Instructions: Use the following outline as a starting point for your Family Plan. You may feel free to add to it, but — for the sake of this assignment — keep the basic structure as provided below. Good additions include biblical sub-points that add more detail about how you will live. Additional Bible verses that support each point are also good things to add. This assignment will be considered complete when all the blanks are filled.

Though it's not required at this time, this LifeWork is more for you and your family than it is you and your counselor. So here are some suggestions when it comes time to work on this assignment as a family.

1. Explain that your family is going to create a Family Plan based off God's expectations from Colossians 3.

2. You can read Colossians 3 together or assign them to read the chapter by themselves.

3. You can show the LifeWork page to your kids before they read, or you can start your discussion without them seeing the handout. For example, without showing your children the LifeWork page, share with them the first main point and the verses associated with that point. As best as you can, try to guide your children to discovering the sub-points on their own by using Scripture itself. Be prepared to ask a lot of good questions to guide their thinking.

4. You don't have to rely on them to come up with *all* of the points. Feel free to share your favorites as you go through the lists.

5. Don't plan to cover the *entire* Family Plan in one sitting. Depending on the age and/or spiritual maturity of your children, you should plan to cover it over a period of time.

6. As you fill out the Plan with your family, it will be important to discuss what certain words mean. For example, what is the "passion" being discussed in verse 5? What does God mean when He says not to be "embittered" against someone (v. 19)? Be quick to admit when you don't know the answers, and guide your family in the study necessary to discover what the words mean so that everyone in the family understands the expectations.

7. Once you have worked all the way through the document, explained it, and clarified any misunderstandings, everyone in the family should have the opportunity to say whether or not they believe that this is a good Plan for your family. Disagreement will help you see your family member's greatest need, and agreement will set the state for accountability in follow-through.

8. Revisit your new Family Plan as necessary. It's valuable to review the material when things are going well and also reference the Plan when a family member is working against their God-given purpose.

God's Plan for the _____ Family

I. Our Family Follows Christ. (Colossians 3:1-4)

A. Our goal is to seek Christ. We will find Him on the pages of the Bible. (Colossians 3:1)

B. Our goal is to think like Christ and resist thinking like the world. We will learn how Jesus thinks when we study the Scriptures. (Colossians 3:2)

C. Our goal is to act like Christ because we have died to our own desires and have new life in God. (Colossians 3:3)

D. Our goal is to one day live with Christ for all eternity in glory. (Colossians 3:4)

II. Because Our Family Follows Christ We Put Off Sinful Living. (Colossians 3:5-9)

A. We will put off _____. (Colossians 3:5)

B. We will put off _____. (Colossians 3:5)

C. We will put off _____. (Colossians 3:5)

D. We will put off _____. (Colossians 3:5)

E. We will put off _____.(Colossians 3:5)

F. We won't be idolatrous. (Colossians 3:5)

G. We will put off _____. (Colossians 3:8)

H. We will put off _____. (Colossians 3:8)

I. We will put off _____. (Colossians 3:8)

J. We will put off _____. (Colossians 3:8)

K. We will put off _____. (Colossians 3:8)

L. We will put off _____. (Colossians 3:9)

III. Because Our Family Follows Christ We Put On Righteous Living. (Colossians 3:12-17)

A. We will put on _____. (Colossians 3:12)

B. We will put on _____. (Colossians 3:12)

C. We will put on _____. (Colossians 3:12)

D. We will put on _____. (Colossians 3:12)

E. We will put on _____. (Colossians 3:12)

F. We will _____. (Colossians 3:13)

G. We will _____. (Colossians 3:13)

H. We will put on _____. (Colossians 3:14)

I. We will be _____. (Colossians 3:14)

J. We will _____. (Colossians 3:15)

K. We will be _____. (Colossians 3:15)

L. We will _____. (Colossians 3:16)

M. We will _____ each other in all wisdom and teaching. (Colossians 3:16)

N. Whatever we do in word or deed, we will do _____ and give _____. (Colossians 3:17)

IV. **Because Our Family Follows Christ We Fulfill Our God-Given Roles**. (Colossians 3:19-25)

A. Dad will love Mom and lead her in righteousness. (Colossians 3:19)

B. Mom will submit to Dad as she submits to the Lord. (Colossians 3:18)

C. The Children will obey Dad and Mom as they strive to please the Lord. (Colossians 3:20).

D. Dad and Mom will provoke the Children to righteous living and not provoke them toward sinful living. (Colossians 3:21; Ephesians 6:4)

E. Everyone will obey our authorities in all things not merely to please our authority, but — more importantly — because we fear the Lord and want to serve Him. (Colossians 3:22-24)

F. Everyone will receive the consequences of our sinful choices with a good attitude because we understand that consequences come from God. (Colossians 3:25)

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