

Organizing Your Family for Success

Dear Facilitator: This week's lesson is about organizing for success. Some people feel intimidated when they think of getting organized, and others thrive on schedules, routines, and planning. The goal of our lesson is to think about organization from a practical viewpoint of three categories: routines, events, and projects.

The lesson includes a diagram of these three categories. It illustrates how routines create stability, how events are opportunities that can be a blessing or a distraction, and how projects provide a way to change.

Most people will see themselves fitting in one area more strongly than others; however, the discussion and the activities are intended to show how specific tasks and activities fit best in different categories. One category is not better than the others, but each one serves a different purpose.

The lesson takes a biblical example from Luke 14:28-39 where Jesus tells a story to His followers and asks them to consider the cost of following Him. We apply that principle by asking families to consider their tasks and to plan to be successful.

It might be helpful for you to know what we hope to accomplish through this lesson.

Participants will:

1. State the difference between routines, events, and projects.
2. Commit to maintaining routines, scheduling events, and planning projects to help their family with stability and change.

continued

Notes

This week's statement is: I commit to maintaining routines, scheduling events, and planning projects to help my family with stability and change.

We pray that God will give you direction and clarity as you prepare this lesson and activities. We hope that the families in your group will come together in God's love and become a source for friendship and support for one another.

Blessings

Welcome *5 minutes*

 **Say:** Welcome back! I hope it's been a good week for all of you as you have been working diligently on many things that are positively influencing and leading your family.

Last week, we talked about how to handle an adult child returning home.

 **Ask:** How did last week's lesson impact you or your family?

Introduction *5 minutes*

 **Say:** Let's take a few minutes to read our Family Commitment Statements out loud together. (Review previous commitment statements.)

Tonight, we are going to talk about routines, events, and projects and how each one of these has its place in organizing for success.

It's not always easy to stay organized, especially if you have young children, but by getting your "To Do" list items in the right category, you will be amazed at how stability and change can work together to keep you successfully organized.

Today's teaching objectives are to:

1. State the difference between routines, events, and projects.
2. Commit to maintaining routines, scheduling events, and planning projects to help my family with stability and change.

Tonight's commitment statement is the second objective: I commit to maintaining routines, scheduling events, and planning projects to help my family with stability and change.

Family & Table Talk 20 minutes



Say: As you enjoy your dinner, talk about the following questions at your table.

1. What are some routines that your family follows?
2. What are some events that your family puts on the calendar?
3. What are some projects that you would like to get done?

After the meal, children are dismissed to their group.

As you begin this portion of the evening, explain that each time you will start with the overview and then the lesson time.

Notes

40 minutes

Parent Training

Family Time

**ORGANIZING YOUR
FAMILY FOR SUCCESS**

Stability and change may seem like opposites, but they actually work together to help us be organized for success in our families.

We all need to develop habits to be successful. We need to be willing to change and grow as our circumstances change.

As we consider all we must accomplish in our lives, most fit in one of three categories: routines, events, and projects.

Tonight, we are going to define what we mean by these categories and work together in groups to think about how we get things done.

Our family commitment statement is: I commit to maintaining routines, scheduling events, and planning projects to help my family with stability and change.

Let's get started and see what this commitment means.

Tonight, let's take a minute to think about how God created the world in Genesis. It says that on each day, He did something

different. Notice how He didn't create the fish before He created the water! We find order and organization in God's creation!

In Luke 14:28-30, Jesus tells us a story and says, "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'"

Jesus was talking to His followers and asking them to consider the cost of following Him. It's important for us as families to sit down and consider the things we must accomplish and make sure that we plan our lives so that we will be successful.

This evening we are going to talk about the difference between these categories, and what happens if we put the things we

must do in the wrong category. One category is not better than the others, and we need all three to be successful.

Most of you will see yourself stronger in one category than the others.

Discuss examples of routines, calendar items, or projects that you talked about with your family at dinner. (Facilitator be prepared to share some of your own examples.)

Let's talk about the three categories where our "To Do" list might fit.

