

LifeGroups



# Family I.D.

Take your family somewhere  
on purpose.

## **Welcome to *Family-iD*!**

*Family-iD* is a four-session video learning experience that challenges families to live with intentional purpose. Far too often, culture, media, and even those around us try to tell us who we should be. With so many voices attempting to shape our values, it can be difficult to stay on course and live lives that reflect what is most important to us. Through this course, you will begin to intentionally lay a foundation that will help ensure success in your most important ministry—your family!

## **Who Is *Family-iD* Designed For?**

*Family-iD* is designed for families who have a desire to live lives of purpose and devotion to one another and to God. This series is designed for all types of families, including blended families and single parents, and will provide the tools you need to lay a foundation for your children that will shape your family now and for generations to come.

## **What's the Format of *Family-iD*?**

The best approach is to watch and discuss the *Family-iD* videos with a group over four separate sessions. Begin each session by discussing the opening question with your group, and then watch the video segment. In this participant guide, you will find important quotes from the videos, as well as exercises that will guide you toward discovering your unique family-iD.

After the video for each session is over, allow time for group discussion using the questions found in this guide. You can access the videos online at [www.go2.lc/familyid](http://www.go2.lc/familyid).

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## The Voice of Family-iD

Greg Gunn is the founder of Family Vision Ministries and the author of *Family-iD - Intentional Direction: Discover Your Family's Unique Purpose and Passion*. Greg formed the *Family-iD* workshop as a class in his local church more than 15 years ago. It has now expanded into his full-time calling. Greg has taught all over the United States and around the world, sharing a message of intentional purpose and passion for this generation and generations to come. Visit [www.family-id.com](http://www.family-id.com) to learn more about *Family-iD* and Family Vision Ministries.

## Session 1: Take It In

Watch the *Family-iD* Session 1 video at [www.go2.lc/familyid](http://www.go2.lc/familyid).

### Talk It Over

What are some of the biggest challenges you currently face in leading your family?

### Why Have a Vision?

Vision creates passion. You show me someone with no passion. I'll show you someone who doesn't have a passion problem; they have a vision problem.

*Where there is no vision, the people perish...* Proverbs 29:18 KJV

The key to a healthy family is a healthy *Family-iD*.

## Read about the Rechabite family in Jeremiah 35.

### What is your *Family-iD*?

Your *Family-iD* consists of three things:

1. Core Values
2. Vision Statement
3. Mission Statement

## Getting Your Priorities in Order

### 1. Your relationship with God

*“Remain in me, and I will remain in you.... I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”* John 15:4a-5 NIV84

It isn't the amount of time you spend with God that should be measured. Whatever time you have set aside to spend alone with God, if nothing can get in the way of spending that time, then God is your number one priority.

### 2. Your relationship with your spouse

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her.* Ephesians 5:25 NIV

*Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your husbands...*

1 Peter 3:1 NIV

### 3. Your relationship with your children

- Build trust.
- Verbalize your love and commitment to each family member.

Your family will perceive your silence as rejection. If you don't say it, they doubt it.

***Teenagers do not rebel against authority. They rebel against a lack of relationship.***

### 4. Your life's message

- • God is building a message out of your life.
- • Troubles deepen that message.

The very things that cause us the most trouble are the things that can one day enable us to offer hope to the world!

### 5. Your business and/or ministry

God will not pick up the slack for you in ...

- Your relationship with Him
- Your relationship with your spouse
- Your relationship with your children

If you do not have these first three priorities in place, those relationships will go undone.

God will pick up the slack for you in your work and/or ministry. Once the first three priorities are in place, you will be able to get things done faster and with more excellence than you would ever imagine!

Once your priorities are in place, you can begin to build a healthy family-iD.

## **Talk It Over**

After watching the video, take time to answer the following questions with your group.

What's the one thing from the video that most caught your attention? Why?

How has your understanding of how to lead your family changed based on what you've just watched?

Greg Gunn said: "You show me someone with no passion, I'll show you someone who doesn't have a passion problem. They have a vision problem." How does that statement make you feel?

Do you agree or disagree with the statements that were made about the order of your priorities? Why or why not?

What are the biggest challenges you face when trying to keep your priorities in the right place?

