



TRINITY CHURCH

www.trinitylondon.org

Achieving Your Goals In 2019

A focused life can be very powerful.

When you focus light, like the sun's rays through a magnifying glass, you can easily start a fire. Light focused into a laser can travel extraordinary distances and even cut through metal. If you want God to use you in great ways in 2019 and achieve your goals, you'll need to focus.

Imagine the impact if everyone at Trinity had a laser sharp focus on God given goals? Go on – just imagine it for a moment. How different would your life be?

This worksheet gives you 10 clear steps to help you gain a greater focus on your goals for 2019.

In Genesis 24 Abraham sent his servant Eliazar back to his home land to find a wife for his son Isaac.

First take a few moments to read Genesis 24:1-57

STEP 1 Know your current situation

"Abraham was now old and well advanced in years, and the Lord had blessed him in every way."

Gen. 24:1

Abraham's situation was that he needed a wife for his son.

What is your situation now?

Give yourself a mark out of 5 to indicate how you are doing in these areas....

1 - not good, 5 - excellent

- Spiritually:
- Emotionally:
- Relationally:
- Physically:
- Financially:
- Other:

STEP 2 Define your goal

"... go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."

Gen. 24:2-4

Abraham gave Eliazar a clear goal – to find a good wife for his son.

What is God calling you to focus on in 2019?

Be very specific.

Vague goals (like being a nicer person or being a better parent or getting another job) may seem less intimidating, but specific goals mean we can be accountable and we also know whether or not we've hit them!

At this stage don't worry HOW you will achieve your goals.

Write your goals for 2019

STEP 3 Build on God's promises

"The Lord ... spoke to me and promised me saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land'..."

Gen. 24:7

Abraham knew that God had already promised that his family would be the beginning of a new nation.

Having goals that are based on God's promises rather than what you personally want is the difference between godly goals and just personal (and potentially selfish) goals.

One of the promises that is important to Trinity is Jeremiah 29:7:

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

God is saying that when we make our community a better place to live and work, He will bless us.

When a handful of people first started Trinity Church back in 2004, it was based on a prophetic promise that we would be a church that impacted North London and planted many churches. When we encourage, plant and grow other churches as well as Trinity we are building on God's promises.

What biblical promises have been said over your life?

Write them down here.

One reason to keep reading our bibles every day, is to read God's promises to us.

STEP 4 What's the benefit?

"... so that you can get a wife for my son there."

Gen. 24:7b

The benefit to Eliazar of finding a good wife for Isaac was that his boss, Abraham would be pleased, Isaac could get married and God's plans would be advanced.

Having a clear understanding of the benefits of your goals will help you stay focused when struggles, set backs and disappointments happen.

What is the benefit of being successful in your goals?

How will you feel once you achieve your goal?

STEP 5 Soak your goal in prayer

"Then he prayed, 'O Lord, God of my master Abraham, give me success today'..."

Gen 24:12

Eliazar was not afraid to boldly ask God that he would be successful. He prayed continuously throughout his trip, always focusing his eyes on God.

Praying not only reveals a desire to accomplish a goal but it also a dependence on God.

Take some time to pray now for your goal in the same way that Eliazar prayed.

How do you continue to stay focused and pray every day?

What are the actions you take in your day to day life to achieve this goal?

STEP 6 Work out the Barriers

Finding the right girl, gaining consent from her parents, and convincing the girl to go home with him were some big barriers to overcome!

From Gen. 24:21,49,58

Eliazar was fearful that he wouldn't succeed.

There will be barriers and distractions that will attempt to stop you focusing on your goals, and on God.

What are they? Write them down here.

Jesus said (in Matthew 6) that the best way to handle worries was not to worry about tomorrow, for each day has enough worries of its own.

Take each day as they come, asking God to empower you with the Holy Spirit so that you can ignore distractions!

STEP 7 Develop a plan

Eliazar's plan was to be in a place where lots of women gathered, test character, display his master's wealth, get invited to the woman's home, share his purpose and pop the question.

Gen. 24:1-15

Eliazar was proactive – he didn't just hope the right woman would cross his path, he purposively sought them out. Eliazar then took a risk by talking to Rebekah (which was not socially acceptable) and asking her for a drink of water.

If you are going to achieve your goals for 2019 you will need to be proactive and take some risks. For example, if you want to develop new friendships, or find a husband or wife, how are you being proactive?

How do you need to be proactive to achieve your goals?

What (appropriate and godly!) risks do you need to take?

STEP 8 Discipline your personality

"The food was set before him but he said "I will not eat until I have said what I have to say." Gen 24:33.

"now then if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to my master tell me, and if not tell me that I might turn to the right hand or to the left." Gen 24:49

"But he said to them do not delay me since the Lord has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master". Gen 24:56

Eliazar had to be disciplined with his words, his appetite and with his time.

Eliazar is a great example of showing personal discipline in order to focus on his goal. He was focused with his decisions, controlling his appetite and watched what he said. All of which demonstrated his godly discipline.

How do you need to discipline yourself in order to remain focus on your goals?

STEP 9. Depend on people

"Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said "The thing has come from the Lord, we cannot speak to you good or bad."

Gen. 24:49-51

Eliazar did not try to do everything on his own, but involved Rebekah's family.

Very rarely is anything of importance achieved on your own.

In fact, if all of your goals can be achieved on your own

- a) They aren't big enough
- b) They're probably not from God.

God always puts us in community so that we can learn from one another.

Do you have goals that you want to reach for you and your family? How are you engaging and involving everyone on those goals together?

Who has God put around you to help you achieve your goals?

Who are you going to be accountable to in focusing on your goals? (i.e. who do you trust to ask you awkward questions?)

STEP 10 What's the cost?

"The servant brought out gold and silver and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and her mother."

Gen. 24:53

Focusing on your goals might cost your time, your money or even your reputation. Living a life that is focused and empowered by God can be costly, it can mean that you have to let go of some things. Things that might not necessarily wrong, but hinder your journey along God's path.

You will have to decide what your priorities are.

What will you have to let go of in 2019, so that you may achieve your goals?

Keep this worksheet and read over it again in six month's time..

This material is adapted for Trinity Church from Rick Warren's "The Awesome Power of Focus, Purpose Driven Goal Setting". www.pastors.com

Northwest Centre. Avion Crescent, Grahame Park Way, London. NW9 5QY.

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Registered Company Address: Wilton Mutlow Chartered Accountants. 3 College Yard, Lower Dagnall Street, St Albans. AL3 4PA Company No. 5018627