

# HOW TO AIM AT YOUR ADULT CHILDREN PRIMER





Most couples we know who are working to build their family team have young children.

We give them ideas for how to create team identity, how to function more like a team, and how to go out into the world together and experience some wins.

While these early family experiences are often both sweet and productive, they are not yet very close to the full experience of being a family team.

A fully developed family team is multigenerational, where parents and their adult descendants work together to build something greater than any of them could accomplish on their own, for their future progeny and the Kingdom of God.

Young families are kind of like an NFL football coach who can only draft toddlers. Those toddlers have loads of potential and, with 20 years of training ahead of them, they'll be a spectacular force. In the meantime, most of what the coach will implement is practice until the team members reach maturity.

I point this out because we live in a culture that sees family in almost the exact opposite way.

When your kids are young, you are experiencing the core of what modern culture thinks of as parenthood. This is when you are most needed and often most tired as a result. As your children grow and go off to school, your role begins to diminish until they are sent off to college and your parenting role reaches its sunset as you go off to experience your golden years in your empty nest.



If you believe in the modern idea of family, right before your team suits up, a good father and mother would be seeking to launch the newly minted players into other teams and forfeit the game just as it starts.

Building a family team runs in the other direction.

When your children are young there's lots of caring, training, and physical labor, but the family is often experiencing its lowest output in terms of its long-term productivity. The players are in diapers so taking the field is going to have to wait.

As your children reach maturity the chance to work together to take ground becomes a growing reality. The family mandate is to be fruitful, multiply, subdue, and rule (Genesis 1). Not a lot of subduing and ruling happens as a team when your cute kiddos are learning to walk and talk, but keep your eyes on what's coming. All of that relational depth and team training is about to pay off. Your team is getting ready to take the field. The best is yet to come.

So, in addition to this perspective, I want to share 10 ideas for how to make sure your short time in this early phase actually builds toward its purpose in working as a team for God's Kingdom when your children reach adulthood.

Stay tuned for that list coming in the Activation Guide.

### Here are some discussion questions to consider:

- ▶ Do you expect your role and identity as a parent to increase or decrease over time?
- ▶ On your current trajectory, is it likely you'll have more time or less time to spend with your kids when they are adults and become parents?
- ▶ Do you have a clear vision for how your family team will function with adult children? What is clear and what is still fuzzy?