

Personal

Preview/Setting Goals

- Psalm 139
Response to my Creator
Knowing He made me for a purpose
- Romans 12:1,2
About my position...
Standing beside Christ!
- Colossians 1:9-14
God's will in my heart...
Bearing fruit and growing strong!

Personal Goals to Help Christ Work With Me:

Goal/Purpose

Steps/Habit

*Scripture
and Prayer*

*Heart attitudes
or feelings*

*Marriage
or family*

*Worship
or wisdom*

*Physical
or mental*

✓ **How Wonderful God Is** ¹⁻⁶

- When do you feel as if you have been “searched”? ¹
Is it possible to stay so occupied you never feel this?
- How do you feel about God’s knowing all about you? ⁴⁻⁶
Is that a comfort or a threat?
Do you ever tell God what that means to you?

✓ **How Amazing We Are** ¹³⁻¹⁸

- What should it mean to us that God made us? ^{14,15}
Should that be a conscious thought we continue?
How can we keep it in mind?
- How can or should this fact help with envy or negative self-image? What can remind us of this?

✓ **How Responsive We Are** ¹⁹⁻²⁴

- What sin should you be more angry about? ¹⁹⁻²²
How would it show?
- How can you help God search you? When? Why? How often? Would it be hard? What part would the Bible have in this? ^{23,24 Heb 4:12,13}

✓ Motivation: *the grace of God*¹¹

- What's so good about grace?
- When did it appear in the brightest way in history?
In your life?

✓ Instruction: *the lessons from grace*¹²

- What should you say "no" to this week?
- What is common about all the things we should reject?

✓ More Motivation: *the amazing grace*^{13, 14}

- How can I stay conscious of this?
- Do I ever think about this kind of future?
Should I?

✓ **Where I Stand: *offer your body*** ^{12:1, 2}

- What does it mean to “stand beside” Christ?
How does it feel? What does it do?
- Do I know when I move away from Him?
Does it bother me? What can I do?

✓ **How I Grow: *be transformed... renewing mind***

- What areas of my thinking need to be changed?
Can I identify them?
- What are my ways to change my thinking?
Daily habits? Deliberate thoughts?

✓ **How I think about myself: *sober judgment***

- Should I depend on my dedication?
- How does it show?

✓ **The Lord of Strength** ^{40:28}

- What do we learn about Him here? Why is it so easy to yawn at such amazing statements?
- How do these abilities or attributes of God relate to your personal abilities and spiritual needs?

✓ **The Gift of Strength** ^{40:29-31a}

- What does He do for us? Define a time you have felt that. What was it like?
- To whom does He give this help? Do we have to be hurting to receive it?
- What does it mean to “hope in the Lord”? How would that show in attitude, action?

✓ **The Evidence of Strength** ^{40:31b}

- How does it show? Picture these situations.
- How is it God’s gift of strength when we soar (when things are great), or run (work hard but do not tire), or walk (barely make it, but do not faint)?

✓ **Unity is God's Will** ^{20-21a}

- On a scale of 1-10, how important is it for me to have unity with Christians from other traditions? Why?
- What absolutes (doctrine) are essential for being one in Christ?

✓ **Unity is Seen** ^{21b-22}

- How might God's glory (His manifest character) be seen in me by non-Christians?
- Would you say that Christian relationships at your work place are a good testimony for non-Christian? Give one example.

✓ **Unity is Felt** ²³

- What is one thing that I can do to strengthen unity resulting in non-Christians experiencing God's love?
 1. Between churches
 2. In my work place

Church

✓ **Team Name: *"Body of Christ"*** ^{12, 13}

- How often do I thank God for all the grace He has given to me in Christ?
- What steps will I take in spending consistent time with Him?

✓ **Team Position: *God wants us to give 100% at our position*** ¹⁴⁻²⁰

- Why shouldn't I feel inferior to others?
- What areas of service do I desire, enjoy, or sense giftedness?
- What have others told me in relation to where they think I'm gifted?

