**PRIORITIZE YOUR LIFE WITH PURPOSE**

By Jeremy Stephens

As we begin to target (focus) our lives around a Jesus-inspired vision we can begin to discern three tiers of importance. Remember this is BIG picture stuff so don’t get caught in the weeds of life (cooking, cleaning…unless that is your purpose). Take some time to reflect and place life and ministry goals within the appropriate tier. Afterwards develop and set **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant, **T**ractable goals + activities in line with how you prioritized your life.

**TIERS**

**1** – The Center defines your purpose. This is what you want to achieve with your life and the answer to why you are here on earth. It is your 10 year mission statement. Everything will submit to the center of the target. (ex. develop life-long Jesus-centered missionaries)

**2** – The next tier submits to the center but is more focused on your purpose for the next 5 years. You need to accomplish this tier to get to or stay on target for your center. (ex. develop parenting skills that align with missionary principles)

**3** – The third tier gives us direction and purpose for the next six months to a year. These goals are more flexible and might not all be achieved but without making them you’ll never get to your center. (ex. Have quiet times with the kids after school.)

**3**

**2**

**1**

**INVESTIGATE YOUR TIME**

Now that we have a map of your “Life Target” take some time to detail how you expend your life. Evaluate these activities for the fulfillment they give you, their correlation with your life target and which strategy you need to utilize to help you focus more on target activities. Once you’ve identified how your life is being spent take time (and ask for help) to formulate strategies to increase target activities and decrease off-target activities. Unfortunately, some activities are not on target (cleaning, cooking, etc…) but are necessary for life. The hope of this exercise is to either minimize those activities or adjust them to align more with your life target.

**BOGO DEAL**- One helpful strategy is to combine off-target activities with target ones. This won’t work for everything but often we can redeem lost time with life giving activities. For example grocery shopping might be an off-target (yet necessary) activity that can be combined with the target activity of discipleship by doing it with a younger disciple.

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| **LIFE ACTIVITY** | **HOURS WEEKLY**168 hrs total | **FULFILLMENT**Rate 1-5 with 1 being highest | **TIER RELATIONSHIP**Which tier is this found. If none then use 0. | **INCREASE/REDUCE**Which strategy do you need? One to increase or decrease? |
| Ex. Cooking | 10hrs | 4 | 0 | decrease |
| Sleep |  |  |  |  |
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