

Connecting to L.I.F.E.

Setting Goals for the New Year



“For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn’t first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot finish it, all the onlookers will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man started to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

“Or what king, going to war against another king, will not first sit down and decide if he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?”



Luke 14:28–31



A goal that is not measurable
is not really a goal.
It is only an aspiration.



I want to share with you four reasons why goal-setting is important and supported by what the Bible teaches



1. Jesus Set Goals

Luke 9:50-51



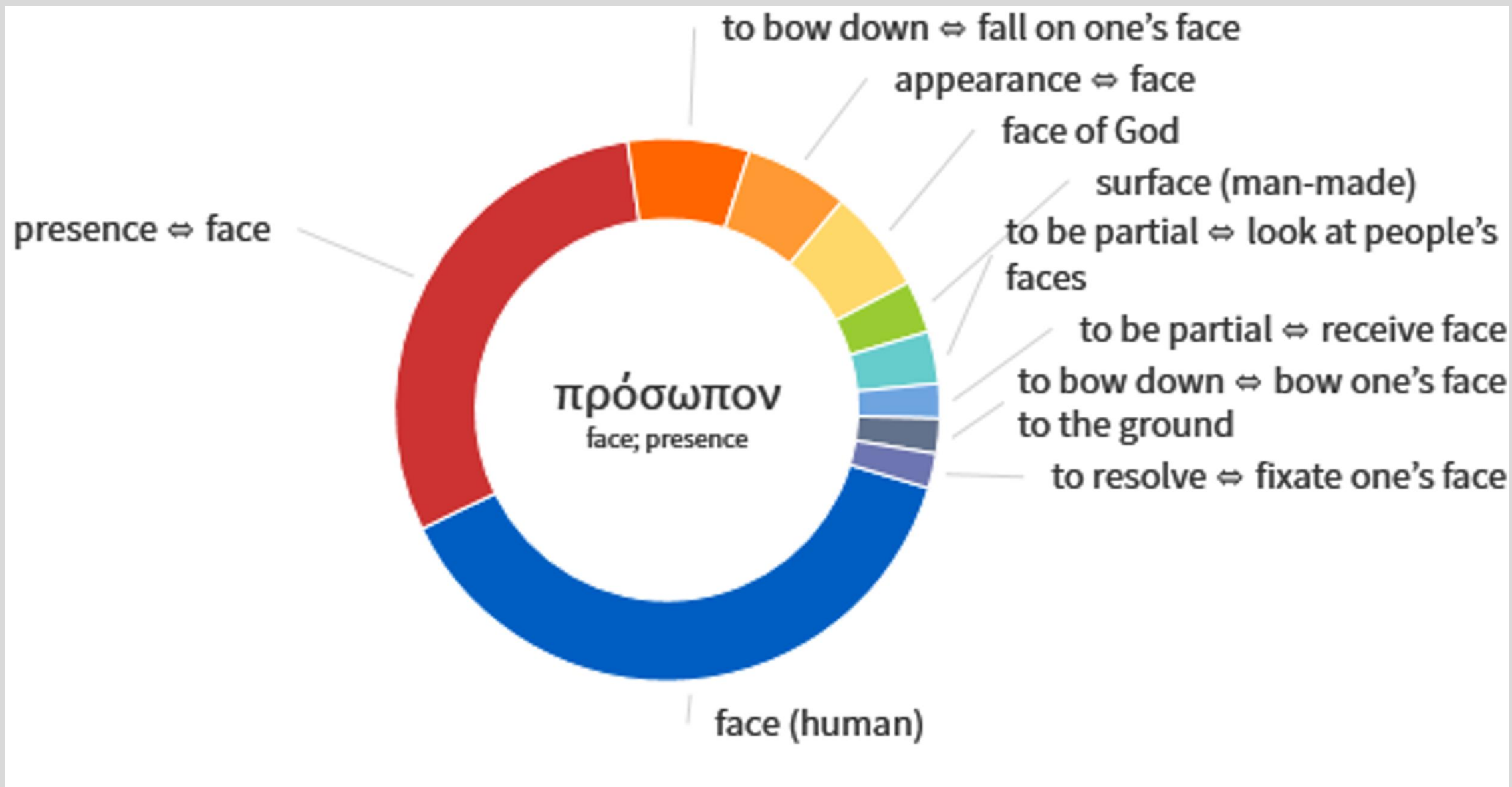
He Set Goals for Himself



When the days were coming to a close for him to be taken up, he determined to journey to Jerusalem.



Luke 9:51



Luke records that Jesus takes His disciples aside privately no less than three times and shares with them His specific plans.



He Set Goal for His Followers



He Set Goals for His Creation



2. Without Goals We Live an Unexamined Life

2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Peter 1:5-10



For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from



2 Peter 1:5–10

being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins. Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election, because if you do these things you will never stumble.



2 Peter 1:5–10

“The life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story and writes another; and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with what he vowed to make it.”