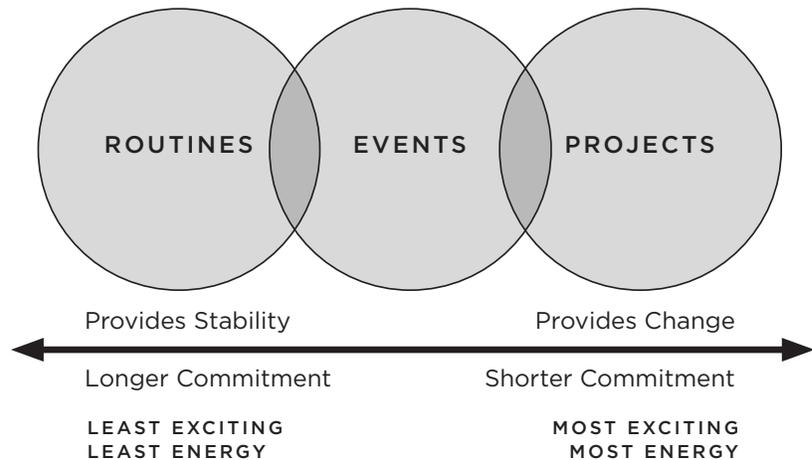
Routines are important because they provide stability in our families so children and adults know what to expect. Some examples of routines are washing the dishes, doing the laundry, or going to school. These are generally less time consuming than events and projects, and take less energy, but it takes a lot of commitment to stick to the routine. When we know how much time we need for routines, we can better plan for the events and projects in our lives.

Events are occasions that we choose to attend. We make choices about events every day. Maybe it's attending a wedding, meeting friends, or going to church. These are often things we enjoy, but they don't usually take a lot of planning for us, just time. Events are important because they are opportunities for us to be a part of each other's lives. They can also be distractions if they take over our schedules. Events should be put on a calendar, so we don't forget them, and it's okay to say "no" sometimes. Events should usually be planed around routines.

Projects are important because they help us bring about changes in our families. Some examples of projects are spring cleaning or buying a new car. They are usually the most exciting and take the most energy and planning. Generally, people are excited about starting a project or something new, but a lot of time can be involved in starting and completing project. It is often important to make changes, not just for the sake of change, but because our life circumstances and needs change.

Notes

The diagram on your handout (take home) gives you a better idea of the differences between routines, events, and projects as we consider them in our family's organization.



Most of you will see yourself in one or more of these circles. One category is not better than the other; we should put items from our “To Do” list in all three categories. The problem comes when we put our “To Dos” in the wrong categories.

For example, what would happen if you decided that dinner time was a project? You would decide on a great meal, go get everything you need, cook all day, and make a huge mess! The outcome would likely be very exciting and fun, especially if you were with friends or family, but it would also take a lot of energy.

How likely would you be to repeat that every day?

You might decide it's too much work and only fix dinner occasionally. The outcome of that decision might not make others in your family very happy.

Or, if you decide to be out every night after work with friends or attend events, you might have a lot of fun, but you have decided to make those activities your regular routine, and you probably won't have much time for things like cleaning the house or paying the bills.

The choice to invest in your friends has taken over your life, and you could soon be quite disorganized.

Share a story about routine.

1. What category do you prefer? Routines, events, or projects, and why?
2. Why types of tasks do you sometimes miss getting done? When?
3. What are some items you would recommend for each category? Why?

We are going to organize our tasks into four specific areas.

(Divide into groups of three to four and take some time to work together on organizing lists and deciding if they fall into the category of routines, events, or projects.)

ACTIVITY

Worksheet

List how you would handle them now with an R (routines), E (events), or P (projects), and how you think you might want to handle them in the future (R, E, or P).

- **Self-care:** rest, exercise, etc.
- **Family Care:** eating, cleaning, etc.
- **Obligations & Activities:** Work, school, sports, etc.
- **Care for Possession:** our house, apartment, car etc.

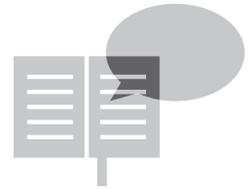
DISCUSS

- What are some things that happen in your life that keep you from being organized?

