



## **Making A Spiritual Discipleship Plan**

Jeff & Charmé Fletcher  
Covenant Heirs Ministry  
Contact: [covenantheirs@gmail.com](mailto:covenantheirs@gmail.com)



## **Making A Spiritual Discipleship Plan**

### **Table of Contents**

	<b>Page #</b>
• Guiding Scripture	3
• Making A Spiritual Discipleship Plan	4 - 5
• Step #1 – Family History	6 - 7
• Step #2 – Values	8 - 11
• Step #3 – Mission & Vision	12 - 15
• Theme Verse	16
• Step #4 – Goals	17 - 21
• The Final Step: Your Family Covenant	22 - 26
• Final Thoughts	26
• Commitment	27
 <b>Worksheets</b>	 28 - 39

## **Guiding Scripture**

*“Hear; O Israel (\*America): The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all  
your soul and with all your strength.*

*These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*

*Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road,  
when you lie down and when you get up.*

*Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your  
houses and on your gates”*

*(Deuteronomy 6:4-9).*

\*Parenthesis added, not part of original text.

## **Making Christlike Disciples in The Home**

*Jesus said, “Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the*

*Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey  
everything I have commanded you”*

*(Matthew 28:19-20).*

## Making A Spiritual Discipleship Plan

The purpose of this resource is to help families develop a spiritual discipleship plan—which includes making a family covenant with God.

Christian parents have no higher calling than to intentionally pass down their faith in Christ to their children. In doing so, they are following the Lord’s command--to make disciples in all the nations, beginning in their own homes. Being a great commission parent requires a total commitment to Jesus, empowering them to model a life of selfless love and sacrifice for God and others. Great commission parents are building the Kingdom of God one generation at a time.

Everyone makes plans, right? We plan for our children’s education, for weddings, vacations, retirement, etc. But how many parents are as **intentional** in developing a **Spiritual Discipleship Plan** for their family?

Making Christlike disciples in our homes doesn’t just happen! As the saying goes: “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.”

### Good News

First and foremost, we must remember that the gospel of Jesus Christ is good news, and parents and grandparents have the wonderful privilege of sharing this love story with their children and grandchildren.

**God’s Plan:** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him” (John 3:16-17).  
 “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

**Jesus’ Plan:** Jesus said, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

**Disciple:** A disciple is a person who follows the teaching and example of another person. As Christians, we are Christ’s disciples (Christ followers).

### Christian discipleship

By definition, a disciple is a follower, one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another. A Christian disciple is a person who accepts and assists in the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ. Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples grow in the Lord Jesus Christ and are equipped by the Holy Spirit, who resides in our hearts, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christlike. This process requires believers to respond to the Holy Spirit’s prompting to examine their thoughts, words and actions and compare them with the Word of God. This requires that we be in the Word daily-- studying it, praying over it, and obeying it. In addition, we should always be ready to give testimony of the reason for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15) and to disciple others to walk in His way. According to Scripture, being a Christian disciple involves personal growth characterized by the following:

**1. Putting Jesus first in all things (Mark 8:34-38).** The disciple of Christ needs to be set apart from the world. Our focus should be on our Lord and pleasing Him in every area of our lives. We must put off self-centeredness and put on Christ-centeredness.

**2. Following Jesus' teachings (John 8:31-32).** We must be obedient children and doers of the Word. (James 1:22-25) Obedience is the supreme test of faith in God (1 Samuel 28:18), and Jesus is the perfect example of obedience as He lived a life on earth of complete obedience to the Father even to the point of death (Philippians 2:6-8).

**3. Fruitfulness (John 15:5-8).** Our job is not producing fruit. Our job is to abide in Christ, and if we do, the Holy Spirit will produce the fruit, and this fruit is the result of our obedience. As we become more obedient to the Lord and learn to walk in His ways, our lives will change. The biggest change will take place in our hearts, and the overflow of this will be new conduct (thoughts, words, and actions) representative of that change. The change we seek is done from the inside out, through the power of the Holy Spirit. It isn't something we can conjure up on our own.

**4. Love for other disciples (John 13:34-35).** We are told that love of other believers is the evidence of our being a member of God's family (1 John 3:10). Love is defined and elaborated on in 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. These verses show us that love is not an emotion; it is action. We must be doing something and involved in the process. Furthermore, we are told to think more highly of others than of ourselves and to look out for their interests (Philippians 2:3-4). The next verse in Philippians (verse 5) really sums up what we are to do when it comes to everything in life: "our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." What a perfect example He is to us for everything we are to do in our Christian walk.

