

## **A Sample Family Gathering (Questions to guide your conversation)**

**Engaging their hearts** – share your desire for your family to be the best it can be and to be a blessing for every single member. Share some stories of God’s blessings in your family over the past years that they may not know or remind them of some that they do know.

### **Crafting a family vision –**

- What are the most important attributes you would like to see in your family if it was just your family and you got to decide on your own? (write them on separate post it note and put them on the flip chart or wall)
- What are the most common themes that you see emerge from these ideas?
- How could those be woven into a vision statement? (Take five minutes to take make a draft vision to read to the family.)
- Where could we put this new vision up to remind us and how can we use it to be a true guide in the family?

### **Planning for next year**

- What are you most excited about for this next year (or semester)?
- What do you most need the family to pray about? (write down what they share and with their permission send it to everyone in the family to pray about)
- How would you like to stay connected in 2019? (Scheduled times together, travel, regular calls or zoom calls, family fb page, ....)

**Listening Deeply to each other - retracing your steps exercise** – pair off oldest with youngest and interview each other.

- In your life so far, when were you at your very best?
- When were you most at peace?
- What was the most painful experience in your life and what did you learn from it?

**Love languages** – Working in groups of three people, talk through each others love languages and how this could impact how you interact with each other – Debrief as a large group. Compile the love languages into one family doc.

**Family Values** – Give each person three post it notes - What three values do you feel are essential to see the vision for our family become a reality? Synthesize them into the top five or six values.

**Strengths** – Review each family members strengths and talk about how you see those strengths present in their lives, and then how could those strengths be helpful within the family.

**The Joy of being a generous family** – share your vision for generosity. Ask if they would like to be part of this and if so, share what you have in mind. (For example you might allocate a portion for them to give to each year or be able to bring opportunities to the family to perhaps fund or go visit and assess the things you do fund as a family)

**Wrap up** - Schedule Future Family Times Together