#### BECOMING EVERYTHING GOD WANTS US TO BE

# 2021 FAMILY FORUM



## ABOUT THE FAMILY FORUM



This program is broken up into three main sections. The first section is called Reflect. In order to figure out where we are going, we need to reflect on where we are coming from. The second section is called Hear. Once we figure out where we are coming from we need to hear from God about where we are going. The last section is called Plan. Hearing is important, but what you do with what you heard is where change happens, and that takes planning. The 2021 Family Forum is a program designed for us to be everything God wants us to be. I often pray over my children, "God help them to be everything You want them to be; nothing more and nothing less."

Everyone will end up somewhere, but very few people end up somewhere on purpose. God has created you and designed you for a purpose. It's our responsibility to seek Him and discover all He has for us. God is not hiding from you; He's hiding for you. He's hiding so only you can find Him. The process of seeking after Him is called life. Many followers of Jesus walk around year after year not even knowing if they are going in the right direction. This program is set up to give you the tools you need to seek Him and find Him.



## STORY OF THE YEAR

Retell your year's story in 5 minutes. Pretend you are talking to a friend over coffee and they say, "Catch me up on how you have been, what God has been doing in your life, and what you've been up to." Do this separately at first and then come together with your spouse and share your highlights (if applicable). Use a separate sheet of paper if needed.

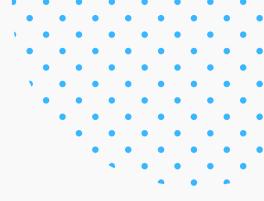


Afterward, ask each other these questions below (if applicable).

- 1. What were areas that your spouse included that you did not?
- 2. What version was a little happier than the other?
- 3. What did you forget or what did this exercise help bring back to the forefront?
- 4. Would you say the story 2020 told was the one you wanted to tell? Why or not?



# LOSSES



Write down a few of the losses from the year. Definition: losses are any area you grieved, any area that seemed difficult for a longer season, anything you miss that hasn't come back, etc. Mark with an "x" next to any losses that still feel like one, and with a "+" any that were hard/losses but you have perspective or see redemption in them so far. This is basically a section to talk about "what was hard" in a free-flowing discussion.

Afterward, ask each other these questions below (if applicable).

- 1. What would you say was the hardest moment last year? Why?
- 2. Have you learned anything or did it change you in any way?
- 3. Where did you feel like God showed up the biggest last year?

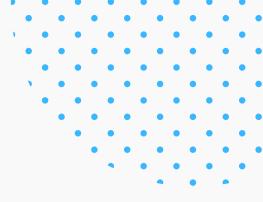
4. Look for patterns this last year. Was God teaching you or nudging you towards a particular theme or area of growth?

5. In what area did you see the most growth in your spouse?

6. What was something new you did or implemented that seemed to work, and you are glad you did? (i.e. date night once a month, not having a phone in the bedroom, etc.)

- 7. Where did God surprise you this year?
- 8. What did you do this year that will benefit you 50 years from now?

#### WINS IN 2020



Write down the wins. The small and big ones. For example, bought a house, a child learned to walk, or this one special meal you remember, or whatever that looks like for you.

Afterward, ask each other these questions below (if applicable).

- 1. What would you say is the biggest 'win' from this past year?
- 2. What's one thing that was hard but you're so glad and thankful you did it or how it ended up
- 3. What are five things you are thankful for this year?

4. What was something that happened this last year, that would've surprised you or you never would've guessed would happen?

5. What was your favorite date as a married couple this year?

6. Favorite moment or memory this year as a couple.

# FINANCES

Discuss with your spouse if you are married.

- 1. Worst financial decision made this year? Why?
- 2. One way we can change how we see, spend, or use finances next year.
- 3. Best 'fun' purchase we made this year.
- 4. Best use of money or moment of generosity and stewardship this year.
- 5. List items of provision where God took care of us this year financially.

## CHILDREN IN 2020

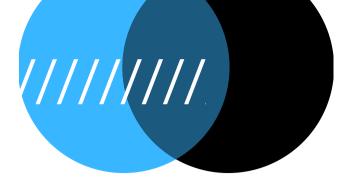
Name of Kids	What's their role in the family?	How are they gifted or wired?	How do they most need support?	Activities to prioritize with them?	Best way to spend 1 on 1 time ?	When do they most come alive?

Afterward, ask each other these questions below (if applicable).

