PURPOSE
Willow McHenry is committed to **Bring It Home!** Why? When it comes to spiritual development and perpetuating your faith, the home is God’s “Plan A” (Deut 6:4-9). That’s where Kingdom values and identity in Christ are learned and lived out. We must take full responsibility and initiative to make Christ the center of our lives on the home front (Eph 5:21-6:4). The Church also plays a critical role. The Church exists as God’s “Plan B” to equip, resource and support individuals, parents and children in their faith journey. Wisdom calls us to take full advantage of every value-added resource the church offers to help us bring God home. So way to go for taking this life-changing next step!

This *Family Spiritual Growth Plan* is the first of its kind. The intent of this plan is simply to build a bridge from Plan B (the church) to Plan A (your home) in order to enrich your family with Christ and enable Him to overflow into your community. You can use this tool to design a customized 90-day plan for your individual home—whether for you and your spouse or your entire family. You’ll create goals by choosing from a menu of options that will catalyze spiritual growth and tangible movement toward Christ-centeredness. You will *never* regret investing in the spiritual development of your family.

FRAMEWORK
*Belong. Grow. Serve.* These are the 3 primary stepping stones on the pathway to spiritual growth. That’s why “Belong-Grow-Serve” is the growth framework we use at Willow McHenry. These fundamental next-steps find unique and focused expression in your home!

- **To BELONG** means you experience and extend *relationships* that help one another grow in Christ. And there’s no better place to enjoy spiritually catalytic relationships than in your own family!

- **To GROW** means you deliberately pursue spiritual *transformation* through exposure to God’s Word and engagement of spiritual practices. The Bible calls your home the epicenter of growth.

- **To SERVE** is a key way to “love your neighbor [husband/wife/child] as yourself” (Mk 12:31) or to “do to others what you would have them do to you” (Mt 7:12). Proactively expressing *selfless acts of kindness or compassion* toward others is “lived-out-love.” When families serve, families thrive.

The *Family Spiritual Growth Plan (1.0)* invites you and your family to choose from a menu of growth-igniting opportunities that flow through these 3 basic steps. Consider it a spiritual formation training program to help you **Bring It Home**.

HELP or SHARE
Want personal coaching on how to design the best possible growth plan for your family?
Don’t hesitate to call us at 224.512.1737 or email us at dszweda@willowcreek.org.

If you have a story to share about how this plan has helped to change your life, home or community, let us know! Email your story today to dszweda@willowcreek.org.

**As always, check out our website at [www.willowmchenry.org](http://www.willowmchenry.org) for the most up-to-date options!**
1. Identify Your Family’s SEASON of DEVELOPMENT
As families begin and mature, they travel through various seasons of development—each of which brings its own unique set of challenges and growth opportunities. Whether you are a traditional nuclear family, a single-parent family, an adoptive family, or a blended family, every family travels through 5 specific seasons. In order to best identify the experiences or resources that would best enhance your family’s spiritual development, it will help to identify your family’s current specific life-season. Bearing this in mind will especially help you as you consider action-steps under the “GROW” heading.

Our Family’s Current Season of Development is:

_________________________________________________________________

2. Identify Your Family’s SPIRITUAL PATHWAY
Every family is unique in its personality, values, stories, tastes, strengths or weaknesses. In his book Sacred Pathways, Gary Thomas suggests that every individual is uniquely “wired” by God to connect with Him in special way through a particular “sacred pathway.” He names 9 pathways: Naturalist (connects best with God when out in Creation), Intellectual (when using the mind), Contemplative (through devotion/adoration), Ascetics (through solitude & simplicity), Activist (bringing social change), Enthusiast (when celebrating), Caregiver (when compassionately serving others), Sensate (through the senses), and Traditionalist (through ritual & symbol). Some may have a combination of these pathways.

If this is true for individuals, we believe it may very well be true for families as well! In other words, your family may have a unique way in which it best connects with God or expresses its spirituality. If that’s the case, it would richly benefit your family’s spiritual growth for you to identify its “sacred pathway” and leverage that toward spiritual transformation together! So consider that for your family...

Our Family’s Sacred Pathway may be:

_________________________________________________________________
Family Spiritual Growth
OPPORTUNITIES

How can you better experience BELONGING in your family’s home life?
CIRCLE THE NUMBERS OF ALL THAT INTRIGUE YOU. You can narrow down your selections later.