✓ **Team Player: *God wants us to play as a team*** ²¹⁻²⁶

- How would I score myself from 1-10 concerning my attitude towards Christians that are quite different from me? (10 being the best attitude.)
- How can I help others to grow in Christ and encourage them to serve in the most strategic way?
- In what ways might outsiders be attracted to a healthy church?

✓ Leadership: *the gifts from Christ* ^{11, 12}

- How should I be affected by who gave these gifts to us?
- How would I describe how a church works or how ministry happens to my children?

✓ Ministry - Maturity: *the goal of the church* ¹²⁻¹⁴

- What are the real purposes of ministry in the church? Ideally, how would this happen?
- How would you grade yourself on the maturity described here?

✓ Lifestyle: *the godliness of a Christian* ¹⁵⁻¹⁶

- How does the goal of “truthing it in love” hit your heart as a personal mission statement?
- How do you hold the body together as a “supporting ligament”? What happens when you do your part?
- What about church now is building you up in love?

7 Characteristics

✓ The Actions of Worship ³⁶⁻³⁸

- Name some of the costs to the woman before talking about what worship and commitment cost us.
- What she did was very personal, giving of self. When do you stretch most to show love for Christ? What is hard about it?
- What place should emotion or demonstration have in worship? How does this relate to one's culture?

✓ Our Inhibitions and Concerns ³⁹⁻

- When do you hold back because of what people will think in your commitment, love, or worship? Is there a way around this?
- Do we ever make class differences at worship, or feel we are more worthy than some? What is a "loser"?

✓ Our Motives for Worship ⁴⁰⁻⁵⁰

- Can you get the good news if you do not understand the bad news?
- How did the Pharisee worship? What did his religious heart look like? Why would he worship?
- How can we help ourselves have a proper sense of forgiveness?

✓ **Eternal Knowledge** ⁸⁹⁻⁹¹

- The Bible is the only “eternal” book. How much time do you spend in the Word compared to other things?
- Revelation vs. information. When we read, sometimes we get something and other times come away with nothing. Why? What really needs to take place for us to learn from the Bible? How can we prepare?
- Do you love God Word? Consider David’s reasons vs. 92-93. When do you see the Word this way?

✓ **Enemies/Attacks: *how to identify*** ⁹²⁻⁹⁶

- What does culture say about objective truth? How do we know that what we say and what we think is true?
- What things in your life take your focus off God and His Word? When do you forget about His love and His presence? How do you best grow in that area?
- Think of someone who strongly opposes your beliefs. How do you really feel toward him? We were once enemies of God. How must we feel toward them? What signifies growth?

✓ **Lifestyles** ⁹⁷⁻¹⁰⁴

- As the spiritual leader, are you helping your family to grow and understand God’s Word? Can they feed off your passion to live according to it? What changes would you like to see take place?
- What “wrong paths” in your life threaten you from growth/learning? Where are you not satisfied in the area of obedience?

✓ **How We Get Rest** ^{4:1-2}

- What does the author mean by “falling short” of the promise of entering His rest? Is this referring to salvation or something else?
- What is essential to entering God’s rest? In other words, what’s required? How do people often misunderstand or abuse this?
- Why is knowing about Christ not enough? How do we deepen our personal relationship with Christ?

✓ **Finding “His” Rest** ^{4:3-7}

- Why did God rest from Creation? Surely, He wasn’t tired? What does it mean?
- God refers to rest as “My rest.” What’s the difference between God’s rest and finding rest on our own? Why is it “His” rest?
- When do we harden our hearts from hearing God? What’s usually the result of this?

✓ **Learning to Rest** ^{4:8-11}

- When is it hard to rest from your own work or when do we trust our own efforts instead of Christ’s? Why is it hard to think Christ did it all?
- List two things that cause unrest in your life right now.