**5. Evangelism - Making disciples of others (Matthew 28:18-20).** We are to share our faith and tell nonbelievers about the wonderful changes Jesus Christ has made in our lives. No matter what our maturity level in the Christian life, we have something to offer. Too often, we believe the lie from Satan that we don't really know enough or haven't been a Christian long enough to make a difference. Not true! Some of the most enthusiastic representatives of the Christian life are new believers who have just discovered the awesome love of God. They may not know a lot of Bible verses or the "accepted" way of saying things, but they have experienced the love of the living God, and that is exactly what we are to share.

**You will now begin using the worksheets that are included at the end of this document.**

## **STEP #1 -- FAMILY HISTORY**

### What are you and your family like?

It's been said that families are a lot like fudge—mostly sweet, with a few nuts mixed in for good measure.

**In this section, you will have the opportunity to write your personal salvation testimony and begin your family history. (See Worksheets: My Personal Faith Story, Family History—Genealogical & Faith Information, Generational Spiritual Development)**

#### **No Cookie-Cut Families**

Fortunately, there's no such thing as a "typical" family. And there's no "typical" way in which to pass on your faith to your children.

Every family is unique. However, God's principles are applicable for all families, in all situations, and for all times, even though the methods of implementing them may vary.

Since your faith is expressed through the one-of-a-kind life your family leads, your covenant should match who you are. What will work with someone else's family may not work for yours at all. That's why you need to "paint some portraits" of your unique family before you begin.

#### **Family Portrait #1: Your History of Faith**

Every family has a history story that has helped to shape who they are.

*"The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see."  
-- Sir Winston Churchill*

**While researching your family's genealogy, take special notice of your family's spiritual history.**

1. Were your parents Christians, and if so, how did they live out their faith before you? In what ways did they influence and inspire your faith formation as you were growing up?
2. If you grew up in a non-Christian home, describe these dynamics (good or bad).
3. Were there other adults who had an important influence on your religious nurture? Who were they and what influence did they have?
4. In your adult years, what pastors, friends, teachers, or authors, etc. have had a special hand in shaping the faith you now have? What were their contributions, both positive and negative?
5. Was there a time when you consciously decided to become a Christian? What were the circumstances that drew you into a love relationship with Jesus?

### Consider these factors:

- Raised in a non-Christian home
- Raised in a first-generation Christian home
- Raised in a second-generation Christian home, etc.

### Family Portrait #2: Your Pace

1. The Carriage Family: Laidback, taking time to enjoy life, low stress, can resist change.
2. The Steam Engine Family: “Little engine that could,” steadiness, consistency...increasing commitments, often over scheduling their calendar.
3. The F-16 Family: Activity driven, often running behind to keep up, consistency is a challenge and getting the family all together is a rarity.

No matter which family pace best describes your situation; make sure that as you develop your family spiritual plan, you consider your speed without trying to radically change it, as it could cause your family to resent the plan. However, it may take reprioritizing some areas in your family life, especially if you find that your family falls in the Steam Engine or F-16 category.

### Family Portrait #3: Your Interests

What is your family most passionate about? The more passionate you are about something, the more time, energy, and effort you'll put into doing that thing and doing it well. More than likely, you will have diversity in your family, with one child being more inclined toward the arts, and another towards athletics, etc.

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Discovery Channel  | • History Channel     |
| • The Sports Network | • Food Network        |
| • The Arts Network   | • National Geographic |

Use these and others to demonstrate how to tweak your children's interest in becoming a faithful follower of Jesus.

Use your family's special interests (passions) to stimulate their faith connection with God, and his specific mission in their lives.

## STEP #2 -- VALUES

### What do we really believe?

Values are the non-negotiable truths you hold that direct your family's behavior. They are motivational. They provide an answer for the "why" of every circumstance in life, and they place boundaries around behavior.

The values we teach and **model** for our children (& grandchildren) have a major impact on their lives. Our values teach them who they're meant to be and how to be that way. Passing a clear set of core values to your children is the thing that most clearly defines the uniqueness of your family.

Values aren't taught just by bringing children to church or having a little talk. Children learn values through daily interaction with their parents. They learn them in everyday, ordinary encounters with Mom and Dad. They learn by listening to what we say and watching what we do. "...when you sit at home and when you walk along the road." (**Living out Deut. 6:4-9**)

So, it's important that parents model what they teach and teach what they model. When parents have integrity—that is, when their teaching and example are consistent—the communication of their core values becomes compelling to children. (**Most children will grow up and live what has been modeled to them by their parents/grandparents.**) **Proverbs 22:6**

**Children become confused when Mom and Dad don't teach (or model) the same values.** Parents can find unity in their values by finding out what God has to say. Discussions about values can often lead Mom and Dad to a richer understanding and refinement of their core beliefs. Parents also learn to appreciate the perspective of their spouses when they see how some differences can be useful.