— James Barrie

What is Jesus satisfied with in my life?
And what is Jesus dissatisfied with?



Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Examine yourselves. Or do you yourselves not recognize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless you fail the test.



2 Corinthians 13:5

3. Faith Requires an Object or Target

Hebrews 11:8-10; Nehemiah 2:11-18



By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and set out for a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise, living in tents as did Isaac and Jacob, coheirs of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.



Hebrews 11:8–12

By faith even Sarah herself, when she was unable to have children, received power to conceive offspring, even though she was past the age, since she considered that the one who had promised was faithful. Therefore, from one man—in fact, from one as good as dead—came offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky and as innumerable as the grains of sand along the seashore.



Hebrews 11:8–12

A person's heart plans his way, but the Lord determines his steps.



Proverbs 16:9

After I arrived in Jerusalem and had been there three days, I got up at night and took a few men with me. I didn't tell anyone what my God had laid on my heart to do for Jerusalem. The only animal I took was the one I was riding. I went out at night through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent's Well and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire.



Nehemiah 2:11–18

I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but farther down it became too narrow for my animal to go through. So I went up at night by way of the valley and inspected the wall. Then heading back, I entered through the Valley Gate and returned. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, for I had not yet told the Jews, priests, nobles, officials, or the rest of those who would be doing the work.



Nehemiah 2:11–18

So I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins and its gates have been burned. Come, let’s rebuild Jerusalem’s wall, so that we will no longer be a disgrace.” I told them how the gracious hand of my God had been on me, and what the king had said to me. They said, “Let’s start rebuilding,” and their hands were strengthened to do this good work.



Nehemiah 2:11–18

4. Goals Keep Dreams Alive

Genesis 45:4-8; Ecclesiastes 9:4



Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Please, come near me,” and they came near. “I am Joseph, your brother,” he said, “the one you sold into Egypt. And now don’t be grieved or angry with yourselves for selling me here, because God sent me ahead of you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there will be five more years without plowing or harvesting.



Genesis 45:4–8

God sent me ahead of you to establish you as a remnant within the land and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household, and ruler over all the land of Egypt.



Genesis 45:4–8

But there is hope for whoever is joined with all the living, since a live dog is better than a dead lion.



Ecclesiastes 9:4

Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One.



Ephesians 1:3–11

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding. He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ as a plan for the right time—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.



