

Sowing with a View to Righteousness: Vision Retreat Guide

FAMILY VISION AND PHILOSOPHY

- *Purpose and principles*
 1. Why did God put us together?
 2. Individually and as a couple, what has God called us to accomplish in the coming year to further His purpose, and how can we work together to accomplish it?
 - a. As a couple
 - b. As individuals
 3. What are the major ethical and moral standards that we want our family to live by?
 4. What kinds of things would we want people to say at our eulogies when we're gone?
 5. Are there any words of correction or direction God is speaking to us?
- *Family Traditions and Values*
 1. What are our family's most deeply held values and beliefs?
 2. What are our giftings and passions as a family?
 3. What things (events, activities, commitments) tend to create the most stress in our household schedule? How can we lower that stress?
 4. How would we like our family, relatives and guests to feel when they enter our home? What specific things can we do to create and maintain that atmosphere?
 5. What would our family look like if it really turned out well?

DEFINITIONS

- *Vision*
 1. An aspirational description of what you would like to achieve or accomplish in the mid-term or long term future. It is intended to serve as a clear guide for choosing current and future course of action.
 2. A vision is enlivening, it is spirit giving, it's the guiding force behind all great human endeavors. Vision is about shared energy, a sense of awe, a sense of possibility.
 3. If your VISION is for a YEAR, plant wheat. If your VISION is for 10 YEARS, plant trees. If your VISION is for a LIFETIME, plant people. ~Chinese Proverb~
 4. Then the LORD answered me and said, "Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay." Habakkuk 2:2-3
- *Goals*
 1. Vision is the destination that one visualizes and wants to achieve, but the path is unknown. This is where goals come into play. They help you to set the path for the rightful achievement of your vision, acting as milestones.
 2. Goals are derived from a strong vision and are more likely to be achieved / followed through on when there is alignment with your vision.
- *Plan/Action*
 1. Next week
 2. Next month
 3. Next year

CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

1. How can we transmit our values to our children?

Vision: Luke 10:25-28 - ²⁵On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" ²⁷He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" ²⁸"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

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|--------------------------------|---|
| A. HEART – spiritual and moral | D. MIND – intellectual and academic |
| a. Goals | a. Goals |
| b. Plan/Action | b. Plan/Action |
| B. SOUL – emotional | E. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR – social and service |
| a. Goals | a. Goals |
| b. Plan/Action | b. Plan/Action |
| C. STRENGTH –physical | |
| a. Goals | |
| b. Plan/Action | |

2. What memories of family life would we like our children to hold dear? What specifically would we have to do, change or eliminate from our lives now in order to produce those memories?
3. List each child. Ask and answer for each: What unique gifts or callings do we see in him/her? What can we do to help him/her develop those gifts and walk in that calling? What is God speaking to us about this child?

SPECIFIC AREAS TO DISCUSS

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| 1. Spirituality – individually, as a couple & as a family | 7. In-laws and extended family relationships |
| a. Vision | a. Vision |
| b. Goals | b. Goals |
| c. Plan/Action | c. Plan/Action |
| 2. Service to God with our time, talent, treasure | 8. Friendships – individually & as a couple |
| a. Vision | a. Vision |
| b. Goals | b. Goals |
| c. Plan/Action | c. Plan/Action |
| 3. Romance & Sexual Intimacy | 9. Health and Fitness |
| a. Vision | a. Vision |
| b. Goals | b. Goals |
| c. Plan/Action | c. Plan/Action |
| 4. Finances | 10. Home – housework and responsibility |
| a. Vision | a. Vision |
| b. Goals | b. Goals |
| c. Plan/Action | c. Plan/Action |
| 5. Work/Profession/Career | 11. Other |
| a. Vision | a. Vision |
| b. Goals | b. Goals |
| c. Plan/Action | c. Plan/Action |
| 6. Personal & family time management/stress | |
| a. Vision | |
| b. Goals | |
| c. Plan/Action | |