\*\* Becoming a Christ-centered family begins by defining your family's core values and determining that these core values are in line with God's core values found in Scripture.

*"Discipling children is about sharing with them the model of the life you live in Christ, on a daily basis." – Debbie Salter Goodwin*

### Values Exercise

These questions will help you formulate and clarify what you really believe.

1. What in life is most important to me?

---



---

2. What did my family teach me / what did they value most?

---



---

3. What have I been teaching and modeling to my children/grandchildren? (Actions speak louder than words!)

---



---

4. What do I want to teach and model?

---



---

Which of the following has your family tried—and liked enough to want to try again?

- having people over for a cookout, party, family gatherings
- letting non-family member live in your home for at least a week
- visiting a nursing home, hospital, or shut-ins
- singing or playing musical instruments
- camping, hiking, or rock climbing
- sports--playing or watching (baseball, golf, tennis, basketball, football, soccer, etc.)
- drama, putting on a play
- helping with vacation Bible school
- taking a mission trip
- raising money for a project
- starting a business
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

What strengths are reflected in your answers? Does your family have a knack for hospitality, performing, organizing, competing, traveling, earning, giving, taking a stand, or heavy lifting?

Family strengths often spring from what you value.

**What are your family values?**

- loyalty
- perseverance
- generosity
- compassion
- leadership
- humility
- discernment
- self-control
- friendliness
- objectivity
- patience
- glorifying and enjoying God
- serving and supporting one another
- living and sharing the gospel
- quality family time
- love
- faithfulness in family responsibilities
- reverence and respect
- integrity
- character (Christlikeness)
- honesty
- peace
- commitment (follow-through)
- achievement
- authority
- acceptance
- fun
- education
- creativity
- perfection
- others

You may add your own to this list.

Which of these values does your family hold?

Where do you find yourself spending your time? (Outside of the normal workday, house chores, school, etc.) Church, Bible reading, sports, music, watching TV/movies, social media/Internet, traveling/vacations, kids' activities, helping/serving others, reading, gardening, visiting friends, entertaining family/friends, building relationships with neighbors and co-workers, etc.

**List your family's top five to seven values on your worksheet page 33.**

**These values will help determine your family's life mission and various goals.**

### STEP #3 – MISSION & VISION

What do you want your family to become or accomplish for God?

**PARENTS BE SURE TO KEEP YOUR MISSION AND VISION FOCUSED ON ETERNAL VALUES—THOSE THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH GOD’S PURPOSES, SO THAT YOUR FAMILY ALWAYS HAS GOD’S KINGDOM IN VIEW.**

- WARNING AGAINST MATERIALISM: MATTHEW 6:19-21
- LIVING IN RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE: TITUS 2:11-14

*“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).*

**Pray for your children and grandchildren to become COVENANT HEIRS. TITUS 3:4-7**



**LET’S STOP FOR A MOMENT AND LOOK AT...**

#### **The Difference Between Mission and Vision**

What is the difference between a mission statement and a vision statement? Do you need both? (You make the call.)

A mission statement is a brief description of a family’s fundamental purpose. A mission statement answers the question, “Why do we exist?”

A vision statement is sometimes called a picture of your family in the future. The vision statement answers the question, “How does God want our family to serve Him?”

A mission statement gives the overall purpose of your family, while a vision statement describes your family’s preferred future and how you will accomplish the mission of your family.

**VALUES:** What are the non-negotiable beliefs you hold? **MISSION:** Why does your family exist? What is your family’s overall purpose?

**VISION:** How will your family accomplish its overall purpose (or mission in life)? Your vision (or “how to”) may change from time to time.

## **Drafting Your Family's Mission Statement**

Develop your family's mission statement to answer the question, "Why do we exist?"

Here are some basic guidelines in writing a family mission statement:

- Ask for God's help. Pray!
- A mission statement should reflect your family's core values. What you really believe!
- Include the whole family, considering everyone's input.
- Mission statements tend to be a single sentence but may be as long as three or four.
- Make your mission statement concise and memorable. Dare to dream BIG dreams for God!
- Ask yourself, "Does our family mission statement honor God?"
- A mission statement answers these key questions:
  - Why does our family exist?
  - What do we do?
  - For whom do we do it?
  - What is the benefit?

### **Sample Family Mission Statements**

Here are some sample family mission statements that might give you ideas for your own:

"Our family mission is to share God's love with our neighbors."

"Our family is devoted to raising money to give to Christian organizations, to help them spread the gospel."

"Our family goal is to love each other and everyone around us unconditionally."

"We devote our family to creating a safe, nurturing environment where all our family members are respected and encouraged to develop the talents God gave them."

## Drafting Your Family's Vision Statement

**Vision Statement:** A proclamation of what you believe God wants your family to accomplish together. It is what you are striving for and it is the yardstick that measures your choices and actions as the leader of your family. Victorious families see life as it is today and as they envision it tomorrow. They see the destiny!

Keeping your eyes on your final destiny—heaven, will challenge you to live for Christ today.

A Vision statement answers these key questions:

- How does God want our family to serve Him and bring Him glory through our lives?
- What impact will our Vision Statement have on our family?
- What destiny or goal will our Vision Statement motivate our family to achieve?
- What legacy do we want to pass on to our descendants?
- What do we want our family to look like 30 years from now?

What you are doing when creating a vision statement is articulating God's will for our family's overall mission and the means to accomplish it. It reminds us of how we are going to glorify God.

*How does God want us, as a family, to serve and glorify Him?*

Here are a few guidelines for writing your family's vision statement.

- The Family Vision Statement may include an expanded version of your Family Mission Statement.
- The Family Vision Statement should contain a phrase about your family's ministry goals and where you want to be, and how you will arrive there in the future.
- Your Family Vision Statement should challenge each member of the family to regularly leave their comfort zone in service to Christ.
- The Family Vision Statement should be a positive message based upon faith and obedience to Christ.
- A good vision statement **will capture your family's passion.**

What you are doing when creating a vision statement is articulating your dreams and hopes for your family. It reminds you of what you are trying to become or accomplish.

*“A victory begins with a vision. A vision of winning – a vision of going over the top. The people who constantly rise to the top are those who possess a vision before the prize is won.” – John Maxwell*

### **Some Sample Vision Statements...**

#### **The Johnson Family**

To respect, honor, and serve God and each other through living a Biblical life as followers of Jesus Christ.

#### **The Smith Family**

We will provide an environment in which every family member is cared for spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally.

#### **The Roberts Family**

To glorify God through Biblical family values that encourages family members to pray, praise, and worship God through the living example of Jesus Christ.

#### **The Fletcher Family (Mission and Vision)**

**Mission:** Our desire is to build a family that is fully devoted to God by intentionally passing down our faith in Christ to our children and grandchildren.

**Vision:** We will grow in Christlikeness by applying spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible study, worship, and rest) within our marriage and during our extended family times, and in doing so, build a legacy of sincere faith in Christ.

## **FAMILY THEME VERSE**

*“But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).*

After completing your family’s mission and vision statements, you may also want to select a family theme verse or passage of Scripture.

Take these thoughts into consideration when selecting a theme verse for your family.

1. Determine the purpose for your theme verse.
  - A. Scripture that captures the overall family mission. (Long term and could be lifetime.)
  - B. Scripture that is applicable for a specific family goal. (Short term and can change.)
2. Include the whole family in selecting a theme verse.
3. Pray and ask God to lead you to just the right verse.
4. Don’t rush, but instead, allow the Holy Spirit to guide the process.
5. After you have selected a theme verse for your family, include it with your Family Covenant.
6. You may also choose to have everyone in the family memorize the theme verse.

## STEP #4 – GOALS

### Milestones That Measure Progress

A goal is a milestone marking an achievement. As you take specific steps to pursue the spiritual development of your family, mission will keep you heading in the right direction, vision establishes the route that will take you to your destination; and goals are the mile markers that measure your progress. Goals must be specific, attainable and measurable if they are to help you take charge of the direction of your family's spiritual growth. **(See worksheet pages 34-37)**

- Mission keeps the destination in clear view
- Vision establishes the route that will take you to your destination
- Goals are the milestones marking achievements
- Goals are the mile markers that measure your progress
- Goals must be specific, attainable and measurable

A goal is nothing without determination to achieve it. In several letters, the Apostle Paul compared the Christian life to running a race in pursuit of a prize. The New Testament word for maturity suggests progression toward a finish line. Running a race requires purpose, preparation, perseverance, and even self-denial.

When you establish your goals, you must ask yourself two questions:

1. Is your vision worthy of the level of commitment required to achieve it?
2. Where will the power to remain committed to your goals come from?

**God is committed to empowering you, through His Holy Spirit, to reach your goals.**

*“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6).*

God will do His part, but you must commit to doing your part.

