

Putting Together a Life Plan

Adapted from Daniel Harkavy

What is life planning all about?

- *Life planning is about determining what things are most important to you in life and then putting a plan in place to prioritize what you have identified as important.*
- *This process involves assessing where you are in life, identifying what is important to you, writing out a vision for who you want to be, and putting specific action plans in place to carry out your vision.*
- *The most effective way to complete this exercise is by doing a full day away and devoting at least 8 hours to this process. Think of this as a personal planning retreat. You will need your Bible, this guideline, and a pad of paper.*

Step 1: What's important to you?

Assess where you are in life right now and determine what is important to you.

Assessing myself and determining what is important

- **How am I doing?** Rate each of these life priorities on a scale of 1-10 in terms of how satisfied you are in each of these areas.
- **Priority:** Number each of these life priorities from one 1-10 in order of what you believe to be most important for you focus on over the course of the next year. *(Each number is only used once in this box)*

	How am I doing?	Priority
Relationship with God		
Finances		
Family (Parents, Siblings, In-laws)		
Self Development		
Marriage		
Health		
Recreation/Hobbies		
Children		
Friendships		
Career		
Other		

Optional: Other helpful steps in the process:

- Write out a definition of success for you.
- What do you want to be known for?
- What do you want to be remembered for?
- What's most important to you in life?

Step 2: Choose the life priorities that you would like to focus on/grow in

- Choose 3-4 of the areas from step 1 areas that you want to prioritize over the next year. (Examples: Marriage, Finances, Health etc.)
- Give each area its own page in a document. (If you have 4 life priorities you will have 4 pages in your document.)

Step 3: Write a Vision Statement for each Priority.

- Write this statement in the Present Tense.
- Define exactly who you want to be in each life priority. What do you hope to see when you look into your own future?
- Feel free to search the Scripture as you determine what God has called you to be.
- Example of a marriage vision statement *"I am a man who loves and leads my wife. My marriage is the number one priority human relationship in my life and my wife can clearly see that this is the case. She respects me, sees me as a godly and loving leader in our marriage. My wife sees me as a man who puts her interests before mine and lives out love as defined in 1 Corinthians 13."*

Step 4: Make a plan for Growth using specific activities

- The key question that you are answering here is **What am I going to do in order to be?** What will you do daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually to grow in each of my priorities?
- Identify 3-5 strategies/action steps that will help you grow in each area.
- These should be written down as action plans that are measurable and that can be completed:
Examples:
- Relationship with God: I will spend 30 minutes each day in God's Word
- Health: I will run for 30 minutes four times per week.
- Marriage: I will pray with my wife five nights per week
- Self Development: I will read these 12 books in 2010

Step 5: Begin to live out your life plan

- Record your action plans in your calendar as commitments.
- Remember they are your life priorities.
- If you can't enter these activities into your calendar, spend more time on this step. You need to be able to schedule and track your progress and success. Each action plan must be quantifiable and measurable.

Step 6: Stay on Course

- Read your life plan weekly to assess where you are.
- Friday morning or Monday morning are two good times to do this.
- Record this in your calendar weekly as an appointment
- Plan the following week based on your priorities.

Step 7: Establish Accountability

- Find a partner who will hold you accountable in these areas of your life, so that you can reach the goals you have set for yourself.
- Meet monthly to review together