



Family MATTERS

A Christ-center resource for families and teachers

Planning

Here are a few thoughts on the idea of planning . . .

- "If you fail to plan, then you are really planning to fail."
- "Measure twice—cut once."
- "Plan your work, and then work your plan."

For some people, the idea of planning comes naturally. The rest of us have to struggle to develop this skill. Many of us have learned a lot through our lack of planning, and have hopefully gotten better at it over the course of time.

If we haven't learned to do "a little bit of planning" by the time we have kids, then it will most likely occur instantaneously. We will be forced to be forward thinking and learn—via the school of hard knocks—to do some planning in order to anticipate what needs to happen next when it comes to our children and family activities.

Many people find planning unnatural. They believe that "it takes away from spontaneity" or that "it cramps their style." We'd all like to imagine our lives as light and carefree. But, if you are a parent, you know that you are never free from the care you need to provide for your child. Even when they grow up and get out on their own, there is this parental need to still care for them. The responsibility of parenting never seems to go away (and that's a good thing).

In the Old Testament, God, as the Father of His children, showed care for His people as He gave them a word of hope while they were exiled in a foreign country. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God's words of comfort came to His people in these words, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11). Wow! It's good to know that God is one who plans. He had a plan all along to deliver His people back to their home country and give them a future, and most of all—hope! In the New Testament God's plans for our salvation were realized in the birth, life, death and resurrection of His Son Jesus—hope fulfilled!

We can all hope that our own plans will come to be. Remembering that God has a plan for our lives, we converse with Him about His will for our lives as we dream big dreams. We should encourage our children to walk with God as they dream big dreams and plan and work to attain them. Listening to God's will through meditation and prayer, we then plan the work that needs to be done. Then, through God's grace and guidance and by doing the hard work necessary, dreams can become reality. We also need to know our limits and create healthy boundaries that keep us focused.

When we fail or when we fall short, the God who planned perfectly for our salvation in Christ Jesus is there to comfort us, to pick us up, to give us hope and a future. We can count on His plans for us in the short term, in the long term, and for all of eternity.

We may not be very good at planning, but it is reassuring to know that God is!

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Family Links

Activities to reinforce Bible story truths in the home.

Summer Planning

Use the calendars below to make plans for your family this coming summer. Begin with prayer and then write down church events, family vacation plans, special performances, classes, games and sporting events, as well as activities for individual family members. Use this time to plan for new and different things that your family has never done before. When you are finished, display the calendar where everyone can see it and can know the plans you have made—the future that awaits each of them as a member of your family.

June 2010						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2010						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2010						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



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