What one thing will you do or change as a result of what you've just learned and discussed with your group?

## Next Steps

1. Begin to assess whether your priorities are in the right order.
2. If you are not already doing so, begin consistently spending time with God in prayer, quiet time, and reading His Word.
3. This week, spend 15 minutes a day intentionally connecting with your spouse. Talk about your day, and share what is going on in your heart and mind.
4. Go on a date night with your spouse this week. It can be elaborate or very simple. What you do isn't nearly as important as the time you spend together!

## Session 2: Stir It Up

Watch the *Family-iD* Session 2 video at [www.go2.lc/familyid](http://www.go2.lc/familyid).

### Talk It Over

Describe a time growing up when you were especially connected or disconnected with your family.

#### The Interdependent Family

- Has a healthy family identity.
- Has their needs for acceptance, love, and affirmation met by the family.
- Is less vulnerable to peer pressure.

#### The Independent Family

- Does not have a strong family identity.
- Goes outside the family to find acceptance, affirmation, and love.
- Is more vulnerable to peer pressure.
- The greatest threat to family interdependence is sibling rivalry.
- The remedy for sibling rivalry is a new way of relating.

***We will treat each other better than our best friend.***

Take a moment to read the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4:1-16.

***Just like fire will destroy a home, unkindness among family members will destroy your relationships.***

Firstborn ...

- Receive and follow instruction well
- Do not necessarily crave acceptance from siblings
- Have a great capacity for loyalty
- Gravitate toward leadership

Second-child ...

- Look up to the older sibling
- Crave their acceptance from their older sibling
- Are often competitive

The biggest threat to a healthy family-iD is sibling rivalry.

***Where family identity is strong, peer pressure is weak.  
Where family identity is weak, peer pressure is strong.***

Our home should be a refuge from the world, and then a springboard into the world.

## **Your Core Family Values**

Your life is already shaped by your core values, even if you don't fully realize it. Your core values are:

- The things that keep you up at night
- The things you are willing to die for
- The things that guide your personal priorities



If you are not sure how to identify your core values as a family, it might help to ask yourself the following questions.

- What stirs righteous anger inside of you?
- What makes you especially happy?
- What are your most deeply held beliefs? What are you most passionate about?
- What character traits would you like your children to develop?
- How would you like guests to feel when they enter your home?

## Your Core Family Values

**Step 1:** Circle the core values that may apply to you. Add others that come to mind if they are not listed here.

Accountability	Evangelism	Joy	Respect
Attitude	Excellence	Justice	Sacrifice
Authenticity	Faith	Kindness	Self-control
Boldness	Faithfulness	Knowing God	Self-discipline
Character	Family	Leadership	Selflessness
Collaboration	Fellowship	Learning	Servant Leadership
Compassion	Generosity	Loyalty	Serving
Confidence	Gentleness	Mercy	Steadfastness
Courage	Godliness	Obedience	Stewardship
Creativity	Goodness	Openness	Submission
Dedication	Grace	Order	Teachable
Devotion	Gratefulness	Passion	Teamwork
Discipleship	Growth	Patience	Thankfulness
Discipline	Honesty	Peace	Transparency
Discovery	Honor	Perseverance	Trustworthiness
Diversity	Hope	Personal Growth	Truth
Efficiency	Humility	Prayer	Unity
Encouragement	Humor	Purity	Wisdom
Endurance	Integrity	Relationships	Worship
Enthusiasm	Intimacy	Reliability	Zeal

