



## **Tool** Making a Mission Statement

**The goal** Manage money with spiritual vision. God desires that we use our time, energy, and finances to glorify him and do his will. Our willingness to obey God reflects our love for him and helps us grow in spiritual maturity.

**The problem** We face hundreds of decisions each week concerning our resources. How do we navigate each decision and effectively and intentionally honor God in the use of resources?

**The solution** One tool that helps guide decision-making is a personal or family mission statement. A mission statement is like the bumper rails in bowling. Just as the bumpers help the ball down the alley, developing a mission statement can help clarify what your goal is as a person/family. It helps us hit our mark. When you need to make a decision about a new job, a purchase, where to live, or your weekly appointments, a mission statement can help you remember your priorities and provide clarity to whether certain investments are consistent with your life purpose.

## **Creating a personal or family mission statement**

In one sentence, write your purpose in life as a person or as a family. This should be a single, specific, memorable sentence. When you die, this should be something that you would want people to remember you by. As Christians with an eternal hope in Jesus Christ and with a commission to teach and baptize disciples, our mission is necessarily derived from Scripture with spiritual purpose and meaning in mind. As Christians writing a mission statement, we should try and answer the question, "To what is God asking me to commit my life?"

Here are some example mission (or mission-like) statements from various sources to help get you thinking:

1. Glorifying God through lives changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Church on Mill)
2. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (The apostle Paul)
3. I covenanted with the Father that He would do either of two things: either glorify Himself to the utmost in me or slay me. (Jim Elliot)
4. Build the best product, cause no unnecessary harm, use business to inspire and implement solutions to the environmental crisis. (Patagonia)

As you think about and begin to craft your mission statement. Here are three things to do:

### 1. Pray

Pray that God will give you insight into his purpose for your life. We are called to "walk as children of the light" and to "try and discern what is pleasing to [God]" (Eph. 5:9-10). God is pleased when we seek to know his will. Furthermore, "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God" (Rom. 8:14). We should have confidence that God desires to speak to us and lead us by his Spirit. Take time, perhaps over several days or weeks, to pray about God's purpose for your life. Additionally, consider taking time to fast. Fasting often reduces distractions and gives us greater urgency and clarity to hear the voice of God.

### 2. Study

Scripture is sufficient for all instruction and training in righteousness. "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). As you consider your purpose and calling, remember that Scripture has much to say about the good works to which you are to commit your life. Spend time in Scripture and pray that God would give you insight and wisdom into his will. Pay special attention to what Scripture says about your commitments to your family, church, employer, government, etc. These commitments are the primary ways that God will use and shape our callings.

### 3. Write, Discuss, Write, Discuss

As you pray and study, write down what God reveals to you from his Word and through his Spirit. Begin to formulate an answer to this question, "To what is God asking me to commit my life?" Take your notes to GC next week, to a discipleship meeting, or to your spouse. Ask if they see the same thing. Do they see different things? Pray together for God's direction and guidance. After talking and praying, rework your mission statement as necessary. Spend time in prayer and study. Discuss it again with brothers and sisters in Christ. In time, you will develop a clearer sense of to what God is asking you to commit your life.

Once you have created it, your personal or family mission statement will be an enormous aid in your decision-making about money. In the thick of whatever financial situations arise, you will have solid, Scriptural convictions to turn to. Each moment you spend creating your mission statement will multiply your effectiveness in all areas of life, including that of managing your money with spiritual vision.