

Vision Planning Worksheet

As we talked about in chapter eight of *A Wife's Secret to Happiness*, it's hard to stay in sync with your spouse when you're each working toward different visions.

The blessing of dreams fulfilled starts with a shared common vision. I know that's easier said than done. Sometimes it's like swimming through mud to agree on a restaurant for date night—a problem that thickens into quicksand when planning long-term goals. But a family divided against itself is doomed to fall apart. You cannot build unity with your husband when you're aiming for different visions; eventually your paths will separate. (*A Wife's Secret to Happiness*, page 136)

Use these questions to start talking about your individual aspirations. Seek to understand where each other is coming from, not to make changes just yet, but to acknowledge the goals of your mate's heart.

What words describe success for your marriage relationship?	
Name:	
Name:	



When you picture your family years into the future, what do you see?

Name:

Name:

What priorities are you working toward achieving right now?

Name:

Name:

Next, use the tables below to identify and talk through **objectives, motivations, goals, and action items** in key areas of your lives. Some typical categories include:

- Career
- Education
- Family / Children
- Health
- Financial
- Spiritual
- Dream List

Here's how the table works:

Identifying Objectives and Setting Goals	
Long-Term Objective	<p><i>What big-picture objective is important to you?</i></p> <p>This is usually a long-term goal that requires several months or years to complete. What is the grand achievement you're aiming for?</p>
Motivation	<p><i>Why is this important? What values does this speak to?</i></p> <p>Being able to describe your motivation is pivotal in helping your spouse understand, and buy-in to your objective. Your motivation connects the hard work with your heart motive.</p> <p>It's possible that after talking things through with your mate, he's on board with your motivation but can't yet find agreement with your objective. This opens the door for additional conversations. Perhaps that specific objective isn't as important to you if the motivation can be satisfied in another way. Or maybe you can find common ground in the shared motivation and ask God to give you favor in your spouse's eyes for that long-term objective in the future.</p>

Short-Term Goal(s)	<p><i>What are 1-3 short term goals (within the next 3-9 months) that contribute to meeting this objective?</i></p> <p>Make these goals as specific and measurable as possible. These milestones give you something to aim for, and offer landmarks to celebrate along the way.</p>
Action Items	<p><i>What practical steps are needed to achieve these goals?</i></p> <p>If you haven't noticed yet, we're narrowing our focus a little more with each phase in our table. Action items are the details that you'd fit into your schedule or to-do list.</p>
How This Fits	<p><i>How does this objective, these goals, and the listed action items fit into your life and family vision right now? After talking with your spouse, what decision can you act on starting tomorrow?</i></p>

And here's a hypothetical example.

Category	Career
Long-Term Objective	<p><i>What big-picture objective is important to you?</i></p> <p><i>I want to start my own wedding planning business.</i></p>
Motivation	<p><i>Why is this important? What values does this speak to?</i></p> <p><i>I love helping people celebrate their relationships and every time I help with a wedding; I think about how much joy I'd experience if that were my daily job. I feel fulfilled in every aspect of planning and executing a wedding.</i></p>

Short-Term Goal(s)	<p>What are 1-3 short term goals (within the next 3-9 months) that contribute to meeting this objective?</p> <p><i>1. Figure out how much capital I'd need to start the business.</i></p> <p><i>2. Research competition in my area.</i></p> <p><i>3. Write a business plan.</i></p>
Action Items	<p>What practical steps are needed to achieve these goals?</p> <p><i>1. Schedule time to work on this business consistently, even if it's just an hour each day.</i></p> <p><i>2. Find a sitter to help with my kids on Tuesday evenings so I have concentrated time for work.</i></p> <p><i>3. Talk with my friend Sandra about how she started her small business.</i></p>
How This Fits	<p>How does this objective, these goals, and the listed action items fit into your life and family vision right now? After talking with your spouse, what decision did you come to about moving forward with this plan starting tomorrow?</p> <p><i>My hubby understands my motivation, and he sees that about me. He's not sure that making this career change (the long-term objective) is a good move for us right now, given the risk. But the short-term goals are needed to help us figure that out. Starting tomorrow, I'll move forward with the action items. Once we have the business plan drafted, we can</i></p>



	<i>revisit the issue together and see if the objective needs to shift.</i>
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Now it's your turn. You may find it helpful to fill out these tables alone, then discuss them and flush out the details together. Or perhaps you'll sit down over coffee and do the whole activity side-by-side. Whatever your approach, work to listen, understand, and appreciate one another. Ask God to give you favor in your mate's eyes as you talk through the things that are important to you. And over all, ask the Lord to guide your steps according to his perfect plan for your lives.



Category	
Long-Term Objective	<i>What big-picture objective is important to you?</i>
Motivation	<i>Why is this important?</i>
Short-Term Goal(s)	<i>What are 1-3 short term goals (within the next 3-9 months) that contribute to meeting this objective?</i>



Action Items	<i>What practical steps are needed to achieve these goals?</i>
How This Fits	<i>How does this objective, these goals, and the listed action items fit into your life and family vision right now? After talking with your spouse, what decision did you come to about moving forward with this plan starting tomorrow?</i>