**Step 2:** Compare your list with your spouse's list.

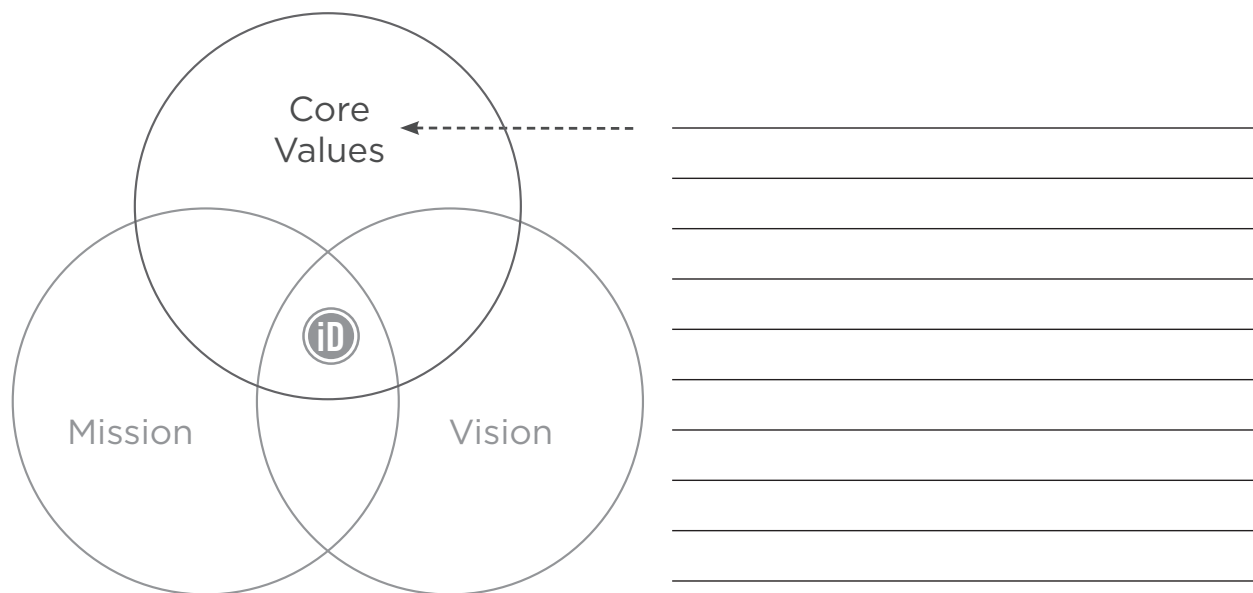
- Talk through the values each of you have circled. Which ones are similar? Which ones are different?
- Discuss why certain values are important to each of you.

**Step 3:** Talk to your children.

- Ask them to identify the values that are most important to them.
- Talk with your spouse about incorporating some of your kids' suggestions.

**Step 4:** Highlight the values that have emerged as being most important to your family.

**Step 5:** Narrow the list to fewer than 10 core values, and write them in the space below:



**Step 6:** Now that you have identified your core values, write some short sentences describing how you see these values displayed in your family.

## Talk It Over

After watching the video, take time to answer the following questions with your group.

What's the one thing from the video that most caught your attention? Why?

Regarding family interdependence vs. family independence, which one do you think most characterizes your family?

In what ways is your family interdependent?

In what ways is your family independent?

How has your perception of sibling rivalry changed based on the video you just watched?

How can you begin to set the expectation that your children treat each other better than their best friends?

Do you agree or disagree with the statement: "Where family identity is strong, peer pressure is weak. Where family identity is weak, peer pressure is strong"? Why or why not?

## Next Steps

1. Continue through Steps 1-6 in Session 2, identifying your core values along the way. Remember to talk to your spouse and your children as you firm up these values in your heart.
2. Before the next session, write some key sentences or phrases that describe your family using the core values you have listed. This will really help you as you complete the next steps!

## Session 3: Write It Down

Watch the *Family-iD* Session 3 video at [www.go2.lc/familyid](http://www.go2.lc/familyid).

### Talk It Over

Describe how you processed your core values as a family this week. Was it easy? Difficult? New? Share with your group your core values, along with some of the sentences or key phrases you have written down using them.

“Having a well-defined vision statement will help ensure that no matter what life brings, no matter where we find ourselves, we can still get our bearings and stay on course.” – Greg Gunn

### Your Family Vision Statement

Your family vision statement describes where you are going in words that greatly motivate you to take action. As you begin to identify your family vision statement, it might help to ask yourself the following questions.

1. What does your dream family look like?
2. What do you want others to say of your family?
3. How do you hope God would describe your family?
4. What action(s) does God most want to take through your family?
5. What consequence does God most want to accomplish through that action?

*“Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.”*  
Habakkuk 2:2 ESV

Some examples of some family vision statements are...

- Glorifying God by putting others first.
- We will never allow anything to tame our tenacious faith in God.
- We will constantly lift up Jesus Christ as the Rock as we strive to be role models for others.
- Laying the foundation for many godly generations.

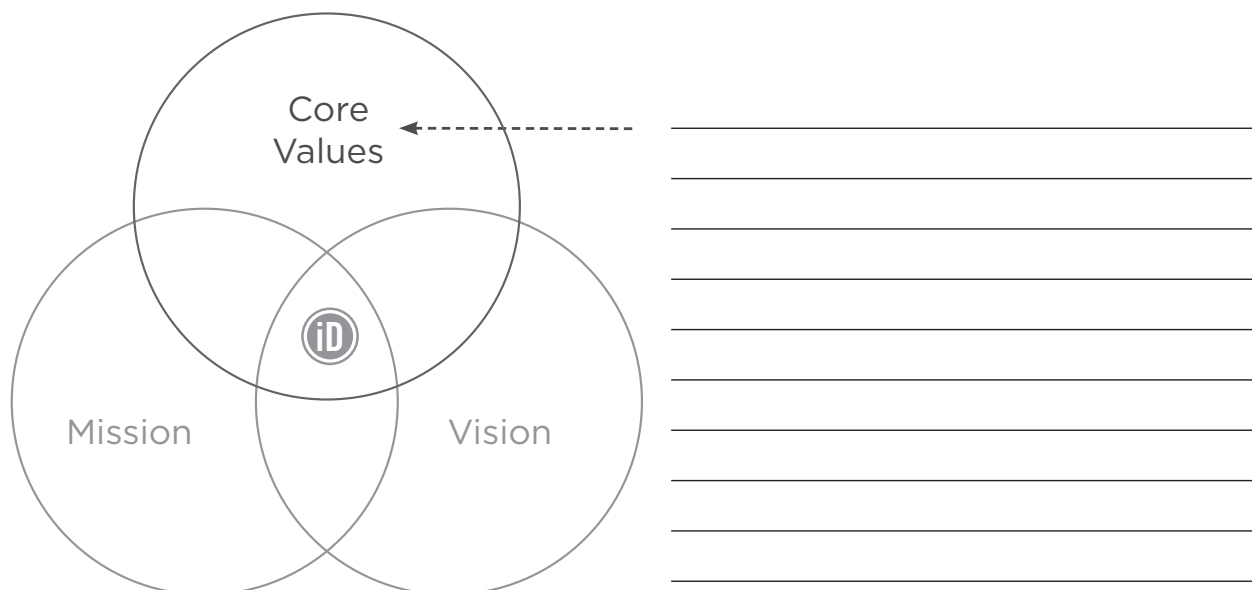
Now, it's your turn! Write your family vision statement in your own words.

### Keep in Mind....

It doesn't have to be perfect right now. This is not a test, and you are not being graded on this assignment. The important thing is to write! A blank page tends to stay blank. Just begin to put down your thoughts, knowing that your family vision statement will probably be changed and refined as you put it into words.

1. My family vision statement in one long ramble (if necessary):

2. My family vision statement in one phrase or sentence:



If you feel you need more time to work on your vision statement and are going through *Family-iD* with a group, then feel free to pause Session 3 and finish the remainder of the session next time you meet together. Don't feel like you have to rush through writing your vision statement.

## **Your Family Mission Statement**

Your family mission statement describes how you are going to get to the place described in your family vision, and it does so in words that greatly motivate you to take action. While your family vision statement was limited to one key phrase or sentence, your mission statement can consist of several statements. But remember:

- This isn't a novel. Keep your mission statement short enough that your family members will be able to identify with it and call the most important parts of it to mind quickly, even when it isn't in front of them.
- Keep your vision statement in mind. As you write the statements of your family mission, refer each one back to the family vision statement you have identified. Make sure they each describe how to fulfill that vision.

As you begin to identify your family mission statement, it might help to ask yourself the following questions.

- What does the ideal destination for your family look like? What is the "end" you need to focus on?
- What needs to take place to get to that destination? By what "means" will you arrive at your destination?
- What needs to take place in your family's relationships with God to get to your desired vision or destination?
- What needs to take place within your family's relationships with each other to get to your desired vision or destination?
- What needs to take place in your family's relationship with the world around you to get to your desired vision or destination?

Here are some examples of family mission statements.