1. What is one word we'd say to describe how parenting/child relationships went this last year?

- 2.What is each kid excelling at?
- 3. What does each kid need some extra help on?
- 4. How can we call their true identity in the Lord out more in 2021?

5. What was the best thing we instituted with the kids that blessed our family ten-fold this year? (new tradition, a training tool, etc.)



# FAVORITES

1	Memory:
2	Memory with kids:
3	Movies watched:
4	Meal:
5	Moment with friends:
6	New thing we did:
7	Place of growth:
8	New habit:
9	Book:

## RHYTHM DIAGNOSTIC

Our life is full of rhythms. Write down your daily rhythm, weekly rhythm, and yearly rhythm. These are the things you do on a daily, weekly, and yearly basis.

DAILY	WEEKLY	YEARLY
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Rhythm Reflection

Discuss with your spouse if applicable.

- 1. Which rhythm gave us the most life this year? One we couldn't have lived without in 2020?
- 2. Which one needs more work or tweaking to get more optimal results?
- 3. Any new ones we want to add?
- 4. Any we want to change?
- 5. Any we want to take away?

## SIN & BATTLE

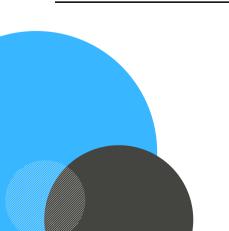
Discuss these questions below with your spouse (if applicable).

- 1. Where do you feel like sin patterns most entered into the marriage or individual lives this year?
- 2. How do you think your sin affected the marriage or family?
- 3. What did God reveal to you about yourself this year? Or how did He help you fight, resist temptation, the devil, the flesh, and the world?
- 4. What is the most helpful thing I do as a spouse when your sin pattern begins to show?
- 5. What is the least helpful thing I do as a spouse, or a way I exacerbate those areas?
- 6. Where did you see God triumph over sin in your life and marriage and family this year? Be specific. Count the blessings and moments of victory. What about in areas of weakness or hurt or pain or any type of serious spiritual battle even though it might not be sin?



## THANKFUL IN 2020

List 21 things each of you are thankful for in this past year. Big or small. Fun or serious.



## CEREMONY & ALTAR

Build some type of altar or curate some type of moment to close this activity and year. Moments and seasons have to be marked. Do something that breaks the script from your normal daily routine. Go to a nice restaurant to celebrate His faithfulness, do a craft of sorts that represents what you talk about, and hang it up on the fridge as a reminder throughout the year, or go plant a flower or tree in the backyard to represent 2020 and His goodness and blessing.

- 1. How will we choose to mark this year?
- 2. How will we choose to remember this year?
- 3. Fifty years from now, what do we want our kids to come across to signify/remember about this year?



HEAR

#### WORDS FOR 2021

Jesus said in John 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." God wants to speak to his people. We just need to pause long enough to hear him. In this section spend some time praising God for what He did in 2020 and what He will do in 2021. Also, pray and ask God what word he has for you this year. It is important to get a word as it can carry you through a difficult season. It will keep focused on what God has for you. Notes:

Each person writes their word(s) for 2021. This could be just you and your spouse or your children if you want to include them. Discuss how they are connected and how they work together.

21:	
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#### HEAR

## VISION FOR 2021

Take some time to pray and ask God about the vision for you or your family. Vision is important because it gives you direction for the future.

The vision statement pertains to where you hope you will be going in the future if you can fulfill your mission. The vision should be worded so that it provides guidance and inspiration. It's a forward-thinking statement that should be fulfilled in the next year or so

#### Example:

We exist to bring heaven to earth wherever we are. We do this through our core values of faithful devotion to God, doing family as a team, authenticity in relationships, creating a safe place, pursuing a healthy lifestyle, finding joy in all situations, and being generous with our time, talent, and treasure.

Here are some guiding questions to help you pray and think about your vision.

- What are your core values? If you do not have any, what are some core values you can establish?
- What are things you want to stand for and be known for?
- What are the things needed to get the vision to come to pass in 2021?
- Why does your family exist?
- What does God want your family to look like?

Vision:

PLAN

## GOALS FOR 2021

What are some goals to set to make the vision come to pass for you/your family? The goals you pick should be centered around furthering the vision God has given you. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

Proverbs 16:3 NIV

Fill out the Achievement Goal worksheet or Habit Goal worksheet for each goal on the next page.