It will take living a life fully devoted to Christ, by regularly embracing spiritual disciplines:

- Prayer
- Bible study
- Worship

Goals flow from your mission. You can't fulfill your mission or vision without them. Mission statements may last a lifetime; goals are measurable, time-sensitive, specific targets. Goals can be short-term, mid-term, and long term. They can also be adaptable as seasons (life stages) of the family change. **(See samples of life stage goals on pages 35, 36)**

Just like your mission and vision statements, goals need to be written down.

*"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).*

## **SETTING YOUR GOALS**

Remember to set goals that will connect your family with God and fulfill His purposes.

### **Overall Family Goals –**

1. Set overall goals as a family—list those goals that the whole family will work toward achieving. Setting timelines will help your family stay on track. *"Goals will keep the train stay on the track."*

### **Individual Goals –**

2. Set individual goals. Everyone is unique; therefore, each family member will have their own passions that will determine their specific goals.

*Remember that all goals should reflect (or point back to) the family mission and vision, which ultimately supports (or accentuates) the family core values.*

### **Commitment Goals**

Commitment goals will lead you into a growing love for Jesus that responds to His love, rather than trying to earn His love.

### **The Seed and Sower (Luke 8:4-15)**

Jesus taught that His preaching of the gospel was like a farmer who sowed his seed on four kinds of soil. But the seed of the gospel message only grew to maturity and bore fruit in the fourth soil. Stop now, and think for a moment while answering this question: What has my response been to the gospel? Has my commitment to Christ's teaching produced the fruit of spiritual maturity in my life?

**Warning! Be aware of those things in your life that can thwart spiritual growth: over commitments, misplaced values and pleasures, worries, laziness, lack of spiritual concern (apathy/passivity), neglecting the body of Christ, etc.**

Embrace Christ's powerful love with commitment goals. These questions will help you develop healthy commitment goals.

- How can my family embrace Christ's love?

---



---

- What goals would best promote my family's spiritual development?

---



---

- What could we attain with the power of Christ's love and His power? *Those things we cannot attain in our own strength, wisdom, or power.* Remember--think BIG!

---



---

### **Commission Goals**

God calls us to share His gospel with those who don't know Him. Commission goals focus on embracing God's call to share the gospel beyond your own family. **Teach your family members to look beyond themselves to the physical and spiritual needs of others. (See worksheet page 38, Adopt a Family Member)**

These questions will help you develop your Commission goals.

- How can we model service and evangelism to our children?

---



---

- Who is in need around us?

---



---

- What do we have to offer?

---



---

- How could we serve as a family / individual—in our church, neighborhood, community?

---



---

## Goals Exercise

Thank God for the privilege He has given you to guide your family to becoming fully devoted followers of Christ. *Making Christlike disciples in your home.*

Then ask God to guide you as you set spiritual goals.

**Brainstorm** This can be a great bonding time as a family. Why not pop some popcorn or roast some hotdogs and S'mores over a fire, while the whole family has fun in dreaming BIG goals for God? Ask a family member to write down a list of suggested goals. You may want to use a white board.

Then refine your list, remembering to make the goals specific, attainable (with God's help), and measurable.

Transfer the list of your confirmed goals to your worksheet.

To help with this exercise, consider these questions. (Remember to think as an individual and as a family unit.)

- What are the specific spiritual needs of our family right now?
- How can we change our attitudes and habits and replace them with God-honoring ones?
- How can we establish a doable personal and family worship time (family altar)?
- How can we serve together?

## Action Steps

Good intentions are sometimes just that, if not intentionally followed up with action steps.

Be sure to include actions steps to each of your goals.

**Psalm 37:23 & 24** (KJV) "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delights in his way."

**Psalm 119:105** (NIV) "Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path."

**Proverbs 3:5 & 6** (NKJV) "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

**Proverbs 16:9** (NIV) "In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."

**Be Specific:**

Take some time to determine the action steps that your family will take, in order to reach your goals. Make actions steps for individual goals as well. Setting realistic timelines can be a great incentive for attaining your goals.

**Family Goals**

**Goal #1:**

---

---

**Action Step:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Goal #2:**

---

---

**Action Step:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual Goals**

**Goal #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Action Step:** \_\_\_\_\_

## THE FINAL STEP: YOUR FAMILY COVENANT

*“Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands” (Deuteronomy 7:9).*

### Covenant

Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary –

**Covenant** – A “formal, solemn, and binding agreement...a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action.”

Theological Term –

**Covenant** – Covenants were created by God as a way to confirm His agreements with mankind. In biblical terms, the word “covenant” is interchangeable with “agreement,” but carries more weight than a casual or even contractual understanding.

- Why do we need a Family Covenant? -- And why should it be in writing?



