



## Project Six Goal Setting

This project will take about 2 hours and will require a place that is quiet enough for good conversation. You will need a way to record your thoughts and ideas. If you have a laptop or tablet device, it would be a good idea to use it as you will most likely be making several changes to your original draft as you talk through this exercise.

Your final goal for this project is to set long and short term goals; however, this may be different from goals you have set before. You will need to think about what you want your “dash”, your life as a couple, to stand for. When someone is planning your eulogy, what do you want him or her to be saying about what was important to you? What do you want people to remember about what you did? Who would you have impacted through your actions? What is your passion, and how did you live that out?

Just like any trip you plan to take, you have to know where you want to end up in order to know how to plan your route. Also, just like any planned trip, there are often many ways to arrive at your destination. The route that you plan will take into account the things that interest you and the detours that make sense for you and your family.

For this exercise we are going to define a “long term goal” as one that will take 1-2 years to accomplish. “Short term goals” will be those bite-size things that can be done in three months or less. Each short-term goal should be directly related to at least one long-term goal. We have chosen four areas that are common for goal setting. Use the categories, questions and suggestions here to help guide you through this process. Each question is marked with “lt” or “st” to indicate if it is to help you establish a long-term or short-term goal. Don’t limit your conversation to these categories and questions; they are simply listed to be a jumping off place for your conversation.

We are not going to specify the number of goals for you to set, but would recommend that

you set no more than 4 long-term goals and no more than two short term goals for each long term goal. The number of goals set really depends on the difficulty involved in reaching it. Remember, the purpose of a goal is to give you direction, and as such it should be achievable. Going back to our trip analogy, you wouldn't plan to drive from California to New York with 2 small children in one day. Your goals need to be reasonable for your present time in life. You should plan to revisit your short-term goals in about 3 months to do a quick check and determine the next set of short-term goals that make sense for you.

### Faith

- What does your spiritual life look like right now? (lt)
- Where do you want to put your spiritual stake in the ground? What do you want others to see you living for? (lt)
- What are the current things you do to grow in your faith? (st)
- Of those things you currently do, which do you want to continue doing? (st)
- Which things are already habits for you that have become part of your natural routine? (st)
- What do you need to add to your current routine to get to where you are wanting to be? (lt, st)

### Family

- What are the roles each person currently plays in your family? (lt)
- Do you want to keep the roles the way they currently are, or do they need to be tweaked or changed? (lt)
- In the perfect scenario, what would your family structure/function look like? (lt)
- What is one change that needs to take place for each adult in order to move one step closer to your vision for how you want your family to interact? (st)
- What are the activities you enjoy doing together? Are you an active family that enjoys sports and outdoor activities, or do you tend to be an indoor family that likes to watch movies and play board games? (lt)
- How does your family tend to interact right now? How do you make decisions, handle conflict, talk to each other, and show affection? (lt)

- Are there disciple changes you would like to see if you have children? (lt, st)
- What is one thing you can begin doing differently today that will lead to better interaction as a family/couple? (st)

### Finances

- What do you believe about who really owns the things you have (money, assets)? (lt)
- Do you see yourself as the owner or the steward of your resources? (lt)
- Are you currently tithing (giving a set percentage of your gross income) to a church? (lt, st)
- Is tithing something you've talked about in the past? If not, have that discussion now. (lt, st)
- Why would you tithe? What are the benefits? (lt,st) If you are having trouble answering this question, please speak to a leader in your church about the practice and benefits of tithing. Many churches are reluctant to address this topic in a group setting, so you may not have heard many sermons about it.
- What is the honest state of your finances? (lt)
- How much debt do you actually have (lt)
- What is the cause of the debt you currently carry (lt, st)
- How much of a debt dent can you make in three months if you set your mind to it? (st)
- What is your plan for retirement? (lt)
- How much are you currently saving/investing? (lt, st)
- What do each of you believe about finances? (lt)
- Are you in agreement about how finances should be handled? (lt,st)
- Do you have the knowledge and information you need to get control of finances if they are out of control? (lt,st)
- Do you have the resources needed to “get on the same page” with your spouse financially? (lt, st)
- Do you need to find and use a prepared resource, like Dave Ramsey, to increase the tools you have for handling finances? (st)

## Friends

- Do you feel you should have separate hobbies/activities, or do you feel that companionship is more important than personal interests? (lt)
- What role do your friends play in your life? (lt)
- How much time is spent with friends each week/month (st)
- Is getting together with friends a natural activity for you or does it take intentionality? (st)
- Do you share the same group of friends or do you tend to each have your own set? (st)
- Is it important to you to have a community of people close to you? (lt)
- How well do you know your neighbors? (st)
- Do you regularly associate with people from a variety of social groups (neighborhood, church, work, other)? (st)
- Should you grow the variety of friends that you have? (lt)
- How would you go about finding new social circles to move in? (st)
- What is a new hobby or activity the two of you might enjoy together? (st)