### **Naylor Family Mission**

The Naylor family purposes to see that...

Each generation of Naylor knows Christ as Lord and Savior and lives according to His biblical principles.

Each family member's daily actions will reflect the precept of the preciousness of others and the value they have in Christ.

Happiness and fun are a high priority.

We will love each other through team spirit and interdependence where each member recognizes the value of the other members.

Our daily lives will be guided by our family values.

Our family will be the vehicle through which God's love and character will be revealed, both within the family and to those outside our family.

Each family member will understand and practice the Great Commission of communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Each family member understands their responsibility in training subsequent generations in the family mission.

### **Robinson Family Mission**

We are called to lead...

In our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In our demonstration of family unity.

In our service to others.

In our commitment to instill this mission into future generations.

### **Johnson Family Mission**

To love each other

To help each other

To believe in each other

To wisely use our time, talents and resources to bless others

To worship together

Forever.

Now, it's your turn! Write your family mission statement in your own words.

Again, keep in mind, it doesn't have to be perfect right now. This is not a test, and you are not being graded on this assignment.

The important thing is to write! A blank page tends to stay blank. Just begin to put down your thoughts, knowing that your family mission statement will probably be changed and refined as you put it into words.

**1. My family mission statement in one long ramble (if necessary):**

**2. My family mission statement in several phrases or sentences:**

### **Your Family-iD (or slogan)**

Now, it's time for some fun! Look again at your family vision and mission statements. If you were going to sum them up in just a few words and in a way that really captures what your family is all about, what would you say?

It might help to think about some famous advertising slogans:

- Just do it
- Never leave home without it
- I'm lovin' it
- Think different
- A diamond is forever
- Be all that you can be
- The breakfast of champions
- Good to the last drop



- Takes a lickin' and keeps on tickin'
- Mmmm....mmmm.... good
- Melts in your mouth, not in your hands
- You're in good hands

Here are some examples of how other families converted their family vision statement into their *Family-iD* or slogan.

Vision Statement: Glorifying God by putting others first.

*Family-iD/slogan*: You First!

Vision Statement: We will never allow anything to tame our tenacious faith in God.

*Family-iD/slogan*: Untamed Faith!

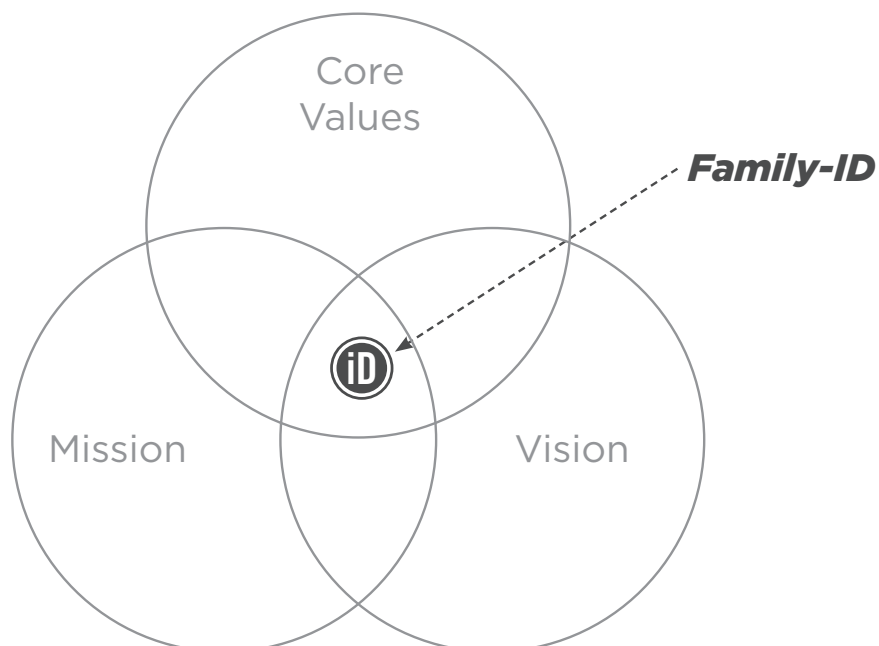
Vision Statement: We will constantly lift up Jesus Christ as the Rock as we strive to be role models for others.