✓ **The Negative Use of Freedom** ¹³⁻¹⁵

- Why is it easier to serve yourself?
- Why does selfish lust always want to win for self?

✓ **The Positive Use of Freedom** ¹³⁻¹⁵

- In your own words, how does love sum up all the other ways to serve?
- Will love help you find ways?

From John 13—the washing of the feet

- What are lessons we learn about serving?
- In your own life, what's the best kind of serving unbelievers that you can do?
- When do you avoid this?

✓ **The Way to the Positive** ¹⁶⁻¹⁸

- How does the Spirit help us to get to this?
- When do you know you are living that way?

✓ **The Right/Wrong Attitude** ³⁵⁻³⁶

- Probably none of us would ever speak to Jesus in the selfish way that John did, but are there any examples from our lives when we are like this in our hearts?
- How would you respond if someone spoke to you like James and John just spoke to Jesus? How did Christ respond?

✓ **Local Color** ³⁷⁻⁴¹

- What were James and John really asking Jesus—to “sit at the right and the left of Him”? What did that mean in that culture?
- To drink of the same cup meant to share in one’s fate. How do we share in Christ’s fate?

✓ **Elements of a True Servant** ⁴²⁻⁴⁵

- Think about who Christ is as Lord. Now think about how He spent His time on earth. When did He ever praise or glorify Himself? What was His purpose for coming then?
- To serve is to die to the self. What are some other qualities of a true servant of Christ?
- To follow Christ is to do what He did. When specifically is it hard for you to serve? Who are some tough people for you to serve?

✓ **United in Christ** ¹⁻⁴

- Why is it so important for a believer to be united? What is it we have by our new birth to help produce unity?
- When is this hard, or when do trouble spots occur? Is it ever normal to live up to verse 4?
- In a close area of your responsibility, who is it hardest for you to relate to with unity?

✓ **The Attitude of Christ** ⁵⁻⁸

- What did Christ give up? Why? How should this affect our attitude towards others?
- How would you describe a “servant’s heart”? How did Jesus show this? When do you have trouble doing this?

✓ **The Glory of Christ** ⁹⁻¹¹

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- How would you sum up verses 9-11 in a single phrase?
 - What is “glory”? How do we actually glorify God?

○ ✓ **Our New Way of Life** ^{5:16-18a}

- What’s the worldly way to look at people? How do you judge them just by externals?
- How should our “new-creature life” in Christ help us look at others as having the possibility of being made new?

○ ✓ **Our View of Others** ^{5:18b-20}

- Who was the minister of reconciliation in your own life? Do you ever see yourself as a minister to others?
- What does it mean to be an ambassador? What are the main ways we represent Christ? Is this about actions or words?
- When was the last time you “implored” someone to be reconciled? How does this go back to the way we see others?

○ ✓ **Our Message to Share** ^{5:21}

- Can you say our message in your own words? Why is that important?
- Do you agree that we often can say how sin is handled by our Savior but not how righteousness is given? Why are both vital?

✓ **The Giver's Heart** ⁶⁻⁹

- Give an example of when God gave you something through someone else.
- Describe a giver's heart.
- How do you decide to give or determine what or how much? When is it difficult to decide?

✓ **The Stuff Behind Giving** ¹⁰⁻¹¹

- How is "trust" a big part of giving?
- In what way has God made you rich?

✓ **The Gift of Giving** ¹²⁻¹⁵

- What are the results of cheerful giving?
- How is giving a confession of the Gospel?
- What gifts/talents or resources has God given to you that you might give back?

Extras

Let's Start With Me

A personal response to our Creator

✓ **Design: *God designed and made us*** ^{139:13-16}

- How do I feel about the way He did me?
- What does this say about my purpose in life?

✓ **Accountability: *He sees all I do and am*** ^{139:1-12}

- How does this require grace from me?
- How does it change my habits?

✓ **Response: *I can fight it or cooperate*** ^{139:22-24}

- Should I ever pray anything like this?
- How should I "help" this prayer?

