

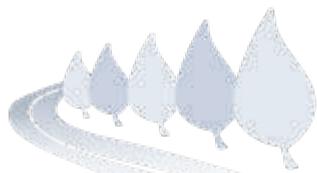
ORGANIZING



life pages
mom

Sample pages
inspiration and planning pages to help you
get your act together

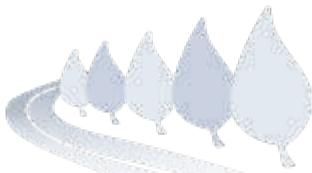
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Sample pages



Getting My Act Together

Two summers ago I gave birth to my sixth child, packed up all my worldly belongings, and moved halfway across the country to a place I'd never even been. Literally. In that order. My baby was exactly one month old when I boarded a plane to the West Coast. And I wondered, "What in the world are we doing?"

My husband took three children by land from Kansas City to San Diego; I took three by air. Each of us made the trip without any other adult help.

(No one ever said we were completely sane, did they?)

My parents met me at the gate. I was smiling on the outside, a disheveled piece of womanhood on the inside. I was perspiring under the sweatshirt hiding the evidence of my toddler's battle with airsickness. She lost. And so did I. I had tried my best to clean up the vomit in the tiny airplane washroom, but I knew it was not a thorough job. I wore only a bra under a zippered sweatshirt.

In a way that was how I felt. Presentable on the outside, but a total mess underneath. And it felt like that for quite awhile.

My life, that is, not my clothes.

It seemed that in tackling three major life changes: having a new baby, moving cross country, and discovering a new community, I had turned my home and my life upside down, inside out, and backwards.

I was able to limp along for quite some time. While there were boxes in every corner, I could still put food on the table and clean clothes on my children's bodies. But, even once I hid the half-unpacked boxes in the garage, things still

seemed out of order. I couldn't find the bills. I couldn't find the kids' school papers – or the rulers that they needed for their math assignments.

But I knew we owned twelve if we owned one!

Life was passing us by, and we were racing to catch up.

I remembered back to past life transitions and when my older children were born. What did I do *then* to make life not seem so crazy? How come it felt so disjointed now and what should I do about it?

I needed to come up with a plan, commit it to the Lord, and try my hardest to cut the chaos and haphazardness from our home and our schedule. I started by revisiting my household notebook and getting it back in order. That helped -- immensely. I realized that we were in a new season of life. I needed to reexamine how I organized my life, keep what worked, and find new ways to make our household run more smoothly.

Feel it, too?

Maybe you feel the chaos, too. It doesn't have to be a major life change that sends you reeling out of orbit. Life happens. And disorder follows. So, even if you don't have a "good reason" for it, take heart. You can get things back in line.

This book is a record of what I did to put some calm back in my storm. It's a compilation of the worksheets I've created over the years to help get my act together. While it certainly isn't foolproof, it works for me.

Life appears a little more sane than it did two years ago.

Realistically, I don't think I will ever "arrive" at that moment where everything is as it should be. Life isn't always completely manageable. But, if I – or any other mother - am to stay sane, I need to take a glimpse at the territory around me and make a plan.

These ways may not be the best ways for you. But, hopefully, **they'll get you thinking as to the best ways to organize your "Life as MOM."**

MOM WITH a MISSION

What kind of mom do I want to be?

When my kids are grown, what do I want them to take with them? What values? What memories? What skills?

What's most important to me in life?

What are my priorities?

What are my strengths as a mother and a home manager?

What are my weaknesses?

Where do I want to grow?



A good calendar or agenda can be a mom's best friend. It can help you keep track of doctor's appointments, know when to change the fridge filter, and help you keep your head on straight.

And there are a variety of calendars to match the different needs you have as a family manager. Perhaps you like to have lots of space to write in and track the comings and goings of your family. Or maybe you want a small calendar to keep above the baby's changing table in order to record all those special moments you don't want to forget.

This section contains several different sizes and styles of planning pages.

Important Dates to Remember allows you to record important dates, birthdays and anniversaries.

Year at a Glance gives you a simple forecast of the year and a head's up as to where the dates fall amongst the days of the week.

2-page Monthly Calendar shows each month across two pages. This is helpful for those who want a lot of space. The end of 2010 is included for those getting a head start, continuing on through the end of 2011.

1-page Monthly Calendar condenses the month onto one page for easy

viewing. October 2010 through December 2011 are included. There are both horizontal and vertical formats to choose from.

Weekly 1-page Grid allows you to record all the events of the week on one page. It is available in horizontal and vertical formats. The weekly pages are not dated -- and for good reason. Not all of us follow our best laid plans. And not all of us have busy weeks every week. Print blank weekly grids and date them as you will use them. Remember to make this work for you!

Daily Schedule offers an hour by hour framework of your day for you to fill in. It includes spots for the day's goals and the "don't forgets."

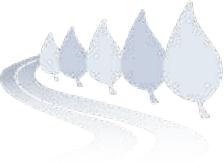
Daily Checklists are featured in two formats, one with a sample daily routine list and a blank version for you to fill in your own routines. You can print separate sheets for everyday or make a master sheet to laminate or place in a plastic page protector. In this way you can reuse one sheet many times over.

Sample Pages

October 2010

SUN	MON	TUE
3	4	5
10	11	12
17	18	19
24	25	26
31		

Sample Pages

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2
6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30
			 <p>©LifeasMOM.com</p>

OCTOBER 2010

Sample Pages

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1		2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

OCTOBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sample Pages

DAILY CHECKLIST

Routines

Errands:

Projects:

Contact:

Meals

Don't FORGET!

Sample Pages

Team SPORTS INFORMATION FOR _____

Name	Phone Number	Email Address
Coach		
Team Mom		

Helpful Information

Practice Schedule:

Equipment Needed:

Fields and Locations to Remember:

Notes

HOLIDAY PLANNING - TO DO LIST

Action item	Date to do it	X
Create holiday budget Start saving in a special account or envelope		
Plan Advent/devotional activities with family <ul style="list-style-type: none">---		
Decide on Christmas cards Buy or make cards Address envelopes Sign, stamp, and mail		
Find decorations New ones to buy or make? Hang lights Buy or assemble tree Decorate house		
Review music collection New albums to buy? Locate CDs & load to iTunes Burn a new mix		
Inventory wardrobe Make list of items to add Shop for new items		
Assess calendar of events Say NO to enough that I stay sane Plan parties or events that we are hosting Post calendar where everyone can see it Set alerts in phones or online calendar systems		

HOLIDAY PLANNING - TO DO LIST, PG 2

Action item	Date to do it	X
Consider holiday meal planning List the special meals you want to have Create a grocery list of staples to buy ahead of time Fill the freezer with make-ahead meals Bake cookies and freeze		
Inventory paper goods, wrappings, ribbons Make a list of needed items and look for sales Set up hostess station w/ paper goods Set up wrapping station		
Create list of gifts to make Purchase supplies Create calendar of progress Get crafting		
Create list of gifts to buy Determine what can be ordered online Go shopping		
Wrap gifts as completed/purchased		
Assemble shipping boxes and package gifts to mail Head to the PO or schedule a pick up		

list of paper goods, wrappings, ribbons		
make a list of needed items and look for sales		
set up hostess station w/ paper goods		
set up wrapping station		
list of gifts to make		
purchase supplies		
create calendar of progress		
crafting		
list of gifts to buy		
determine what can be ordered online		
shopping		
gifts as completed/purchased		