

EXAMPLE 1: THE WATSON FAMILY

Brian and Sharon Watson have a thirteen-year-old boy and ten-year-old girl. Both parents work outside the home.

Question 1: Platform - What makes our family unique?

We value humor and incorporate it into every aspect of our lives. We believe in the importance of compassion and we treat others with respect and care. Finally, we are focused and passionate in our interests and pursuits.

Question 2: Project - What is your main thing, your 'rallying cry' right now?

Between now and early spring, we will work on getting our teenaged son into private high school.

Priorities

- Complete the application process and obtain recommendation letters.
- Support our son in maintaining schoolwork and good grades.
- Prepare our son emotionally for the transition into private school (departure from friends and so on).
- Adjust finances for school tuition.
- Prepare for logistics and transportation shift to school father away (which will impact whole family).

Pillars

- Preserve marriage.
- Maintain quality family time, including extended family.
- Support kids in their activities.
- Take care of home administration.
- Exercise and maintain health.

Question 3: Progress - How will we talk about and use the answers to these questions?

We will discuss these issues as a couple during Friday night dinners, and then again as a family during our Sunday dinner family council meetings.

EXAMPLE 2: THE SHANNON FAMILY

Tom and Mary Shannon have two boys, ages ten and seven. Tom works full-time, and Mary is a stay-at-home mom.

Question 1: Platform - What makes our family unique?

We try to emphasize that it takes hard work and focused effort to succeed. But winning outright is not the only measure. As long as someone contributes their best effort (in all ways) then they are tracking to become the best version of themselves and should feel proud. Winning is great but not required. Likewise, just showing up is no cause for celebration or reward.

Question 2: Project - What is your main thing, your 'rallying cry' right now?

Between now and the end of school, our primary goal is to help encourage our two young boys to have and demonstrate more self-control. To us, this means stopping what they are doing when asked (video games, playing, reading, and so on) and doing what an adult asks them to do right away and without whining, negotiating, or stalling.

Priorities

- Give praise when they do the right thing on their own.
- Create a system where they earn their "electronics time" on the weekend – after showing self-control when needed during the week.
- Emphasize via dinner-time conversations how mom and dad show self-control regarding their activities.
- Opportunistically discuss movie characters, sports heroes and other role models as more examples of how it takes hard work and focused effort to succeed.

Pillars

- Faith
- Health
- Marriage
- Finances
- Education

Question 3: Progress - How will we talk about and use the answers to these questions?

Every Sunday afternoon we will have a ten-minute meeting to assess how well we're doing.

EXAMPLE 3: THE SORENSON FAMILY

Don and Mary Jane Sorenson are empty nesters with three children and six grandchildren. Both Sorensens work.

Question 1: Platform - What makes our family unique?

We are a hardworking family committed to traditional values. Our marriage, our kids, and now our grandkids are at the core of our existence.

Question 2: Project - What is your main thing, your 'rallying cry' right now?

Between now and the end of the year, we will begin to prepare for retirement.

Priorities

- Sell investment property.
- Work with financial planner to establish a retirement budget.
- Determine a schedule to ensure we stay active.
- Establish an exit strategy for work.
- Deal with the emotional aspects of retirement.

Pillars

- Marriage
- Extended family
- Finances
- Health
- Faith

Question 3: Progress - How will we talk about and use the answers to these questions?

We will review our family clarity during weekend drives to our second home.

EXAMPLE 4: ANDREA

Andrea is a single woman in her twenties.

Question 1: Platform - What makes our family unique?

I am a person striving to build a life built on my faith in God. I strongly value my small network of close friends. My need for a creative outlet is core to who I am as a person. It is very important to me to maintain close relationships with my remote family.

Question 2: Project - What is your main thing, your 'rallying cry' right now?

I need to establish a sense of permanence in my residence in California.

Priorities

- Strengthen my local community of faith and friends.
- Establish a regular schedule of family visits and communication.
- Establish a realistic financial budget.
- Develop a regular schedule of activities to maintain balance.

Pillars

- Work at a healthy lifestyle.
- Maintain consistent communication and quality time with close friends.
- Maintain regular communication with family members.
- Continue to deepen my faith life.

Question 3: Progress - How will we talk about and use the answers to these questions?

I will clearly post my objectives for easy reminding. Additionally, I will reevaluate my progress weekly and revisit my rallying cry in June.