✓ **Understanding: *the will of God***⁹

- What seems to be “God’s will” here?
How does it contrast with normal view?
- How do I get this wisdom?
How do I help my family by praying this?
- Is my life in the center of God’s will?

✓ **Lifestyle: *a life worthy of the Lord***¹⁰

- What kind of life is “worthy” and “pleasing”?
- What areas in you life show strong “good works”?
What areas show need to grow?
Would accountability help?

✓ **Power: *strengthened with all power***¹¹

- How will God’s power show in our lives... marriages?
- How should we pray for character?¹²⁻¹⁴
- How does gratitude relate to all of this?

✓ **Listening to the Word** ²²

- How do you do this? Does this demand personal time or is church enough?
- What keep you from this habit?

✓ **Doing the Word** ^{23, 24}

- Explain the mirror illustration in your own words.
- In what areas would you be most likely to see needs but not do anything about it? Why do we reject truth like this sometimes?
- What is an area or habit where you recently looked and changed? Why the emphasis on “continues”?
- What kind of “blessed” comes with this obedience? When do you sense that? How much?

✓ **Purpose: *Our dominant purpose in Christ*** ^{3:7-9}

- How should my central value system be different because of Christ?
- What does this say about my priorities?

✓ **Relationship: *Our relationship with Christ*** ^{3:10-11}

- What am I doing to know Christ better?
- How have I shared in Christ's pain recently?

✓ **Progress: *Our progress toward Christ*** ^{3:12-14}

- How can I have a conscious goal to know Christ better in my busy life?
- What are specific goals that I am seeking and how can this group help to achieve them?

✓ **The Bright and The Dark** ^{18, 19}

- How is he defining the “righteous” and the “wicked” in this context? Look around.
- In what sense are the righteous characterized by light and brightness? How should it keep getting brighter?
- Do you walk in brightness? Do you know what makes you stumble?

✓ **The Words of The Righteous** ²⁰⁻²²

- Where do we find those words? When?
- What is the difference between having the words in your sight and in your heart?
- Tell someone ways you have received life or health from the words of life.

✓ **Our Instructions for Good Health** ²³⁻²⁷

- How do we guard our own hearts? What does this imply about accountability? ²³
- What thoughts or words tempt you the most to break this? What can help you avoid sin? ²⁴
- Apply verse 25. What is it about? What is there to see at the sides? Where would Christ be in this metaphor? ²⁵
- Why are there so many infirm paths today? ²⁶
- Talk about your feet! ²⁷

✓ **The Possibility of Conceit** ^{12:7}

- What trait or ability could make you proud? Be honest. What do you realize you are good at?
- What can you do to give that to the Lord? What would Romans 12:1 & 3 mean for you?

✓ **The Prevention of Conceit or Pride** ^{12:7, 8}

- What kind of negatives could be labeled “thorns”?
- Are there things in your life that could be called “thorns” or “keepers of humility”? What would it mean for you to look at them that way?
- How would you explain to a friend why God did it this way?

✓ **The Power for Weakness and Pride** ^{12:9, 10}

- How do you sense grace for your weakness, and when?
- How do you think Paul ever got to where he could write verse 10? How could you ever say that?
- How can you seek Christ for strength and abide in Him so you experience His strength?

✓ **Worry—Anxiety: *the opposite of peace*** ^{6,7}

- Why is the one option so much easier to choose than the better one when it comes to problems and worry?
- What does it take for you to really pray about an issue?
- When do you experience the peace of God?

✓ **Thought Life: the discipline of our minds** ^{8,9}

- How can we possibly regulate what we dwell on? Are we responsible when there are so many stimuli?
- What main positive (things to do) and negative (things to avoid) disciplines help you to guard your thoughts? What helps you to be consistent?
- What strikes you about the descriptions of the regular thoughts God wants us to have? Is this normal?
- II Corinthians 10:5
This verse makes it look like it can be done.
How can it be done?