*Family-iD/slogan*: Rock and Role!

Vision Statement: Laying the foundation for many godly generations.

*Family-iD/slogan*: Lay The Foundation!

Once you have considered the examples listed, take some time and revisit your own family vision and mission statements. Then talk to your kids and brainstorm some ideas. Once you have identified your *Family-iD* or slogan, write it in the space below.



## Talk It Over

After watching the video, take time to answer the following questions with your group.

1. What's the one thing from the video that most caught your attention? Why?
2. Have you ever created a family vision statement? Why do you think it is important to have a family vision?
3. Your vision statement describes where you want to be, while your mission statement describes how you will get there. What kind of affect do you think having this kind of vision will have on your family?
4. Based on the key phrases you wrote down using your core values, what ideas do you have about your family vision statement?
5. As your family vision statement comes into focus, what next steps do you need to take to work toward your vision? If you are unsure what steps you should take, ask your fellow group members to help you identify some.
6. What one thing do you hope will change as a result of identifying your family vision and mission statements?

## Next Steps

1. Firm up your family vision statement. Talk to your kids along the way and make sure you use language they fully understand and identify with.
2. Once you have your family vision statement, it's time to firm up your family mission statement. Once again, talk to your kids and make sure you use language they fully understand and can easily identify with.
3. Have fun as you create your family slogan—one that identifies your *Family-iD* in five words or less. Recruit your kids, and have fun with this!
4. Feeling stuck? Talk to your fellow group members, closest friends, and perhaps your own parents. Sharing your core values and thoughts with people outside your immediate family can help get you unstuck and on your way!

## Session 4: Live It Out

Watch the *Family-iD* Session 4 video at [www.go2.lc/familyid](http://www.go2.lc/familyid).

### Talk It Over

Share your family slogan with your group. Describe how it ties into your vision and mission statements. If you feel stuck, this would be a great time to discuss some of your questions with your fellow group members.

With so many voices competing for our kids' attention, how can we be sure our kids will choose our values as they grow up?

“Your light may not be the brightest, but if you will hold it the closest to their eyes, even if it is only a candle, it will be the brightest light they see.”

– Joe White

Keep your family slogan, vision statement, and mission statement in front of your kids. Display them as wall art, on t-shirts, on the refrigerator, as the screensaver on your family computer—anywhere and everywhere you and your kids will see them often.

### Making the Family Attractive: 6 Things to Help You Have a Wonderful Family

#### 1. Family Nights

Schedule one night a week that everyone commits to attend. Do not let anything get in the way of this time. Use this night to have fun as a family as you learn some important lessons along the way. At the end of this participant guide, you'll find a list of websites that give creative and memorable ideas for family nights including [www.family-id.com](http://www.family-id.com).

Remember to record your family nights! These videos will contain treasured memories you can watch with your family for years to come.

#### 2. Date Nights

Dads, take your daughters on a date. Mothers, take your sons. This one-on-one time builds relationship and important memories in a very powerful way.

### 3. Date Lessons

You might even consider holding a “dating lesson” for the whole family. Bring the kids along on a date with you and your spouse, and model for them what a godly relationship should look like. Afterward, ask them what they observed. Talk about what it means to have a godly relationship.

### 4. 4. Serving Together

Lead your family to serve together in some way at church or in a local ministry. This is a great way to instill in them that others are more important than themselves.

### 5. 5. Create Anticipation

“You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink. But if you salt his oats, when you get him to the trough, he’ll be thirsty.” – based on an Old English Proverb

### 6. 6. Rite of Passage to Adulthood

- Starting when your kids are young, tell them that on their 12th birthday, you are going to give them some secrets that will help them have a wonderful life. Then make their 12th birthday a very special rite of passage into adulthood.
- Consider giving each of your children a list of “15 Qualities We Would Like You to Have by the Time You Are 15.” This list is like an artist’s rendering or blueprint of the man or woman you would like them to become. Laminate this list, and keep it at their bedside or nearby where you can pray over it together often.
- At age 15, consider giving them a list of 25 books to read before their 16th birthday. Give them an incentive, and reward them if they read all 25 books and do a one-page report on each of them. Not only will this enrich the perspective of your children, it will also create common ground to relate on.

