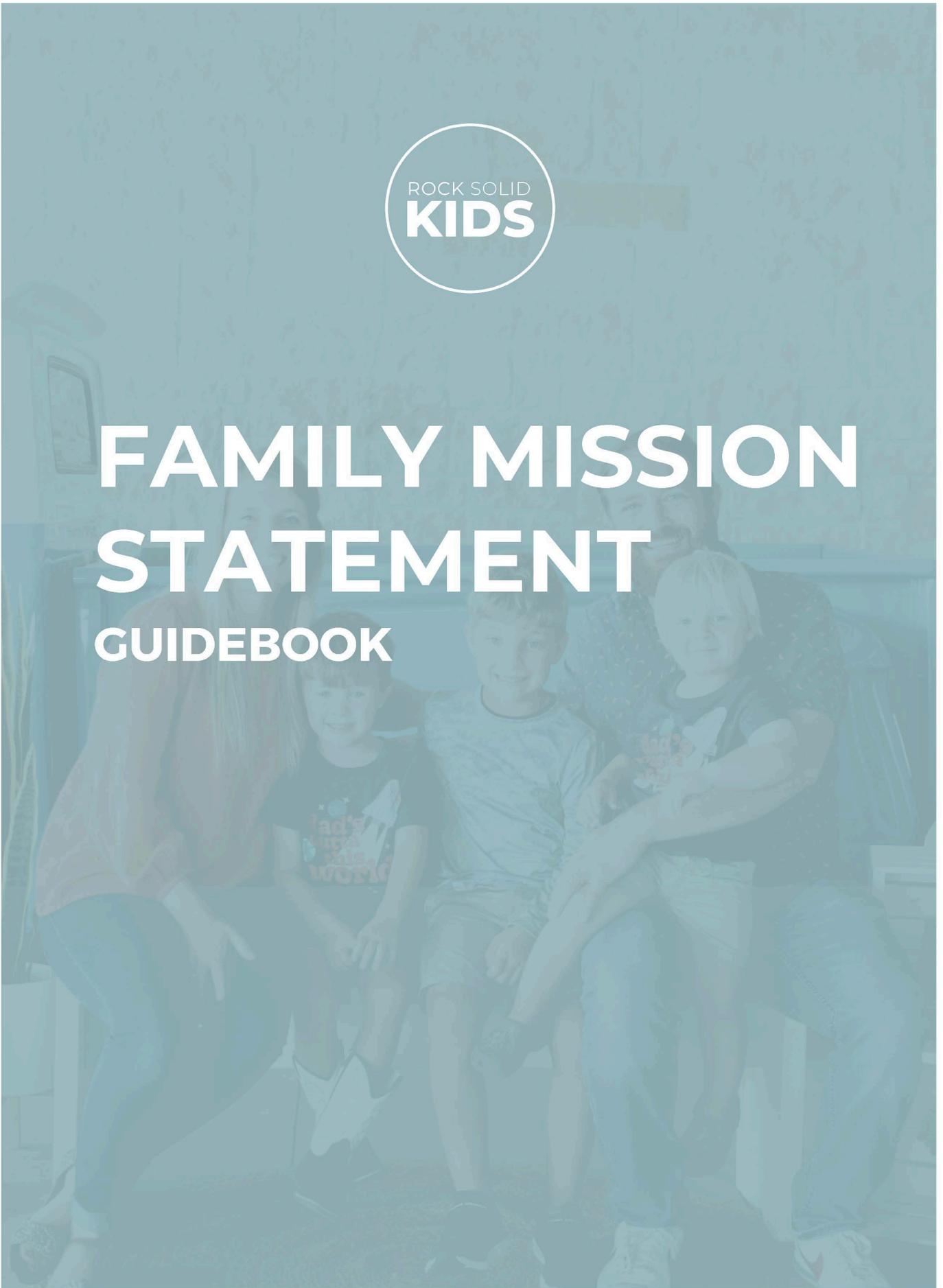




# FAMILY MISSION STATEMENT GUIDEBOOK





## **WHY BE A FAMILY ON MISSION?**

Family on mission means keeping Christ at the center of your family and leveraging the establishment of the family to participate in the greater mission of Christ. It means seeing your family as put together by God for the purpose of God. Family ministry is often floated around to describe how the church serves the family through diverse programs that strengthen the family unit. However, this isn't the historical definition; the term Family Ministry historically meant the ministry that a family accomplishes together. A family's ministry comes out of what is at the center of their home.