Everyone can have a simple system of organization by categorizing your “To Do” list under routines, events, and projects.

Take the things that you should do every day or week to have stability and develop a routine.

Make sure that events are on a family calendar.



Scripture SUPPORT

Proverbs 21:5

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

1 Corinthians 14:33

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the LORD, not for human masters.

Luke 14:28 says

Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?

1 Corinthians 14:40

But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

Notes

If there are projects that you would like to do, or need to do for a healthy change, then plan time and go for it.

Last of all, if you find you need help, find a partner to help you figure out how to get things done.

Remember, it's important for us as families to sit down and consider what we have to accomplish and make sure that we plan our lives so that we will be successful.

Our family commitment statement tonight is:
I commit to maintaining routines, scheduling events, and planning projects to help my family with stability and change.

SUMMARY

We covered a lot of material in the lesson.

Our objectives were to:

1. State the difference between routines, events, and projects.
2. Commit to maintaining routines, scheduling events, and planning projects to help my family with stability and change.

To end our lesson, please answer the following:

1. Who has an insight tonight about something you've learned or want to try?
2. What will you change or improve in your role as a parent this week?

Ages 4-16

40 minutes

Student Training

Family Time

**ORGANIZING YOUR
FAMILY FOR SUCCESS**

Objectives

- **Help children to be aware of the importance of family organizing.**
- **Help children to be aware of the three key areas of family organizing.**
- **Help children to be aware of the importance of family routines.**
- **Help children to be aware of the importance of family events.**
- **Help children to be aware of the importance of family projects.**

Organizing is a skill that is learned over time. When families are organized, it makes family life more orderly, focused, enjoyable, and meaningful. Parents are the leaders in organizing your family to be the best it can be, but they will need all family members to do their part to make it happen (Proverbs 21:5). We are going to talk about three different areas where organizing is important for families: routines, events, and projects.

Routines are an important part of family organization and are helpful for all families. Routines are completing daily tasks in your home and can cause your family bonds to grow stronger. Every family has routines that are unique and work for them. Routines let family members know who is responsible to do what,

when, and how often. Having routine job assignments in a family helps you learn to be responsible. Some examples of daily routines are getting ready in the morning, doing homework, setting the table for mealtimes, cleaning the dishes, getting ready for bedtime, and reading a bedtime story. Weekly routines may include tasks like housework, grocery shopping, and laundry. Routines help everything run more smoothly, and therefore, routines help families get along better with each other (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Routines serve many good purposes. Your job is to follow the instruction of your parents and do your very best with whatever tasks they assign to you. Remember the Bible says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as

working for the LORD, not for human masters” (Colossians 3:23). So, when we’re talking about routines, the best gift you can give your parents is to pay attention, listen to their instruction, and obey. And the best gift you can give to your family is to do your part with a positive attitude.

Next, let’s talk about events. Events are occasions or various places that family members choose to go. Family events give you an opportunity to spend time with friends and get to know other people who are not members of your close family. Often, these activities or invitations are placed on a calendar and looked forward to by parents as well as the children in the family. We all know the excitement of waiting to go to the circus, a friend’s birthday party, or a concert by our favorite group! Whether it’s the circus, a birthday party, concert, wedding, baby shower, family reunion, or church, events are an important ingredient for parents to include in organizing for a successful family.

Although events can be interesting and enjoyable, there are events that can be unpleasant and even painful. Events such as attending a funeral, visiting someone in a hospital, or making a trip to the dentist can be sad and difficult. It is wise for parents to make sure we don’t put too many events on our calendar at the same time. Too many events scheduled at the same time can put stress on family members and cause problems. And as for you, make sure you have completed your everyday routine responsibilities so that you will be ready to participate in and enjoy the fun, special events your parents make possible for you.

Finally, we will look at the role projects play in organizing for success. A few weeks ago, we learned about the importance of families having dreams and desires. These dreams and desires will cause the family to have goals, and goals lead to family projects. Family projects are important because they bring about change in a family and help the family plan for the future. As parents make plans to help your family reach their goals

and make their dreams come true, many times they will involve the family in a project that they feel will be good for the family.

