with your children more profitable and enjoyable.
    - \*Take each child to their favorite restaurant. This makes the night special and may enable both the parents and child to relax more during discussions. If the issues are sensitive or volatile, remember to reserve those discussions for a private place.**
    - \*When taking each child out individually, bring with you the worksheet where they shared their insights and concerns. Begin by reviewing what you heard them say and seek any update to their perspective. Be a good listener!**
    - \*Parents should be careful to open discussions positively by sharing positive attributes seen in the child.**
    - \*Dealing with weaknesses is difficult. If the children are given the opportunity to express their own weaknesses, they will be more likely to receive critique and counsel more positively and with less sensitivity.**
  - b.   Schedule a family meeting following the individual meetings. This meeting is to share family strengths, struggles, and share the new clear and measurable family plans.
  - c.   Schedule a date night quarterly with your spouse to review goals and check family progress. In addition, occasionally spend time at family gathering times discussing the new plans. Go ahead and place it on your annual calendar or it will certainly slip through the cracks.
  - d.   Schedule the annual planning session weekend for the following year to review your progress and update your plan.
- Step # 2     Someone once said that it's not what you expect but what you inspect that gets accomplished. It is important that once the goals and strategies are established, each family member has a clearly defined accountability system. This is easily done for the children, but sometimes overlooked by parents. Parents may find it helpful to designate another couple to hold them accountable to their goals.

# Congratulations!

You are one of only a few that takes the time and effort to complete the Family Planning Process. No doubt, God will richly bless your investment.

# APPENDIX

## Primary Passages for Family Planning

### **God-dependent Living**

#### **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

#### **James 1:5**

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who give generously to all without finding fault , and it will be given to him.

### **Spiritual**

#### **Matthew 6:33**

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all of these things will be given to you as well.

#### **I Corinthians 6:19-20**

Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.

### **Life with a Purpose**

#### **Ephesians 5:15-18**

Be very careful, then, how you live -- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

#### **Luke 19:10**

For the son of man (Jesus) came to seek and save what was lost.

#### **John 10:10b**

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

#### **John 17:24**

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory that you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

#### **I Timothy 1:15**

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the worst.

#### **II Corinthians 5:21**

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## **Life management**

### **I Corinthians 14:40**

But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

### **II Thessalonians 4:11**

For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat.'

### **I Thessalonians 4: 11-12**

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

## **Family**

### **Psalms 127:4-5**

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

## **Education**

### **Colossians 3:23**

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not for men.

## **Physical Health**

### **I Timothy 4:8**

For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

## **Friendship**

### **Proverbs 18:24**

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

### **Proverbs 17:17**

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

### **Acts 2: 42**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

## **• Extra Curricular**

### **Colossians 3:17**

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.