The Ten Commandments: God wrote ‘em down!  
Since God thought it was important to write down the Ten Commandments for His children, then it’s probably a really good idea for parents to write down their spiritual plans for their children and to make a covenant with God.



### ***RAINBOW LOGO & THEME VERSE FOR COVENANT HEIRS***

*The rainbow is a visible outward sign of God’s covenant with Noah and his family, and to all generations—Gen. 9:12-16.*

And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set a rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth” (Genesis 9:12-13).

The rainbow is a beautiful reminder of God’s promises—then and now. Each time we see a rainbow today, we are reminded of God’s faithfulness to us, through His Son, Jesus Christ.

**IT IS OUR DESIRE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN TO BE  
COVENANT HEIRS... (Titus 3:4-7)**

Children of God, who by the saving grace of Jesus Christ, love and serve Him faithfully.  
*Jeff & Charmé Fletcher*

**2 Timothy 1:5**

*“I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”*

The covenant that your family will make is a binding agreement between your family and God. Therefore, it is not to be taken lightly, but rather, with great discernment and prayer. You will want your whole family to understand the significance of the covenant and the importance of carrying it through. God will do His part, and He will also help you with yours as you daily commit your family covenant to His authority.

**Looking at the Covenant as a Whole**

These are the components that will make up your written agreement. Read through them carefully.

1. Your Family Mission Statement
2. Your Family Vision Statement
3. Your Core Values
4. Your Goals (Individual and Family) – Which will include your Action Steps.
5. Family Theme Verse

**Six Traits of Spiritual Agreements Found in The Bible**

1. ***They bring safety.*** Without the following agreement, Noah and his family and all the animals would have perished: “But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, ***to keep them alive with you...***’ Noah did everything God commanded him” (Genesis 6:18-19, 22).
2. ***They have an outward sign.*** These can be important, reminding parties of their agreement and helping others to hold them accountable. Examples: wedding rings, written family covenants. “And God said, ‘***This is the sign of the covenant*** I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth’” (Genesis 9:12-13).

3. ***They can focus on one or more generations.*** Living our agreements and modeling them to our children can help future generations live out their own. “On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, ‘***To your descendants I give this land***, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—the land of the Kenites, Canaanites, Girsites, and Jousites’” (Genesis 15:18-21).

4. ***They can multiply productivity.*** People accomplish more when God is on the team. “*I will confirm my covenant between me and you and greatly increase your numbers*” (Genesis 17:2).

5. ***They bring a new identity.*** When you enter into a covenant, you become a part of a bigger story. “***No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham***, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you” (Genesis 17:5-16).

6. ***They require sacrifice.*** Most contracts protect your rights and limit your responsibilities. Most spiritual covenants call on you to give up your rights and take on responsibilities. “This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised” (Genesis 17:10). This old testament covenant was replaced by the ultimate covenant between God and all of mankind.

The "new covenant" is the new agreement God has made with mankind, based on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The concept of a new covenant originated with the promise of Jeremiah that God would accomplish for His people what the old covenant had failed to do (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 11:7-13). Under this new covenant, God would write His law on human hearts.

Covenants are powerful. They help us achieve what we often struggle to do on our own. When two parties come together with a common goal, strengths are combined, weaknesses are minimized, and the chances of success are exponentially increased.

### **Make the Sacrifice**

First, as we noted earlier, making a family covenant will take time. Reduce some of your extra activities and make it a high priority as a family to work together developing your family covenant.

*“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4).*

When we enter a covenant relationship, we’re surrendering our personal desires and putting the needs of our families first.

### **From Charting Your Spiritual Course (No longer in print.)**

Jesus gave his disciples bread and wine as signs of a new covenant that would be sealed with His broken body and shed blood. The new covenant sealed Jesus’ promise to do all that was necessary to redeem His people from their sins. This covenant in His blood pointed to His promises of salvation and to the unity of the Spirit that His people would experience.

In a similar way, parents can covenant with each other and with their families to be the spiritual shepherds God intended. (Ephesians 6:4)

## Sample Family Covenants:

### Smith Family Covenant

**Mission:** To experience the unconditional love of Christ, so we might love one another and make a radical impact on our family, community, and culture.

**Values:** Unconditional love, healthy and safe environment, quality time (just being, not doing), honesty, friends, community, food, fun

**Goal 1:** To be intentional about modeling our faith at home.

**Goal 2:** To reach out to our community.

We as a family agree with God to fulfill the above, by the means discussed in Ephesians 3:14-21.

