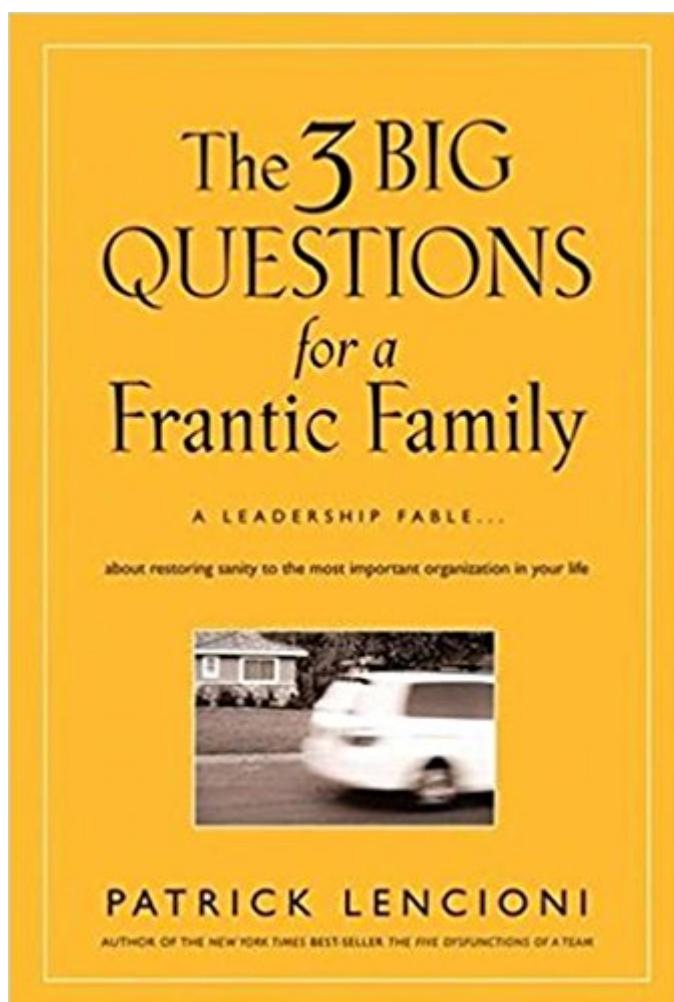


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# The Three Big Questions For A Frantic Family: A Leadership Fable, About Restoring Sanity To The Most Important Organization In Your Life



## **Synopsis**

In this unique and groundbreaking book, business consultant and New York Times best-selling author Patrick Lencioni turns his sights on the most important organization in our livesâ "the family. As a husband and the father of four young boys, Lencioni realized the discrepancy between the time and energy his clients put into running their organizations and the reactive way most people run their personal lives. Having experienced the stress of a frantic family firsthand, he and his wife began applying some of the tools he uses with Fortune 500 companies at home, and with surprising results.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Lencioni (The Three Signs of a Miserable Job) makes an eloquent case for applying business tools to manage scattered and stressful home lives. He observes that even successful people who apply strategies and long-term thinking at work neglect to implement plans and goals for their own families, noting that family chaos is just part of life and so we accept levels of confusion and disorganization and craziness at home that we would not tolerate at work. Lencioni invites readers into the lives of a fictional family, describing how overwhelmed stay-at-home mom Theresa brings greater serenity into her home by integrating business pointers into a three-step plan in which her family identifies what makes them unique, their top priority or rallying cry (a big project that can be worked on in two to six months) and a regular time to discuss their progress, preferably 10 minutes a week. Although Lencioni admits that his own family's experience using these tools has been limited, his book is a worthwhile if brief attempt to grapple with a particularly thorny problem facing

overextended families. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Memo to mom: "if my clients ran their companies the way we run this family, they'd be out of business." So says the management-consultant dad in this slim but thought-provoking volume. BlackBerrys are blurring the line between work and home. Why not apply business principles to "the most important organization in your life"? It's hard to argue with the idea that family goals should be carefully articulated. Likewise, a weekly family meeting can only help team spirit. But please, let's draw the line at pink slips.

I read this book several years ago and still use its insights. What I like about this book is that it recognizes family as an organizational unit, and as such, can benefit from what we know makes organizations function well. Just like when leading a company, or an army, or a government, when leading a family, good old-fashioned prioritization is your friend. The way to identify your prioritization (thereby restoring your family's sanity) is to use these three questions: 1. What makes your family unique? 2. What is your family's top priority - rallying cry - right now? 3. How will you use the answers? And how will you keep the answers alive? It is a lens for decision-making. If you're clear on your answer to these three questions, then decision-making from the small (should we sign our child up for a second soccer team?) to large (should we relocate?) becomes clear. The book reads like a story - it doesn't feel like the infinitely practical book that it is.

My wife and I had discussed taking a similar approach previously but have never done it. It just makes sense to me and the book articulates the idea of focusing on higher goals and aligning your actions below that to it. Things that don't fit, well they don't fit. This book has us moving forward with a plan and I think it will help us make better decisions on some big and small picture items because the basis of what we want to do as a family is clearly defined. I'll post updates in a few months but for now, I enjoyed the book.

I highly recommend this book for all families of any size! It's just two of us right now, but having these skills and asking these questions now will set us up for success when we do have kids in the future! Everyone should have a mission and a goal for their family! Loved the layout of the book, it was super easy and quick to read!

I would make this a 4.5 stars. Book is really good. Easy to read/understand. Lencioni perfectly describes what life was like when my children were younger: over-scheduled, frantic, and in a constant state of juggling many different facets of life. I'm now an empty-nester with 3 grown children in a relationship with my partner who has 4 grown children. We both have mothers who live in different states than where we live. Adding in full time jobs to an already full schedule, we need a way to ensure we are focused on what matters most in our lives. I'm looking forward to applying the tool provided in The 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family to both my work and home life.

This is good. The first half is fable. It teaches the material as it tells a story. I've read three books on family values and this is best, most helpful and easiest to read.

Running a family can be even more challenging than running a successful business. In 'The Three Big Questions for a Frantic Family', Lencioni takes proven business skills and applies them to running a family. This is another of Lencioni's fables, which tells the story of Theresa, a stay at home mom, and Jude, a freelance business consultant. Theresa borrows her husband's business know-how to organize their frantic family as well seeks to find a balance between business and family life. Lencioni uses three big questions to target what is most important about running a family while keeping it in balance with having a successful career. These questions are useful to those of us seeking to make changes in our lives - particularly vocational changes. When seeking a new career, it is important to consider how it will fit in with your family life, and the three big questions should be asked by every job seeker. I recommend this book as a great starting point for anyone seeking to make changes in their family and working lives. Danny Iny Author of the free eBook "Forget Everything You Know About Looking For a Job... And Actually Find One!"[...]

If you have a family, you better read this book. As a long time fan of Lencioni, this one follows right in line with his previous works. The plan is easy to follow and we have adopted it for our family. After many of our friends saw the difference in our family, they have asked what we are doing. I may even be teaching a class at church to teach other families how to follow Lencioni's plan. Like any plan, you have to work it.

I think most families are like ours. We simply react to circumstances as they arise and this leaves us feeling like our wheels are spinning and we're just going through the motions of life. As new issues come up, we deal with them as best we can without any real goals in mind or common ground to

start from. This is the first time in 8 years that my wife and I feel like we have a real opportunity to grow our family with intentional direction rather than wafting in the wind. All families should read this. It should be required reading for pre-marital counselling.

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