EXPERIENCES to TRY
1. CLASSES@WILLOW on Marriage or Family matters (www.willowcreek.org/classes)
2. Take the “Reflecting God’s Love in Your Home” Family Assessment (resource on our website family page)
3. Model connection & community by becoming Participating Members of Willow McHenry (www.willowcreek.org/classes)
4. Obey Christ’s command to get baptized during our next Baptism Celebration (check our website for upcoming dates)
5. Declare your resolve to cultivate a Christ-centered family thru our next Parent-Child Dedication (check out our website for upcoming dates)
6. Commit to sharing a meal together as a family at least 1 time per week
7. Create a meaningful Family Tradition
8. Invite a neighborhood family over for a game night, dinner, or a movie
9. Invite a family to join your family in worship during one of WCMC’s weekend services, and then do lunch!
10. Consider supporting a child through Compassion International or World Vision
11. Consider actually adopting an orphan, domestically or internationally

RELATIONSHIPS to START
1. Contact WCMC if you’d like to connect with another, more seasoned family for coaching
2. Contact WCMC if you’d like to actually consider being a coach to another family (224.512.1737 or dszweda@willowcreek.org)
3. Consider starting or joining a short-term family small group to gather around a topic
   • boundaries in marriage or with kids
   • how to balance work and life
   • how to enjoy margin (time) as a family
   • how to have family devotions
   • how to pray as a family
   • how to develop special family traditions
4. Contact us if you’re a father/husband desiring to connect with another, more seasoned father/husband
5. Contact us if you’re a mother/wife desiring to connect with another, more seasoned mother/wife
6. To grow in Christ as a woman, consider our Heart-to-Heart mentoring ministry, meet on the 1st Wednesday September-May from 9-11:30 a.m. (check out our website for ministry details)
7. To grow in Christ as a man, connect to our monthly Men’s Breakfast, meet on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 8:30-10 a.m. (check out our website for ministry details)

KNOWLEDGE to GAIN
1. Study, discuss & meditate on these Scriptures about how BELONGING is important in your family:
   1 John 3:1a; Acts 2:46b; Ephesians 5:21-6:4; Deuteronomy 6:5-9
2. Listen to Bill Hybels’ message from the Families @ Their Best series. (Jan, 2009) Assessment with the message is available as a resource on our website family page
3. Henry Cloud’s Boundaries in Marriage or Boundaries with Children
4. Gary Chapman’s Love Languages in Marriage, …for Children, …for Teens, …for Families
5. Randy Frazee’s Making Room for Life
6. Barbara & Dennis Rainey’s Moments Together (couples devotional)
7. Tim Stafford’s Never Mind the Joneses (building Kingdom values into your family)
10. Check out the sites of Focus On the Family and Family Life Today

Most resources now available in our WCMC Seeds bookstore!
How can you better pursue GROWTH in your family’s home life?
CIRCLE THE NUMBERS OF ALL THAT INTRIGUE YOU. You can narrow down your selections later.

EXPERIENCES to TRY
1. As a couple or family, read & discuss 1 passage of Scripture together each day
2. Say “NO” to something else so you can enjoy more time/margin together as a family!
3. Declare something FUN you will do together as a family to enjoy simply playing together
4. Worship together as a family at one of WCMC’s weekend services
5. Share at least 1 “next step” spiritual growth goal toward Christ-centeredness for each family member
6. If considering marriage or a newly wed, attend Willow’s “2-to-1” mentoring class. Go to www.willowcreek.org/marriage
7. Register to attend the next marriage enrichment or parenting training event offered at WCMC (check out our website for upcoming dates)
8. Register for one of the Marriage or Family Matters Classes (current classes listed on our website family page or go directly to www.willowcreek.org/classes)
9. Attend our Support Workshops on Monday Nights (check out our website for current schedule)
   • Good Sense (financial stewardship training)
   • Divorce & Relational Recovery
   • Marriage Matters
   • Oasis Children’s Ministry (for children in family’s that are struggling while parents receive support)
   • Grief Support
10. Help one another chose 1 verse each that an individ
    ual will focus on building into his/her life for 1 year
11. Listen to Scripture on CD while you’re driving in the car together (ie, Max McLean audio bible).
12. Choose 1 meal per week or month to fast as a couple or family & use the mealtime for focused prayer
13. Find a spiritual practice that you can do together as a family, in addition to Bible study, prayer, worship or fasting (i.e., communion, silence, celebration, rest, unplugging, hospitality, slowing, gratitude, etc.)
14. Take the “Growing the Fruit of the Spirit in Your Home” Family Assessment (resource on our website family page)
15. Choose a day during the week that you can observe an actual Sabbath together free of work/email
16. Go on a family-friendly missions trip together
17. Teach your children about giving by setting an example and tithing 10% of your income to God through WCMC or giving a special offering beyond your normal giving
18. Attend a “Weekend to Remember” Family Life marriage conference. (www.familylife.com)
19. Turn off the TV and talk (ask, “How can I be a better husband/wife/father/mother to you?”)
20. Try an entire day, evening or afternoon that is “media free” (unplug from all forms of technology)
21. Ask your child or spouse, “How can I pray for you?”
22. For a given situation, explain how Scripture has guided your decision as a family
23. Invest daily, individual time studying the Bible—the more you own and model your faith, the more your spouse and children will own theirs! Want your family to thrive? Focus growing your walk with Christ
24. Use Promiseland’s “Bring It Home” cards to spiritually energize & focus conversation at dinnertime
RELATIONSHIPS to START

