

KONOS-Karats Meeting 5-11-06

PRIORITIES & VISION

- What is your vision? “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)
- One critical element to being successful in our lives and in our homeschooling is having a vision for where we are going, what we want to accomplish, what is most important in our lives. Without a vision, there is no purpose to what we do.
- “Vision is how you think about your *whole life*, not just about today or tomorrow. It is what you see with the eyes of your spirit when you look ahead to the end of your life and then look back to the present from that perspective. Vision is your *raison d’etre*, reason for being. Unfortunately, you cannot learn from a book how to have vision for Christian home education. Vision is a by-product of your own walk with God. The closer your walk with the Lord, the clearer your vision will be for your family’s life. This book is an incomplete attempt to communicate our own family’s vision for home education. Obviously, it is written to influence your vision for the education of your children, but ultimately that vision must come from God working in your own heart and mind. You must find your own vision for your life as a family.

If your vision- the “what you see”—is clear, then you will begin to make the kinds of decisions that will cultivate and strengthen that vision—the “what you’ll get.” In other words, if your vision is clear, then you’re going to be sure to “get” whatever you need to carry out your vision.” From [Educating the Whole-Hearted Child](#) by Clay and Sally Clarkson, pg. 187

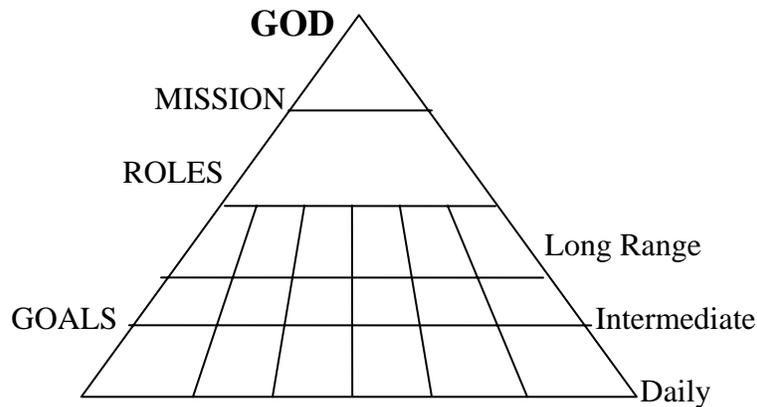
- We are going to take a look at some ways to examine our time, priorities and roles as homeschooling moms. Then we will do a hands-on activity to help us think through our roles and how they fit with our vision for us and our family.
- It’s so EASY to get distracted.
 - Where is my time going?
 - Consider the priority/time stealer square (taken from Franklin/Covey example) <http://www.franklincovey.com/>

	URGENT	NOT URGENT
IMPORTANT	<p>I NECESSITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crisis • deadline • <i>living here causes STRESS!</i> 	<p>II LEADERSHIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planning - preparation - prevention/maintenance • Relationships, relaxation, renewal
NOT IMPORTANT	<p>III DECEPTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unimportant telephone interruptions • <i>Deception!</i> (we're trapped by things that SEEM important but really aren't) 	<p>IV WASTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • busy work • trivia • irrelevant phone/mail • time wasters • escape • excessive relaxation

- This square is an example of how to divide up and consider our time.
 - Which quadrant are you spending the most time in? the least?
 - Which one should you be spending more time in?
- Keep this in mind as you consider your roles below!
- CLOCK or COMPASS?
 - If we organize by the clock, we think in terms of
 - efficiency,
 - schedules, and
 - getting a lot done.
 - If we organize by a compass, we can be
 - EFFECTIVE,
 - focus on RELATIONSHIPS/PEOPLE, and
 - make a difference

- Think of a compass giving you direction instead of a clock.
- What are our priorities? What is our vision?
- Some direction, purpose and priorities from Educating the Wholehearted Child by Clay and Sally Clarkson, pgs. 171-173

Using the KONOS cone, let's evaluate our priorities.



- 1) God comes first in all we do (or should!)
- 2) Mission—
 - a. Our missions and values are expressed in the way we live our life every day.
 1. What are our priorities?
 2. "If the things we believe in are different than the things we do, there can be no true happiness." Dana Telford
 - b. Come up with a personal mission statement for you (not your school or family but yourself).
 1. Ex: Make positive Christian impact on those who come into my life.
 - c. You may want to revise this after you go through the steps below.

- 3) Roles—look at all the “roles” you fill in your daily life; these need to be evaluated in light of our mission statement.
- a. Examples: Homemaker, wife, mom, friend, daughter, teacher, professional, coach, neighbor, servant, volunteer, church, spiritual/A Child of God, SELF!
- b. How to evaluate:
1. Use index cards to write one role on each card with a marker.
 2. Lay cards out in front of you.
 3. Look for ways to combine roles if possible
 1. (i.e.—daughter, granddaughter, aunt, niece, cards can combine into one role of “extended family member”)
 2. AWANA leader, ladies Bible study member, Sunday School teacher can combine into one role of CHURCH MEMBER
 4. Consider—Do I have too many roles?
 1. If I have too many roles, I cannot do any role well
 2. OR
 3. I have lots of PRESSURE
 4. Pray to discern if your current roles are God’s design, or self-imposed
 5. Consider—Can I postpone something to another season in my life?
 6. Consider—Do these roles fit my pyramid (mission statement)?
 1. Sometimes we continue filling roles that are no longer necessary
 2. Sometimes we fill a role, because someone else tells us we SHOULD or we would be good at it, or we’re really needed
 3. Evaluate EACH role and be sure they fit your God-given mission
 7. Arrange these index cards in order with the roles that are the most important at the top and those that are not as important/essential towards the bottom.
 1. For example, my top role is CHILD OF GOD
 2. My second role is wife
 3. My third role is mother
 4. My fourth ROW of roles could have DAUGHTER and TEACHER (and more)
 5. My bottom row may include neighbor, soccer coach
 6. **By the way, we need to keep homeschool and academics in perspective. Yes, this is important, but not ALL ENCOMPASSING. Children need to learn about the Lord and life AND school. KONOS helps with all three.*
 8. Look for things you need to cut out/reduce to allow more time for the most important areas of your life that may not be getting the time they “deserve”.
 9. For the roles you feel need to be cut out -- Immediately do what is necessary to remove these responsibilities from your life for the time being!
 1. Sometimes another will not fill the role (like Sunday School teacher) until there is a vacancy.
 10. For the roles that you decide to continue with at this time in your life, write on the back of the cards—What is my vision for this role? What must I do as a minimum to make me “feel” like I am being a “good” _____?

1. To be a good homemaker, I want the home to 'appear' neat and peaceful. (Someone else may say bake bread)
 2. To be a good teacher, I want to have a hands-on and relationship focused teaching style.
11. Next, think about and write down goals for each role: long term, intermediate and daily
1. HOMEMAKER: NEAT HOME
 - a. LONG TERM – train children to clean
 - b. INTERMEDIATE – create chore chart with assignments
 - c. DAILY – train, then follow up on daily chores
12. Remember Jessica's emphasis on BALANCE. We are not going to be perfectly balanced every day. We need to look at the big picture – look across seasons, and years.
- c. Defining roles helps you to see what your mission really is.
 - d. Defining roles will also help you to see where you are spending your time and is it really where you want to be?
- Cindy Rushton shared a way that she tests herself in the area of priorities and how her time is being spent:

'I have had a test for years that I periodically do to evaluate my lifestyle and schedule. I ask myself, "Can I spend *one entire week* at home without feeling as though I am not getting to do all I *need* to do?" (Yep, I am wiggling a bit here too!) "Is my home supplied well enough that I can stay home without having to "run" to get more things that I "need" to cook, teach my children, manage my home?" (Gasp! EEK!) "Is a quiet, peaceful homelife impossible because I am too busy going to activities?" (OUCH!) "Are all those activities truly God's will?" (Sniff, sniff) "Would all those same activities go on just as well without ME?" (Well, uh, how would I know if I am not there?) "What CAN I eliminate to give us more time at home as a family?" (Ok...Ok!) "Does my husband feel that all I am doing is essential? God's will?" (Well, uh...)

It is amazing how much CAN GO! Just last week, Harold and I got a great big laugh when we both shared what had been on our hearts, at the same time! I had noticed that we were losing time with errands on almost a daily basis. Oh, and almost the SAME errands every single day! My reasons were simple, I wanted for us to be a good steward of the money, not buying anything that could go to waste. But, as a result, our time was being wasted...gas going and coming was being wasted...I was not as prepared for each day as I could have been...and the atmosphere of our home was interrupted every day with "to-do's"

"You've got to think about 'big things' while you're doing small things, so that all the small things go in the right direction." Alvin Toffler

* We will discuss more in-depth next month ways to help you evaluate and set goals for your homeschool, and your children's individual needs & education. We will go over things we need to think about prior to planning out our KONOS units and other subjects for the coming year!

Resources used and recommended:

- 1) Notes from MelRae Ambs meeting last year (thank you!)
- 2) Educating the Whole-Hearted Child by Clay and Sally Clarkson
- 3) Homeschooling the Easy Way by Cindy Rushton
- 4) KONOS Compass by Carole Thaxton and Jessica Hulcy
- 5) The Revised Home Education CopyBook! By Katherine Von Duyke