### Jones Family Covenant

**Mission:** We will love, encourage, and serve one another and those God brings into our lives.

**Values:** Love, peace, fun, family relationships, trust

**Goals:** (1) To memorize 12 Bible verses about God's love in the coming year; and (2) to tangibly express God's love through service.

**Action Steps:** (1) Memorize one verse about love each month in the coming year; and (2) express God's love through a service opportunity that we do as a family.

### *Fletcher Family Covenant* (Abbreviated Framed Tabletop Version)

#### *Mission*

*Our desire is to build a family that is fully devoted to God by intentionally passing down our faith in Christ to our children and grandchildren.*

#### *Vision*

*We will grow in Christlikeness by applying spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible study, worship, and rest) within our marriage and during our extended family times, and in doing so, build a legacy of sincere faith in Christ.*

#### **Covenant Vows**

Pray together daily, share life experiences, show unconditional love and support, encourage each other in the Lord daily, play together, and serve others.

#### **Core Values**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Glorify / Experience and enjoy God daily                              | 5. Serving and supporting one another              |
| 2. Integrity / Christ-like character                                     | 6. Living and sharing the Gospel                   |
| 3. Love  | 7. Honesty   |
| 4. Quality family time (spousal and w/children, mates and grandchildren) | 8. Fun & Relaxation                                |
|  | 9. Commitment                                      |
|  | 10. Passing down our Faith to our kids & grandkids |

## Finalizing your Family Covenant

- Use the provided worksheet, page 39, to process your thoughts and ideas. (Or make up your own.)
- Set aside a special evening with the whole family to finalize the Family Covenant.
- Transfer the final Family Covenant onto the various documents.
  1. 8 ½” x 11” Certificate (May be framed.)
  2. 5”x 7” Tabletop (Abbreviated version.)
  3. Family Covenant Booklet: Ministry Story, Family History, Mission/Vision Statements, Core Values, Goals and Action Steps, Theme Verse
  4. Family ministry cards (Abbreviated mission/values/goals/verse, etc.)
- Plan a special day to commemorate the Family Covenant. \*\* See information for *Family Legacy Day* on Covenant Heirs Home Page Tab

## Final Thoughts

Even though the Ten Commandments are set in stone, (and rightfully so), your Family Covenant may be adapted from year to year, or as the life stages of your family change. This is especially true for setting goals.

Most importantly, when making a covenant, make sure that your family takes their solemn promise to God very seriously and help them understand that it should not be easily broken.

“When you make a promise to God, don’t delay in following through, for God takes no pleasure in fools. Keep all the promises you make to him. It is better to say nothing than to make a promise and not keep it...Talk is cheap, like daydreams and other useless activities. Fear God instead” (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5, 7, NLT).

## Accountability

Families are encouraged to meet periodically with the sole purpose of offering prayer, support, and accountability, as they develop their spiritual discipleship plans. Some families may choose to plan an annual planning session. Parents may choose to plan an annual weekend getaway (as a couple and or with their children) for evaluating the past year (How did we do as a family following our mission/vision/goals? Where do we need improvement, setting new goals, etc.)?

*It may feel like an overwhelming task to disciple your children. Remember though, it is God’s plan for every parent to instruct their children to become fully devoted followers of Jesus, and with His help, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and prayer, you can do it!*

Please take this time to make a commitment to God, to be intentional and proactive in making Christlike disciples in your home and church. **See the next page.**

## COMMITMENT

Parents, Grandparents, and Ministry Leaders, will you commit to taking the necessary steps in developing a spiritual discipleship plan for yourself and the children that God has placed in your lives? If so, please pray this prayer and sign the commitment below.

Dear Lord,

I commit to making a spiritual discipleship plan for myself and the children you have entrusted to my care. Please help guide my thoughts and understanding as I prayerfully seek your wisdom in making Christlike disciples in my home and in our church.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain” Psalm 127:1.*



Jeff & Charmé Fletcher  
Covenant Heirs Ministry  
Contact: [covenantheirs@gmail.com](mailto:covenantheirs@gmail.com)





*FAMILY HISTORY*

DATE

**Genealogical & Faith Information**

**Family History**

<b>Parents</b>	<b>Birthplace</b>	<b>DOB</b>	<b>DOD</b>	<b>Testimony/Legacy</b>
<b>Grandparents</b>	<b>City/State</b>	<b>DOB</b>	<b>DOD</b>	<b>Testimony/Legacy</b>
<b>Great Grandparents</b>	<b>City/State</b>	<b>DOB</b>	<b>DOD</b>	<b>Testimony/Legacy</b>