1. Call or email WCMC if you’d like to connect with another, more seasoned family for coaching

2. Call or email WCMC if you’d like to actually consider being a coach to another family (224.512.1737 or dszweda@willowcreek.org)

3. Consider starting or joining a short-term family small group to gather around a topic
   - how to study the Bible
   - how to build a family budget
   - constructive conflict
   - family Bible devotions
   - how to pray as a family
   - disciplining your children
   - learn your spouse’s/child’s/family’s love language
   - engaging spiritual practices as a family

4. If, as a husband, father, wife, mother or entire family, you would enjoy being linked up with another person or family for coaching or spiritual friendship, contact WCMC to get connected (224.512.1737 or dszweda@willowcreek.org)

5. If you are hitting a wall on a particular issue or need immediate assistance, let WCMC’s Lay Pastor Team either help you find a counselor who can provide a safe, healthy environment to biblically process your struggle or provide you with immediate prayer support (call the Lay Pastor Hotline 224.512.2150 ext.1)

6. Growth-Boosting Tip: Share your growth plan with another family who can help check on your progress!

PLEASE CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE...
KNOWLEDGE to GAIN

1. Study, discuss & meditate on these Scriptures about how GROWING is important in your family:
   - Matthew 19:4-6—the divine-origin and oneness of marriage
   - Deuteronomy 5:16—the importance of honoring our parents
   - Deuteronomy 6:5-9—“Bringing It Home” by living out our faith in Christ on the home front
   - Book of Proverbs—how to instruct our children on the pursuit of wisdom & discipline
   - Psalm 127:1—the fundamental need to depend on God in building your family
   - Mark 12:30-31—the 2 greatest commandments as Jesus’ summary of Kingdom living
   - Galatians 5:22-23—growing the Fruit of the Spirit
   - Ephesians 6:4—training our children in the way of Jesus
   - James 1:19—reviving the lost art of listening
   - 2 Peter 1:5-11—how to have an effective and fruitful faith in Christ

2. George Barna’s Revolutionary Parenting or Growing Spiritual Champions
3. Jodie Berndt’s Praying the Scriptures for Your Children or …for Your Teenager
5. Mike Breaux’s Making Ripples
6. Adele Calhoun’s Spiritual Disciplines Handbook
7. Ross Campbell’s How to Really Parent Your Child
8. Henry Cloud’s How People Grow
9. Gary Chapman’s The Family You’ve Always Wanted
10. James Dobson’s Bringing Up Boys and Bringing Up Girls
11. James Dobson’s Parenting Isn’t For Cowards
12. Fitch’s Questions Kids Ask About Sex
13. Jennifer Fox’s Finding Your Child’s Strengths
14. Mark Holmen’s Faith Begins at Home
15. Bill Hybels’ Parenthood sermon series
16. “I Want to Talk with My Teen About…” Booklet Series
17. Stephen Kendrick’s The Love Dare [and do the 40-day challenge!][also watch the movie Fireproof]
18. Tim Kimmel’s Grace-Based Parenting
19. Stormie Omartian’s The Power of a Praying Wife, or ...Husband, or ...Parent
21. Ken Sande’s Peacemaker for Families (biblical conflict resolution)
22. Gary Smalley & John Trent’s The Blessing (giving the gift of acceptance, approval & unconditional love)
23. Andy Stanley’s “Parental Guidance Required” sermon series from North Point
24. Chuck Swindoll’s Marriage: From Surviving to Thriving or Parenting: From Surviving to Thriving
25. Thomas’ Single Mom Life
26. Trent, Osborne, & Bruner’s Parents’ Guide to the Spiritual Growth of Children
27. Anything by Larry Burkett or Crown Ministries on financial stewardship
28. Yates’ And Then I Had Teenagers
29. Rick Warren’s The Purpose-Driven Life
30. Willow’s “[ROOMS OF THE HOUSE]” sermon series with Mike Breaux & Nancy Beach
31. Willow’s “Families @ Their Best” sermon series with Bill Hybels, January 2009
32. Wolgemuth’s How to Lead Your Child to Christ
33. Visit the archives of CLASSES@WILLOW for a wide variety of family-oriented classes to download (www.willowcreek.org/classes and select the option ‘listen/watch’)
34. Check out the sites of Focus On the Family and Family Life Today online
How can you better adopt the posture of a SERVANT in or thru your family or home?

