

Aha! Moments



A series of 20 horizontal lines for writing, arranged in two columns of ten lines each. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the page width.

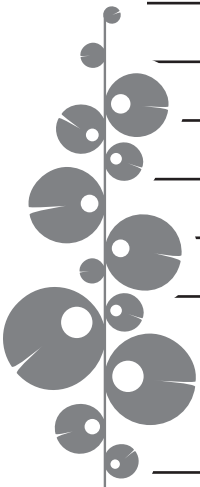


Table Questions for Session 4

Opening Table Exercise: What Happened This Week?

- Where are you in beginning to draft your family mission statement? Have you started? How is it going? What roadblocks, if any, have you faced?

Table Exercise: Why Is Service Important to God?

- Why is service important to God?

- How are you modeling service to your family?

Table Exercise: Out of the Comfort Zone

- In what ways are you creating an unrealistic place of comfort in your home, and in your child's life, because of your own fears? How do you rescue your child out of any imperfect situation, friendship, or assignment that might cause him to suffer?

Mission Statement: Family Night

Your family mission statement doesn't have to be just the parents' mission. If your children are old enough, it can be the mission your whole family has agreed to aim for together. Invite your older children to give input in crafting your family mission so they own it and are motivated by it.

Plan some time together as a family to talk about the elements of your mission statement. Begin with prayer. Then ask your children questions like these to prompt discussion:

1. What are the end results you want our family to aim for? (Examples: to love God and to follow His ways; to show that we belong to God by the way we act; to be loving to everyone around us; to be a fun and safe place for other kids.)

2. How can you be part of the vision leading to these end results? Think of some words or phrases that give you a place in that. (Examples: love others, follow God, obey my parents, be encouraging, know my identity, be a servant, say I'm sorry when I need to.)

3. How can we parents be part of that vision? What do we need to do? (Examples: model, nurture, encourage, hold accountable, demonstrate, come alongside of, inspire.)

At the end of your meeting, pray about what you've discussed. Go back to your mission-statement-in-progress and see how your children's input can be incorporated. If your children are old enough, show them drafts of your mission statement and invite their feedback.

Sample Family Mission Statement:

We want to be, with God's help, a family who loves God and follows His ways, and, because we know we belong to God, we want to be obedient to Him and the authorities He's placed over us. We also want to be encouraging and kind to the people in our communities who are like us and who are different from us. In all things, we want to model truth through the power of God's Spirit.

Questions for Reflection

1. Where do you see the Holy Spirit already at work in your child's life (especially with regard to service and living beyond a comfort zone)?

2. How might you come alongside and support what the Spirit is doing?

3. Have you been awakened to any ways in which you've been thwarting what the Holy Spirit wants to do in your home? (For example, are you creating an unrealistic place of comfort in your home and in your child's life because of your own fears?) If so, what would you like to do differently?

4. How can you model service to your family?

5. Be thinking about the five environments covered so far (storytelling, identity, faith community, service, and out of the comfort zone). Do you have a sense that one or two environments are priorities for your family? What might the Holy Spirit be asking your family to focus on?