*“People are longing to be a part of a mission that’s worth living and dying for, and out of that mission, they become part of a family that’s worth fighting for. Mission is the integrating principle that binds the family together and makes everything work.” - Family on Mission by Sally and Mike Breen*

## **WHAT IS A FAMILY MISSION STATEMENT?**

A family mission statement is a statement you and your family write together that expresses why your family exists. The statement seeks to answer the question of why God has created your specific family for His particular purpose. Having a family mission statement helps your family as you set ministry goals, establish key character qualities, and determine the values by which you want your family to be built upon. If you are interested in creating a Family Mission Statement for your family. Use our Family Mission Statement Play Card to create your own Family Mission Statement.

## **FAMILY MISSION STATEMENT**

God created our family on purpose for a purpose! But have you ever stopped and asked the question “Why?” Families often have a reason that they do the things they do in the ways that they seem to do them. However, most families don’t have written down the “why.” Creating a family mission statement will help you answer that question for the members of your family. The family mission statement will put into words your family's shared purpose and provide a framework for guiding decisions and setting goals!

## **COMMIT TO THE PROCESS**

To use a Family Mission Statement effectively, your whole family should be involved in creating the mission statement. Remember, every family is different, and you may land on a statement faster or slower than some other families.

Don't rush the process, as a family mission statement done well with the buy-in of every family member becomes a rallying point in times of decision-making! Before you move forward, answer the following questions:

- Are you committed to making a family mission statement?
  - If yes, by what date are you hoping to complete your family mission statement?
- When will you host your family meetings leading up to this date? Put a few dates on the calendar to host (a fun meeting) together.

## **WHAT VALUES DOES YOUR FAMILY STAND ON?**

Think about how you believe a family should treat one another and how they should interact with the world around them. Values are our motives for why we do what we do. Values draw lines in the sand and say this is what our family stands for! Our Values drive our actions and help us to stand firm for what we believe in. Use the discussion guide below to help determine your family's core values. Memorizing your core values helps your family remember what you stand for and what shaped your mission statement. Try to have no more than six core values.

Most importantly, keep Christ at the center. As Christians, we understand that apart from Christ any values, we are empty and devoid of purpose. Therefore, Christ must be the center of all we do and live for.

## HELPFUL QUESTIONS TO ASK

*If you were to guess what values have been guiding your decisions what would they be?*

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

*Those that know your family best would say that the following is important to us as a family...*

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*Think through and make list of some of your favorite stories that provide an example of what is best about your family.*

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

*Using your answers from the previous three questions compare what you believe your values are and what others would say your family stands for, and look at what your key stories about your family point towards.*

- Are there any values you need to add to your list based on what those close to you would say about your family?
- Are there any values you need to add to your list based on the stories that you told?
- As you look through the answers, what values keep coming up the most?
- Using the verses above use the process of elimination to pick four to six values that represent your family best.

## **VERSES TO CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING CORE VALUES**

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Psalm 119:10
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- 1 Corinthians 10:31
- Ephesians 2:10
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 1 Peter 2:9
- Matthew 28:18-20

## **DETERMINING YOUR MISSION STATEMENT**

Your mission statement will seek to complete the phrase “we exist to...” God designed each of our families uniquely for His great purpose, and the makeup of your family happened by no accident. When thinking through your family’s mission statement, you are not creating something new for your family as much as you are fleshing out what is already there. Use the discussion below to help you determine your mission statement.

1. As you get started, read over your list of core values. Say your last name followed by the word values followed by each of your core values.
2. Make a list of needs that you see in the city and neighborhood that God has placed your family and that you feel passionately about addressing?
3. Think about the individuals God has brought together in your family. Then, list the unique giftings and skills that God has given your family collectively.
4. Make a list of the things each of your family members prays for the most.
5. What are the things your family does that give you energy and move you to action?

## PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

*Using the questions above and remembering your core values put pen to paper and complete the following statement.*

The \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert family name here*) exist to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

*Example: The Adalian Family exist to put on display the Gospel of Christ through our love for one another and our love for His creation.*

**We do this by...** (Core Value Statements):

- *Keeping Christ at the Center: lives, family, and relationships.*
- *Devoting ourselves to the authority of the Bible: Admit, Commit, and Submit.*
- *Living with Honor: Up, Down, and All around.*
- *Serving together: Here, there, and everywhere.*
- *Laughing together: Loud, Hard, and Often.*
- *Making Christ Known: Care, Dare, Share*