

10 Steps to Setting Life Goals

Adapted from Mark Batterson, *The Circle Maker* (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2011)

Goals are Dreams with Deadlines

- 1. Start with Prayer** | Dreaming is a form of praying and praying is a form of dreaming.
- 2. Check your Motives** | Make sure you're going after these goals for the right reasons.
- 3. Think in Categories** | It is hard to pull life goals out of thin air. Looking at other people's goals can help spark ideas. So does thinking in categories.
- 4. Be Specific** | If a goal isn't measurable, you have no way of knowing whether you've accomplished it or not.
- 5. Write it Down** | "*The shortest pencil is longer than the longest memory!*" Verbalizing your goals holds you accountable.
- 6. Include Others** | Don't just accomplish lots of goals and not bring anybody else along for the ride. It is about shared experiences. It is about creating memories.
- 7. Celebrate along the Way** | When you accomplish a goal, celebrate it. When God answers a prayer, throw a party. Celebrate with the same intensity with which you pray. Setting goals is the way you turn imaginations into memories, and once you do, you need to celebrate them.
- 8. Dream Big** | Michelangelo said, "*The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it; but that it is too low and we reach it.*" Go for it!
- 9. Think Long** | We tend to overestimate what we can accomplish in two years and underestimate what we can accomplish in ten years.
- 10. Pray Hard** | Goal setting begins and ends with prayer. God-ordained goals are conceived in the context of prayer, and prayer is what brings them to full term.



The
Circle
Maker



FAMILY GOALS (eg. coach a kids team; take a family missions trip)

- _____
- _____
- _____

INFLUENCE GOALS (eg. get a graduate degree; create a missional business)

- _____
- _____
- _____

EXPERIENTIAL GOALS (go skydiving; read through the Bible)

- _____
- _____
- _____

PHYSICAL GOALS (eg. run a 1/2 marathon by age ____; hike the Grand Canyon)

- _____
- _____
- _____

FINANCIAL GOALS (eg. be debt free by age ____; give away ____ to missions)

- _____
- _____
- _____

TRAVEL GOALS (eg. go on an African safari; ride a gondola in Venice)

- _____
- _____
- _____