**Family History**

<b>Parents</b>	<b>Birthplace</b>	<b>DOB</b>	<b>DOD</b>	<b>Testimony/Legacy</b>
<b>Grandparents</b>	<b>City/State</b>	<b>DOB</b>	<b>DOD</b>	<b>Testimony/Legacy</b>
<b>Great Grandparents</b>	<b>City/State</b>	<b>DOB</b>	<b>DOD</b>	<b>Testimony/Legacy</b>

*Generational Spiritual Development of the \_\_\_\_\_ Family*

Family History	DOB	Birthplace	Church	Ministry	DOD	Testimony/Legacy
		<b>CHILDREN OF _____</b>				
		<b>GRANDCHILDREN OF _____</b>				

*The Generational Spiritual Development  
Faith Journey Story*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Date*

## Our Family Core Values

Values are the non-negotiable truths you hold that direct your family's behavior. They are motivational. They provide an answer for the "why" of every circumstance in life, and they place boundaries around behavior. They reveal what you really believe.

**List the top five to seven values that you have determined will guide your family to successfully living out their mission.**

### Our Family Core Values Are

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

You may choose to post these in a visible location, where each family member can refer to them daily. (kitchen table, refrigerator, bathroom mirrors, etc.)

**SETTING FAMILY GOALS**

\_\_\_\_\_ *Date*

**Family Goals: Year 1**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

**Family Goals: Year 2**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

**Family Goals: Year 3**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Family Life Stages Spiritual Growth Goals for Children

### Examples

<b>Up to Age 5</b>	<b>Ages 6 – 10</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. My children will learn about creation.</li> <li>2. My children will learn about God’s love.</li> <li>3. My children will learn to pray.</li> <li>4. My children will learn about Jesus.</li> <li>5. My children will learn the Lord’s Prayer.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. My children will learn how to read the Bible on their learning level.</li> <li>2. My child will memorize Scripture.</li> <li>2. My children will learn how to worship God.</li> <li>3. My children will learn how to serve God by serving others in the church and in our neighborhood.</li> </ol>
<b>Ages 11 - 13</b>	<b>Ages 14 – 18</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. My child will read through the New Testament.</li> <li>2. My children will attend church camp.</li> <li>3. We will discuss the moral issues and learn what the Bible has to say about them (marriage, sex, abortion, divorce, etc.)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. My children will read through the Old Testament.</li> <li>2. My children will go on a mission trip.</li> <li>3. My children will use their gifts and talents in the church, serving others.</li> <li>4. My child will visit a homeless shelter, pro-life pregnancy center, and other local missions.</li> <li>5. My children will find a place to serve in some type of local mission work.</li> </ol>

### Guide for Setting Goals for your children:

- The goals you set should be designed to lead your children to worship, pray, and understand who God is, and clearly define God’s plan of salvation through Christ, His son.
- Goals should also include a strong motivation toward acts of serving others.

**Learning Levels:** Bible memory and facts, critical thinking that leads to faith, life expression

**Suggested Themes:** Basics of Christian Faith: Who is God? Who is Jesus? Who is the Holy Spirit? What is Faith? What is Worship? What is the Church? How can I please God?

### Family Life Stages Spiritual Growth Goals for Children

**Note:** List the names of your children/grandchildren next to their specific goals.

<b>Up to Age 5</b>	<b>Ages 6 – 10</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li><li>4.</li><li>5.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li><li>4.</li><li>5.</li></ol>



## INDIVIDUAL GOALS

My Spiritual Goals for \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Spiritual Growth

### Action Steps

1. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

### Family

### Action Steps

1. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

### Financial

### Action Steps

1. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

### Local Church

### Action Steps

1. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

### Sharing My Faith (Evangelism and Missions)

### Action Steps

1. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

I commit these goals to the Lord: \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Date

## **Adopt a Family Member**

This is an optional ministry opportunity that your family may choose to take on. There are many people/families who could need the love of Jesus. Possibly you know someone/family that is lonely, or have recently been through a loss, or is less fortunate than you are. They may be a next-door neighbor, a co-worker, church member, etc.

**Name:** (Who is this person and what is their family life like?)      **Marital Status:**

**Address:**

**Phone #:**

**Children / Grandchildren:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

**Needs:** (What are this person's spiritual, emotional, or physical needs?)

**Ministry Goals:** (How can we pray for this person/family and how can we help meet their needs?)

**We commit to pray for our adoptive family and to reach out to them with the love of Jesus.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Family Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**



## Our Family's Spiritual Discipleship Plan

### Our Family Core Values

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

### Our Family Mission

---



---

### Our Family Vision

---



---

### Our Family Goals

### Action Steps

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

**Our family prayerfully commits these spiritual plans to God.**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Signature**

**Date**