#### Person 1

1		
2		
3		
Person 2 1		
2		
3		

There is a temptation to choose 5 or more goals at the beginning. To find success, let's start with just 3 for the first three months. If you are able to accomplish those three goals then move onto more goals.

### ACHIEVEMENT GOAL-SAMPLE

Activation Trigger: What will you put in place to remind you of this goal?

> June 30th Deadline

Put a recurring appointment on my calendar with an alarm for 10am on Saturdays for Tames and I to touch base about progress.

Write your goal:

Pay down credit card debt by \$4.000 by June 30th

 $\square$ S  $\square$ M  $\square$ A  $\square$ R  $\square$ T  $\square$ E  $\square$ R

Key Motivations: Write your key motivations, then rank them. <u>3</u> To lighten the weighed-down feeling that debt creates

2 To save money on interest paid

<u>1</u><u>To increase independence and freedom</u>

Next S	teps: List the first few steps you need to take to reach your goals, then rank them. <u>Adjust budget to find available money for debt retirement</u>
1	Find a time for the family to meet and brainstorm ideas on how to get this done
3	Cancel unessential recurring expenses and services
4	Have Kevin create a poster with the goal, our motivations and an inspiring image

## ACHIEVEMENT GOAL

Write your goal:					
SMAR	□ T □ E □ R		Deadline		
Key Motivations: Write your key motivations, then rank them.					

Next Steps:

## ACHIEVEMENT GOAL

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Next Steps:

## ACHIEVEMENT GOAL

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## ACHIEVEMENT GOAL

Write your goal:			
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Key Motivations:	Write your key motivations, then rank t	hem	-

Next Steps:

PLAN

## HABIT GOAL-SAMPLE

Activation Trigger: What will you put in place to remind you of this goal? I will read and journal immediately after brushing my teeth. I will put a sticky note to remind me.

Write your goal:

Read the bible and journal about what I read

June 30th Start Date Daily Habit Frequency Brush teeth S9 days Time Trigger Streak Target

Stre	Streak Tracker: Check off your progress.																		
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61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Key Motivations: Write your key motivations, then rank them.	
1 Spend time with God everyday	
<u>1</u> <u>Sperv</u> and Nun (on everyoug	
<u>3</u> Start my day off right	
2 Be a better husband and father	
Next Steps: List the first few steps you need to take to reach your goals.	
2 Find a place to do my reading and journaling	

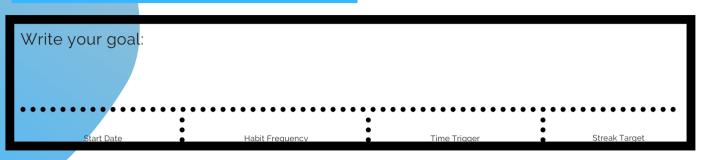
<u>3</u> Set my alarm everyday

1 Buy a journal

4 Get to bed early

# HABIT GOAL

Activation Trigger: What will you put in place to remind you of this goal?



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Key Motivations:

Write your key motivations, then rank them.

Next Steps:

Activation Trigger: What will you put in place to remind you of this goal?

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Key Motivations:

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Next Steps:

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Key Motivations:

Write your key motivations, then rank them.

Next Steps:

Activation Trigger: What will you put in place to remind you of this goal?

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Key Motivations:

Write your key motivations, then rank them.

Next Steps:

## LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST

You have just completed one of the biggest steps forward you can take for the year to come. You have sought God in looking back at last year and also sought Him in looking forward to next year. You have made plans to align your life to what God is saying. Most people don't take the time to hear from God. Not only have you heard from God, but you are also doing something about it. Like James writes in James 1:22 (NKJV), "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." I pray this program is a blessing to you and God uses it to move in your life and the life of your family.

Refer back to this workbook monthly, if not more, to make sure you are still in alignment with what God has shown you. Make it a habit to keep the vision in front of you. Don't let this just be another program you've completed, but a lifestyle you're beginning. I look forward to hearing all that God has done in you and through in 2021. Let me pray for you.



God, first and foremost we thank You for always being whom You said You would be. It's an honor to be called Yours. We give You 2021. This is not our year, this is Your year. It's the year we are letting You lead and dictate. You get to do what You want to do this year. God, help us to be everything You want us to be this year; nothing more and nothing less. We love You now and forever. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen!