

with an invitation, a request, or an activity. We talk together about what gets put on the calendar—whether it's for one person or the whole family.

We include the girls when planning our calendars too. It's a great opportunity to teach them about how to use a calendar, how to balance down time with what needs to be done, how to set deadlines and break big jobs into smaller steps. They can see when school assignments are due, when Girl Scouts meets, and when we have an empty weekend at home.

The key to our calendar is that it's our *family* calendar—it includes all of us and helps us make time together a priority. It helps us know what's going on with everyone and prevents those crazy days when everyone's headed in a different direction.

“Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing.” from Colossians 3, The Message

M: Manage your family's calendar

“The overscheduling of your family may feel out of control, but it is completely within your control to change.”

—from “A Simple Family,” *Living Simply*, page 93

Families today are busier than ever. And not just with *family* activities. Individual members of the family all have their own calendars—packed full to the brim, and it can be hard to find time to be together as a family.

Hard, but not impossible.

As parents, we have a responsibility to guard our family's time and to teach our children how to manage their time well.

Do you have a family calendar? We have one posted on the fridge at all times. It's constantly updated and available for reference when someone calls