



Discussion Guide

GODLY GOALS

“Run Straight to the Goal” Part 1

Jeff Wall

The godly are showered with blessings... Proverbs 10:6 (NLT)

There are three kinds of people in life: people who make things happen, people who watch things happen, and people who have no idea what is happening.

- To be people who make things happen we need to set godly goals. Life on earth is full of losses and defeats, but godly goals lead us into the future and keep us from giving up.
- Goals don't have to be big to be effective, but they do have to be godly.
- Godly goals are statements of faith and trust in God. Godly goals give us hope, focus our energy, stretch our faith and build our character. Sometimes we don't set goals because we fear failure or because what we want to do seems too big and unattainable. No goal we can set is bigger than God.

Open your group with a prayer.

FRIENDS THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE. PICK AND CHOOSE YOUR POINTS.

WHY YOU NEED TO SET GOALS

1. GODLY GOALS GIVE ME HOPE

According to Job 6:11 what is missing without a goal?

- How does having a goal give us hope?

2. GODLY GOALS FOCUS MY ENERGY

Who does Paul compare himself to in 1 Corinthians 9:26?

- In what way does having a goal help us focus?

3. GODLY GOALS STRETCH MY FAITH

Based on Matthew 9:29, how is it determined what will be done to us?

- How does having godly goals stretch our faith?

What does Hebrews 11:6 say is impossible without faith?

- What can we do to show we have faith, to please God?

What is sin, according to Romans 14:23?

- Sin normally seems to imply something dark or sinister, but how does our view of sin change if we understand it means anything that does not come from faith?

4. GODLY GOALS BUILD MY CHARACTER

If your goals are good, what does Proverbs 11:27 say about how you will be seen by others?

- Since goals can affect our character, how should we go about selecting our goals?

Who does Proverbs 15:9 tell us God loves?

- What determines whether a goal is upright or not?



WHAT MAKES GOALS GODLY?

1. THEY'RE BASED ON GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

According to 1 Corinthians 9:24–26, what did Paul do that enabled him to reach for the prize?

- Why is focus important in going for a goal? Where do Christians get their purpose?

Part of achieving a goal is having a destination. In John 14:28, where did Jesus say he was going?

- Describe how having God's goal and purpose in life differs from living life without God?
- How do we know what God's plan is for us?

In 2 Corinthians 10:13, what does Paul choose to boast about?

- We are not called to do everything. How do we discover our focus?

According to Ephesians 4:1, how did Paul urge believers to live life?

- How does God's Word enable us to live a worthy life and what would that look like?

Discipleship—As we grow in Christ, we will naturally desire to please him through the goals we set. The most common mistakes in setting goals are 1) to set them too low and 2) to try to achieve them too fast. We also have to understand what makes a goal godly. Goals are not godly if they don't fit the purposes God has for us: to know him, to grow in him, to share him, to serve others, and to honor him. Goals are godly if they bring glory to God, are motivated by love, and if they can only be achieved through God's power.

Setting and following godly goals gives our lives meaning and a path through the chaos of the world to a heavenly end.

2. THEY AIM TO BRING GLORY TO GOD

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. How are we to give God glory?

- In what ways does the concept of giving God glory change how we set goals?

Worship—We bring God glory when we worship him everyday. In what ways are motivation and attitude key to bringing God glory in ALL things we do? **If you have a testimony of how worshipping God has influenced your motivation and attitude, share it with the group.** Make a plan to spend time worshipping God each day this coming week with a goal to bring him glory through your life.

3. THEY ARE MOTIVATED BY LOVE

What instruction does 1 Corinthians 14:1 give us concerning love?

- How does love, or the lack of it, affect the relationships that we have or hope to have?

According to Philippians 3:8–11, how should we count or consider everything other than Christ?

- With the goals Paul describes in this passage what can we attain?

Ministry—We are commanded to nurture love for God and love for people. As we begin to model the life of Christ, we become motivated by such love. If we let our own goals become an obsession, we begin to use people, not to love them. Think about a relationship you wish to improve; how can you show them Christ's love? Ask the group to pray for you to be motivated by love. **(Look for opportunities to serve on the weekend i.e. kids church, host ministries, talk to pastor Jeff Howe and find a place to show love.)**



4. THEY ARE ACHIEVED WITH GOD'S POWER

According to Galatians 3:3 what is foolish?

- If we leave God out of our plans, what results can we expect in our goals? In our lives?

What does Proverbs 16:9 teach about planning our course versus our actual steps?

- As people of free will, why would we want the Lord's guidance and how would we obtain it?
- What mistakes affect our families or jobs when we ignore the Lord's direction?

What should we say and why, according to James 4:14–15?

- Since we don't know the future, what attitude ought we to have before the Lord?

How does Zechariah 4:6 say we will succeed?

- God never intended us to achieve goals without his power. What would the benefits be in allowing him to empower us? What can we do to receive his power?

Mission—In order to effectively share Christ we need God's power. **FRIEND'S this is meant to come through your personality over the "bridge" of relationship.** Don't rush it. When we try to carry more into the relationship then the "bridge" is rated to carry we risk a collapse. Jesus said he only spoke and did what the Father directed him to do. Allow the Holy Spirit to direct you.

Take a moment to review any assignments/challenges made during the personal application and commitment section of your previous meeting. Seeing God at work in the lives of those who commit to him is essential for growth.

PERSONAL APPLICATION AND COMMITMENT:

If we don't set godly goals, we can drift through life and miss what God has planned for us.

This week, pray about the goals God wants you to have and prepare a list of the goals you feel called to pursue.

Pray for discernment on how to attain these goals and identify in writing what specific steps you will take to do so over the next week, month, and year. Once you commit it to paper (even electronic paper) your goals become your compass, keeping you from drifting off course. Plan to share your goals with your group and check in with one another periodically to help you stay on track.

God Bless you as His plan for 2001 is revealed and then lived out in your life.

Pastor Jeff Wall