You can find these resources and more at **[www.family-id.com](http://www.family-id.com)**.

## Setting Yourself up for Success

### Family Goal-setting Weekend

- Go away once each year for a weekend with your spouse.
- Go to the same place if possible. This will allow you to relax, but also to get serious about why you are there.
- Pray for each child. Then set specific goals for each of them, starting with your oldest child.
- Set goals for your marriage.
- Set goals for each other.
- When you go home, talk to each of your children, and tell them the goals God has revealed to you for each of them. Ask them if there is anything they would like to accomplish. Add that goal to their list.
- Laminate each child's final list, and place it beside their bed or somewhere where they will see it often.
- Pray over the list very specifically each day.

If you can't get away for an entire weekend, try to find a few hours at a time to seek God's direction for your family for the coming year.

### Goals

Remember, your goals are nothing more than short-term vision, and they should always be SMART.

- **Specific** – Have you narrowed your focus?
- **Measurable** – How will you know you've achieved it?
- **Attainable** – Is the goal realistic?
- **Relevant** – Is this the best place for you to focus right now?
- **Time-bound** – When will you have your goal completed?

### Action Steps

Once you have identified your family's goals, take some time to identify one action step for each goal. Focus only on the very next step. Once you have taken that action step, celebrate your progress and identify the next step that will bring you closer to your goal. Before long, you will achieve each of your goals, step by step!

## Accountability

The key to living out your *Family-iD* is accountability. Choose someone to hold you accountable to your vision, mission and to your family goal setting.

You may feel like you get off course now and then. When that happens, just refocus, and keep going. Keep your *Family-iD* in front of you.

Keeping your *Family-iD* an important focal point of your day-to-day family life maximizes its impact and ensures it benefits your family now and for generations to come!

## Talk It Over

After watching the video, take time to answer the following questions with your group:

1. What's the one thing from this video that most caught your attention? Why?
2. Of the ideas presented, which do you think will be the most fun and/or effective to implement in your family?
3. Have you ever set goals for yourself? Have you ever set a goal for your family members? What are some ways you can keep your children's goals in front of them to help ensure their success?
4. Spend the rest of your discussion time brainstorming creative ways to implement your *Family-iD*.

## Next Steps

1. Continue to live it out as you implement the principles and ideas you learned through *Family-iD*.
2. Even though this is the last of the four *Family-iD* sessions, you might consider getting together again as a group in a month or so to share the ways you have each embraced *Family-iD* in your home. Make it a family affair! Bring the kids, and demonstrate family cheers, family night skits, and any other ideas you might have.

## Additional Resources

*Family-iD* – [www.family-id.com](http://www.family-id.com).

- A list of family night games
- “15 Qualities We Would Like You to Have by the Time You Are 15”
- Hannah Gunn’s reading list (by age 16)
- A Team Captain Training Program (to help end sibling rivalry and bickering)
- 50 Ways to Love Your Wife
- Kids’ Questionnaire
- A Covenant (between parent and child, regarding who they will one day marry)
- Qualities of a Godly Woman (wife)
- Qualities of a Godly Man (husband)
- Sample family goals
- Outline for Family Vision Weekend
- Accountability Questions
- “Staying On Course” covenant
- Samples of family vision and mission statements, a family cheer, the *Family-iD* motto, and more!

12 Huge Mistakes Parents Can Avoid – [www.go2.lc/12mistakes](http://www.go2.lc/12mistakes)

Growing Families International (Growing Kids God’s Way) –  
[www.growingfamiliesusa.com](http://www.growingfamiliesusa.com)

Heritage Builders – [www.heritagebuilders.com](http://www.heritagebuilders.com)

Family Unity (great ideas for family nights) – [www.familyunite.org](http://www.familyunite.org)

## Family-iD

*Family-iD* empowers families to lay the foundation for many godly generations, equipping them to discover and fulfill their unique, God-revealed purpose as they transform those around them.

*Family-iD* is for...

- Singles
- Single parents
- Families with kids
- Families without kids
- Blended families
- Grandparents who want to help shape the future for their descendants
- Anyone who belongs to or hopes for a family

To learn how transform your family and lead them even further into their God-given purpose, visit **[www.family-id.com](http://www.family-id.com)**.