Projects can be exciting, but they also can take a lot of time and preparation (Luke 14:28). Some examples of projects could be buying a new car, saving to buy a new home, planning a family vacation, starting a healthy eating plan for the family, or so many other things. Sometimes parents may let you and your siblings take part in certain projects. This is good because it brings family members together as they spend time talking and planning for the project. They can have discussions about when the project will start, how it will be paid for, and roles and responsibilities of each family member to complete the project (1 Corinthians 14:40). This helps each member feel the importance of the family and that they are a valuable family member.

The goal of family organization must always be to create a home environment that will strengthen our relationship with God, our family members, and others. It is not always easy, but your parents are responsible for balancing the three key areas in getting your family organized: routines, events, and projects. When your parents are making sure that your family is doing their best to include and balance these, your family will be organizing for success.

DISCUSS

- Lead children in a discussion about what it means to be organized.
- Lead children in a discussion about the benefits of a family being organized.
- Lead children in a discussion about routines, events, and projects and how they help a family organize for success.

Notes



Activities

Activities are age appropriate. One is focused on ages 4-11, and the second is for older children ages 12-16.

AGES 4-11

Materials

Paper

Pencils or markers

Have children view YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/yae0uwNjd4I>

(If not possible, do activity without video.)

- Ask children to list their morning routine activities in order. If they don't have a morning routine, have them create one. Have them share with the group if they would like to. For instance:
 1. I wake up.
 2. I brush my teeth.
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
- Review and discuss how routines help our family stay organized.

AGES 12-16

Materials

Paper

Pencils or markers

Have children view YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/yaeOuwNJd4I>

(If not possible, do activity without video.)

- Divide children into small groups and ask them to develop a skit to demonstrate a family where some of the family members are NOT being responsible to do their part to keep family routines running smoothly.
- Next, have the children do a skit to demonstrate a family where everyone IS being responsible to do their part to keep family routines running smoothly.
- Discuss why it is important for everyone in the family to work together to help the family organize for success.

Notes



CHALLENGE QUESTION

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP YOUR FAMILY ORGANIZE FOR SUCCESS?

CHALLENGE COMMITMENT

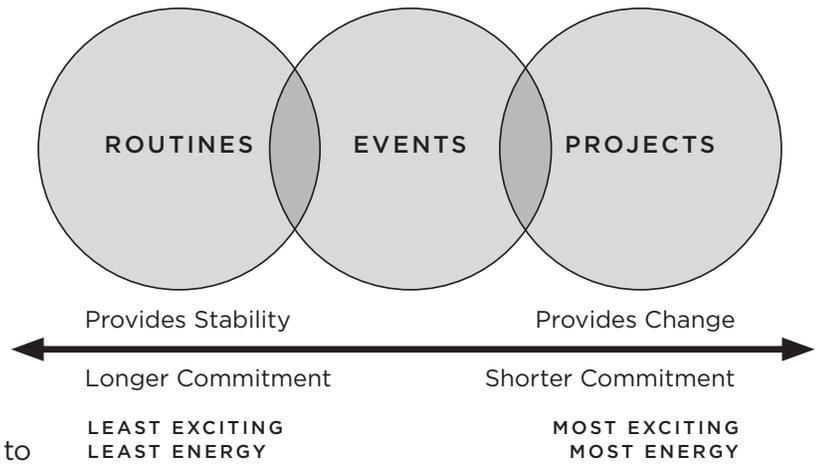
WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO TO WORK ON THE CHALLENGE QUESTION THIS WEEK?

	AFFIRMATION <i>Have children repeat:</i>
	<i>I live this day with order; I help my parents keep our family organized!</i>

Worksheet

ORGANIZING YOUR FAMILY FOR SUCCESS

Differences between routines, events, and projects as we consider them in our family's organization.



Directions:

- Work with your partner or group to make a list of “to do” items under each category.
- In the first small column put R (routines), E (events), or P (projects) to show what you do now.
- In the second small column put R (routines), E (events), or P (projects) to show if you think it should be changed.

SELF CARE		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

FAMILY CARE		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

OPPORTUNITIES & ACTIVITIES		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

POSSESSIONS		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		