**How to Develop Your Personal Mission Statement**

**Rough draft due 1/31**

**Final draft due 3/15**

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What is the purpose? Writing your personal mission statement will inspire you and provide direction and guidance for your life, whether you’re young or older. You have purpose on this earth until the day you go home to Jesus. What does Jesus want you to do where He has you now?

Go slowly through the process, ask yourself the right questions and think deeply about your values and aspirations.

Step 1: Define what you want to be and do

Looking into God’s Word

1. Read Ephesians 2:10. List your observations.
2. How does this verse impact your life and your potential personal mission statement?
3. Write out the following verses in your own words:
   1. Psalm 138:8
   2. Psalm 143:8
   3. Proverbs 3:5-6
4. List several things you want to do in your life. These may be things you want to do now or in the future.
5. What would you like to be?

Step 2: Identify an influential person

An effective strategy to focusing in on what you want to be and do is to identify a highly influential individual in your life and think how this individual has contributed to your life. This person may be a parent, co-worker, friend, family member, teacher, neighbor, or mentor. It may also, be someone you have never met, but they have touched you in a life-changing way.

Looking into God’s Word

1. Before we begin, let’s look at the example of how Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, was influential in Moses’ life in the wilderness. As you read Exodus 18:1-27, what do you observe about the relationship between Moses and Jethro?
2. How did Jethro influence Moses?
3. How did Moses respond to Jethro?
4. Who has been one of the most influential people in your life? How and why?
5. Which of their qualities do you most admire? Why?
6. What qualities have you gained (or desire to gain) from that person?

Step Three: Define your life roles

Step three of this process involves defining your life roles. You live your life in terms of roles – not in the sense of role-playing, but in the sense of authentic parts you have chosen to fill. These roles become a natural framework to give order to what you want to do and be.

Looking to God’s Word

1. Write out these verses in your own words. How do they encourage you in this process of writing your personal mission statement?
   1. Psalm 37:23-24
   2. Proverbs 16:9
   3. Acts 20:24
   4. 1 Corinthians 10:31
2. Define your life roles and then write these roles in the space below. You may define your role as simply “family member,” or you may choose to be more specific – wife, husband, son, daughter, athlete. Some areas of your life may involve several roles.
3. Next, write a brief statement beside each role of how you would like to be best described in that particular role.
   1. Roles:

By identifying your life roles, you will gain perspective and balance. By writing these descriptive statements, you will begin to visualize who you strive to be at your best. You will also identify the core principles and values you desire to live by.

Step 4: Write your personal mission statement

Now that you have identified your life roles and have defined what you want to be and do, you are ready to do Step Four and begin writing a draft of your Personal Mission Statement. Begin by spending some time in prayer, asking God to direct you step by step. Be sensitive to the leading of His Holy Spirit.

Looking to God’s Word

1. To help you write your draft of what you believe is your personal mission on this earth, begin by looking at what God’s Word tells us He desires of us and our lives on this earth. Write out insights from these verses.
   1. Matthew 28:18-20
   2. John 15:5, 8
   3. Colossians 3:12-17
   4. 2 Timothy 2:2
   5. Titus 2:3-5
2. Are there any other passages that motivate you concerning your life mission on this earth?

Looking reflectively

Now begin to write out a draft of your personal mission statement. Look back at your spiritual gifts inventory and take those things into consideration. How has God uniquely gifted you? What do you have a passion for? What is a good fit for your personality, gifts, and desire? Combine your spiritual gifts inventory with God’s commands in Scripture and write out what you believe God wants you to do with your time on this earth.

Different kinds of statements:

1. Laurie Beth Jones, author of *The Path,* believes strongly in a short, written statement. She gives a formula: My mission is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (fill in with 3 verbs that fit you) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (a core value such as service, justice, mercy, family, creativity, freedom, etc.,) to, for, or with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (this is the group or cause that most excites you).

* Example:
  + From a CEO: My mission is to foster innovation, enhance cooperation, and create prosperity for all whom I serve.
  + From a labor relations expert: My mission is to uphold, discover, and support trust, honesty, and integrity in all relationships.

1. Richard Nelson Bolles, author of *How to Find Your Mission in Life*, doesn’t follow a formula but quotes some short statements:
   * My mission is, out of the rich reservoir of love which God seems to have given me, to nurture and show love for others – most particularly to those who are suffering from incurable diseases.
   * My mission is to weep with those who weep, so that in my arms they may feel themselves in the terms of that Eternal Love which sent me and created them.

Now it’s your turn. ☺ Write out your personal mission statement below. Remember, this is a rough draft. You may even write out several and then pray over which one best expresses the vision for your life.

A clear mission statement answers three questions:

* Who is your ministry focus group?
* What needs are you seeking to meet?
* How will your accomplish your mission?

Your Statement:

Step 5: Evaluate

Once you have written out your rough draft of your personal mission statement, it is a good idea to consistently evaluate it and update it as your life changes. It is important to make changes accordingly as you move through seasons of life. Are you “spending” your life in a way that pleases our Lord and Savior?

Looking to God’s Word

1. Write out Acts 20:24
2. How would this verse motivate you in fulfilling your personal mission statement?
3. Write out Paul’s thoughts from the following verses concerning his course and mission on this earth, and how they can apply to your life.
   1. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10
   2. Philippians 3:12-14
   3. 2 Timothy 4:7
4. Write out Jesus’ words in John 17:4
5. Are you living your life, investing your life, in such a way that those words would be true at the end of your earthly life? If not, what changes do you need to make?

Looking reflectively

* Is my mission based on timeless, proven principles? Which ones?
* Do I feel direction, purpose, challenge, and some motivation when I review this statement?
* Am I aware of the strategies and skills that will help me accomplish what I have written?
* What do I need to start doing now to be where I want to be tomorrow?
* The final test of the value and effectiveness of a Mission Statement is the following question: Does this statement inspire me?

*“We are not primarily called to do something or go somewhere; we are called to Someone. We are not called first to special work but to God. The key to answering the call is to be devoted to no one and to nothing above God Himself.”* –Os Guinness