

Habit 2: Taking it Home

1. Puzzle Activity

Preparation: Get a puzzle (about 24 pieces) and take the pieces out of the box so that your family does not see the puzzle picture on the cover.

Invite family members to put the puzzle together without the aid of the picture. After two minutes, give them the puzzle picture and let them complete the puzzle. Ask: “Why is it easier to complete a puzzle with the picture?” Discuss why having the end in mind helps achieve your desired results as a family.

2. Family Values

Explain that family values are what you believe in and care most about as a family—what is most important. Together, make a list of what values your family shares. Discuss each value listed and why it is important. Allow all family members to have a voice. Celebrate your family’s values with a special treat or fun activity.

3. Family Collage

Resources: Poster board or paper, crayons, markers, magazines, scissors, family photos or memorabilia, and glue sticks.

Gather as a family. On a piece of poster board, make a collage of what you want your family to stand for. Cut out pictures and words from magazines, find old photos, or draw words and pictures that represent what you want your family to stand for. Talk about how the words or pictures represent your family’s values, hopes, and goals. Allow space for each family member to make a contribution as they glue the items to the poster board to make a collage. Hang the collage in your home as a reminder of what is important to your family.

4. Storytelling

Reinforce your family values through storytelling. Think of stories from parents, grandparents, other relatives—or your own life—that reinforce one of your family values. Share the stories and discuss them on more than one occasion. Write them down and keep them in a binder. Add photos.

5. A Family Mission Statement

Work as a family to create a family mission statement.

Step 1: Gather inspirational ideas of what your family is about.

- Interview each other using the questions on page 25.
- Read inspirational quotes or listen to motivational songs or poems.
- Research other families' mission statements on the internet.

Step 2: Draft a family mission statement.

- Brainstorm phrases that capture the values that are most important to your family. Invite each family member to contribute.
- Write a draft. Check: Does the draft appeal to all family members? Does it inspire? Does it help you make decisions? Is it short and memorable?

Step 3: Stay on course.

- Place the mission statement draft in a visual, central location.
- Live the mission statement for a while.
- After a month or so, revisit the draft mission statement. Does it still represent the best of your family? Adjust as needed.
- Create family systems to reinforce the mission statement. For example, offer small rewards for family members who get "caught" living all or parts of the mission statement. Make it fun.

MY REFLECTIONS

ONE THING I WILL DO
