

**Priorities or Pressures?
Helping the Harried Housewife
Organize Her Home and Life**

I. Organization requires planning

Proverbs 16:9 LBT

II. Planning requires setting goals and determining priorities

Proverbs 22:3 LBT

Goal:

Priority:

III. Possible priorities

A. Relationship with the Lord

Matthew 6:33 NAS

Philippians 3:10 NIV

Isaiah 40:8 NAS

B. Relationship with husband

Genesis 2:24 NAS

I Corinthians 7:10, 17 LBT

Ephesians 5:21-33

C. Young, single, or dependent children

I Thessalonians 2:7 NIV

Titus 2:3-4 NAS

D. Ministry and outreach

Matthew 28:19, 20 NLBT

Ephesians 4:11, 12 NLBT

Ephesians 5:15-17 NLBT

Philippians 2:13

2 Corinthians 12:9

E. Work

Colossians 3:22, 23 NLBT

B. Relationship with husband

Tools: an available spirit and a warm heart

Time traps: anything!

C. Children

Tools: prepare breakfast, lunches & books by door, etc.

Time traps: clothing malfunction, lost note, arguing, etc.

D. Ministry and outreach

Tools: Bible, study materials, computer, pens, markers, phone with caller ID, etc.

Time traps: phone calls, household chores, etc.

E. Work

Tools: computer, phone, files, etc.

Time traps: calls, visitors, email, etc.

F. Home

Tools : list of chores, calendar, cleaning supplies, etc.

Time traps: TV, mail, newspaper, calls, visitors, etc.

F. Home

Proverbs 31:27 NLBT

Luke 10:40-42 NLBT

G. My self and my interests

Philippians 2:3-5 NLBT

I Timothy 4:7-8 NLBT

Application: Turn to the sheet titled, "My Priorities"

IV. Choosing priorities over pressures

Application: Fill out sheet titled, "My Plans"

A. Relationship with the Lord

Tools: Bible, pen, paper, highlighters,
calendar, "to do" list, phone with
caller ID, etc.

Time traps: phone calls, household
chore, roaming mind, etc.

G. Self

Tools:

Time traps:

V. *"Weekly Planner"* (MS Works Task Launcher)

Application: Fill out the planner starting with your first priority, second priority, etc.

Re-evaluate regular meetings that are not in your top 5 priorities.

VI. *Organization of household chores*

A. What is your family standard?

B. Decide on your plan

Application: "Housecleaning Chore List"

C. Evaluate other household chores, etc.

1. Minor time projects

2. Major time projects

My Priorities

My Plans

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

WEEKLY PLANNER

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00							
8:00							
9:00							
10:00							
11:00							
12:00							
1:00							
2:00							
3:00							
4:00							
5:00							
6:00							
EVENING							

Helpful Hints for the Harried Housewife

How to leave the house in peace in the morning:

Do these things the night before:

Plan your clothes, shoes, jewelry, etc. and have them set out.

Help your children pick out their clothes and have them set out.

Dress young children in their beds since they are sleepy and more compliant when first awakened.

Have lunches, school bags, purses, errands, etc. laid out and ready to go.

Plan a time margin, set your alarm and get up on time.

Don't get distracted with a housecleaning project that is not part of your plan.

How to help teens:

They are responsible to set their alarm, but be sure they are awake and moving.

Fix breakfast for them. If they are busy getting ready; consider taking a quick breakfast to them in their room.

Be pleasant and loving, not negative and nagging.

Help them get books, lunches, notes, lunch money, etc. to the door with them.

Send them off with love and prayers!

Watch out for distractions and time traps:

Read the paper and mail standing up or plan a time for more leisure reading.

Plan a time to read your magazines, don't read them when you get the mail.

If you have caller ID, don't answer calls you don't have time to deal with, call them back when it is convenient for you.

Limit your time on the computer checking email or reading news, etc.

Use your "best" time of the day for the most important tasks and use the time of the day when you are lower in mental capacity for the more menial tasks.

Don't turn on the TV unless you have planned the time to watch something.

When you are working on a project and think of something that needs to be done, don't DO it, but write it down on your calendar or on a "to do" list.

Look for ways that you are distracted or waste time and pray and ask God to help you use your time wisely.

Decide if the job/project must be done **thoroughly** or if it is best just to do a **quick job and get it done!**

Errands and young children:

Tell your children what behavior you expect from them before you go on the errands. If they are always asking to buy things when you go shopping, let them take their allowance money and begin to learn how to make choices in purchases.

Should I hire a housecleaner or do it myself:

This is a question to be answered by the husband and wife together with their budget in front of them. Don't overextend your budget on this!

Ask, what are my needs and what are my options?

Ask, can my children, teens, or husband help me? All who live in a home should do something to help based on their age and availability.

If you have the money, but your time is limited, is your time more valuable used somewhere else? Then find a housecleaner.

Laundry:

Get a laundry basket for each person in your family and teach them to use it.

Begin to teach your elementary children how to do their own laundry—sort colors, pre-stain items, follow washing and drying instructions on labels, folding and putting clean clothes up, ironing, etc.

Get enough underwear for you and your husband so you can do your wash every other week.

Meals:

Plan ahead on meals so that you will have all the ingredients you need.

Do something in the morning to start your dinner preparation.

Keep a list of your menus on a monthly calendar so that you remember what you fixed when. This will help you keep variety in your meals and know when to throw left-overs away.

Grocery shop no more than once a week if possible.

Grocery shop with a list of what you need and evaluate sale items based on what you

really use, not what is a "good bargain."

Young children love to help mom cook. Let them help you even if it takes longer. People are priority over gourmet meals.

Teach older children and teens how to cook by giving them one night a week to choose a meal and prepare it. Be ready to give LOTS of admiration and praise for their work!!!

Double batches so that the double portion can be labeled, frozen and used later when you have a busy week or to share with a friend in need.

Kitchen cleanup:

Teach your children beginning when they can walk to help you clean up their dishes, food, and the leftovers from the meal.

Give assignments for "clearing the table" and loading the dishwasher, or washing and drying dishes. If the family eats together, let them clean up together.

Don't leave your kitchen dirty at night unless you are sick. If you are too sick or tired to clean the kitchen after dinner, at least put the dirty dishes in the dishwasher OR a sink full of soapy water and they will be easier and quicker to wash in the morning.