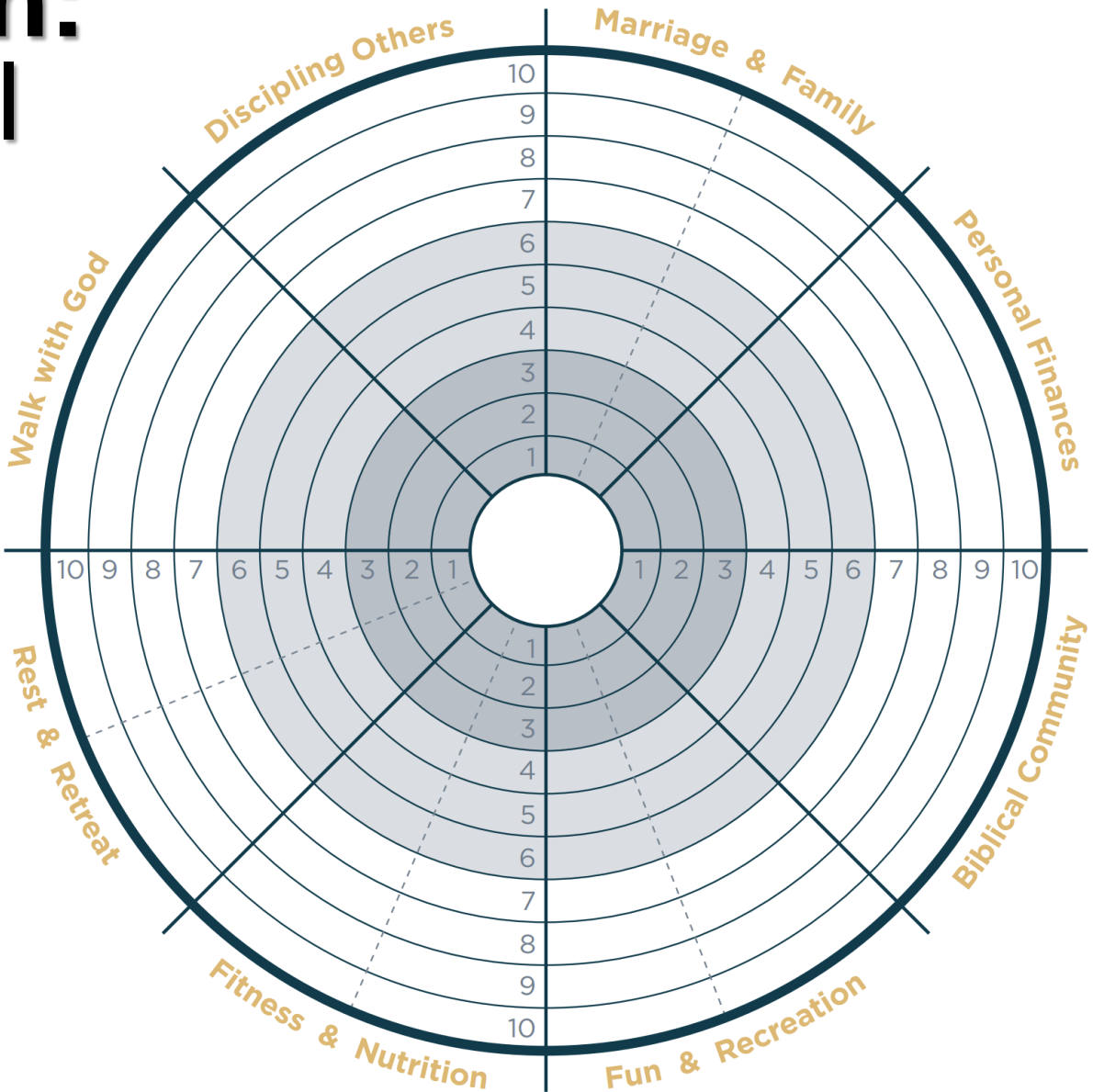
Ephesians 1:3–11

In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will.



Ephesians 1:3–11

Life Connection: Balance Wheel Exercise





Connect to...

Lord

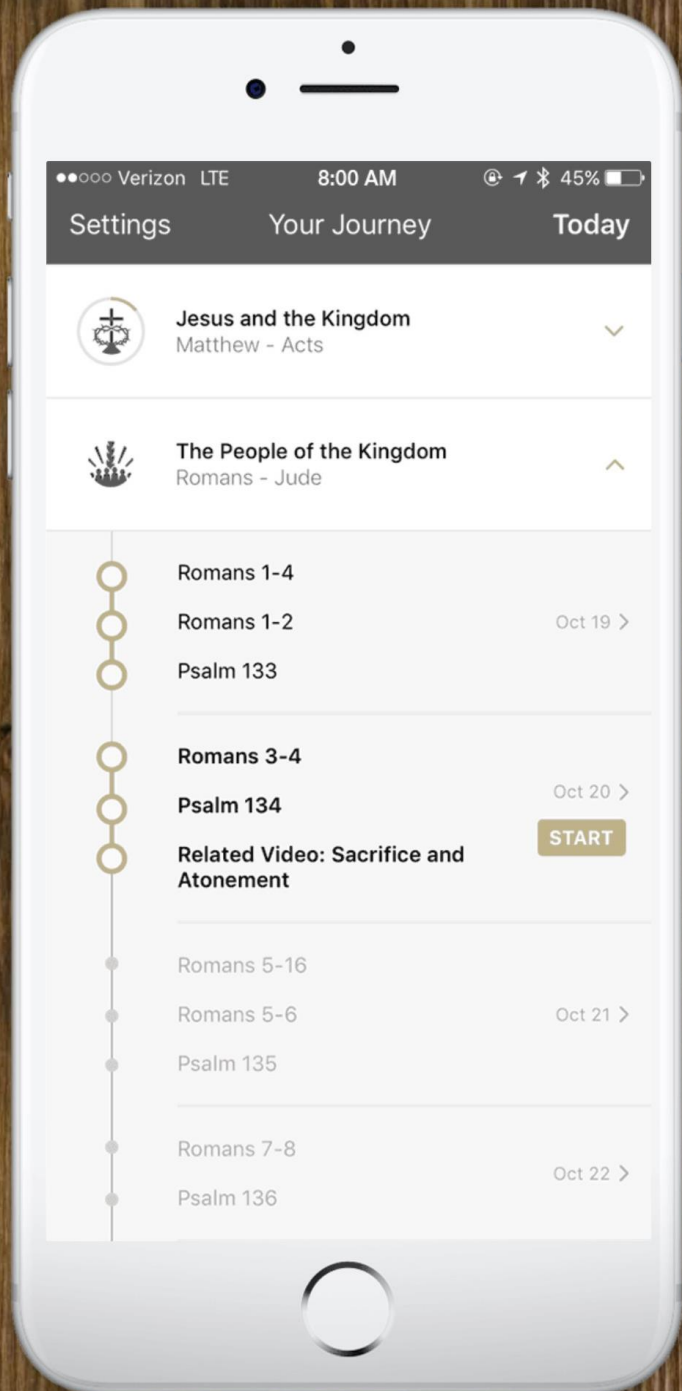
Instruction

Fellowship

Evangelism

Play (k)





READ SCRIPTURE



Want to dive deeper? We've been working on something new: [Scripture Labs](#) (beta).

Homework:

- Download the phone app and begin reading with the congregation
- Watch the suggested Bible Project videos
- Attend Life Group on Wednesday at 7:00pm