CIRCLE THE NUMBERS OF ALL THAT INTRIGUE YOU. You can narrow down your selections later.

EXPERIENCES to TRY

1. Find a compassion serving event at WCMC where you can serve together (i.e., Celebration of Hope)
2. Register for family appropriate CLASSES@WILLOW (check out our website for current Catalog or go directly to www.willowcreek.org/classes)
3. Consider serving in Promiseland or Student Ministries’ Elevate (junior high), Student Impact (high school) or our Oasis ministry to receive real-time training on how to nurture the spiritual development of children of any age
4. Consider serving in Axis (18-30-somethings) to help spiritually develop a younger generation
5. Consider a practical way you can assist a widow in your neighborhood
6. Register for the “Spiritual Gifts” class to discover and deploy your unique gifts in the Body of Christ (www.willowcreek.org/classes)
7. Ask us to help you plug into a “First Serve” opportunity where you can have the chance to “taste” an area of service and debrief over it to be sure you find your serving “sweet-spot” in the Kingdom
8. Consider how you might serve together as a couple or family in the church
9. Look for a specific way to practically and secretly bless another person in your family (empty the dishwasher, start or fold the laundry, make a meal, set/clear the table, take out the trash...)
10. Simply ASK your spouse or child, “How can I specifically serve you today or this week?” Then follow thru!
11. As a family or by yourself, do a “random act of kindness” to someone in your neighborhood (rake leaves, shovel snow, bring back garbage cans, mow lawn...)
12. Ask a neighbor if there is anything you can pray about for them. Then do it and follow up with them.
13. Do a prayer-walk through your neighborhood—praying for the health and growth of every home
14. As a family consider supporting an entrepreneur internationally through lending (www.kiva.org)

RELATIONSHIPS to START

1. Connect with a ministry leader to discover an area where you could serve with fruitfulness & fulfillment (224.512.1737 or dszweda@willowcreek.org)
2. Consider starting or joining a short-term family small group to gather around a topic
   • how to serve one another in your home
   • how to serve others as a family
   • how to find margin in your life to serve
   • learn your spouse’s/child’s/family’s love language

KNOWLEDGE to GAIN

1. Study, discuss & meditate on these Scriptures about how SERVING is important in your family:
   Joshua 24:15; Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:3-11; Mark 10:45; John 13:1-17;
   Ephesians 5:25-29; Proverbs 31:10-31; Colossians 3:20; 1 John 3:18
2. Gary Chapman’s Love Languages in Marriage, or ...for Children, or ...for Teens, or ...for Families
3. Sjogren’s Irresistible Evangelism or Conspiracy of Kindness
4. Bob Moffit & Karla Tesch’s If Jesus Were Mayor
5. Bryant Myers’ Walking with the Poor
6. Bill Hybel’s & Mark Mittelberg’s Becoming a Contagious Christian
7. Rick Stearn’s The Hole in the Gospel
8. Howard Tryon’s Praying for You

Most resources now available in our WCMC Seeds bookstore!
OUR Family Spiritual Growth Plan

What are 1-2 specific ways you’ll seek to enjoy deeper BELONGING in your family over the next 90 days?

1. __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

What are 1 or 2 specific ways you’ll focus on spiritual GROWTH in your family over the next 90 days?

1. __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

What are 1 or 2 specific ways you’ll SERVE more deliberately in/thru your family over the next 90 days?

1. __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
Our Family is Committed

When it comes to growing in Christ and living out our faith in Him, we commit—in God’s strength—to “Bring It Home.” We will seek deeper belonging, pursue more vibrant spiritual growth, and purposefully serve.

Together, we will help each other and hold each other accountable to achieve the goals we have chosen—not legalistically, but lovingly—in order that Christ may be fully formed in our hearts and relationships.

__________________________________             ____
Signature     Date             Signature     Date

__________________________________             ____
Signature     Date             Signature     Date

__________________________________             ____
Signature     Date             Signature     Date

“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...

as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!”

Joshua 24:15