



◆ STEP TWO

Living With Purpose

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."

PROVERBS 16:3 · ANCHOR VERSE - READ THIS ALOUD TOGETHER TO OPEN

Key Points

READ TOGETHER

- ◆ Think about your goals before you start.
- ◆ Decide what's most important and plan for it.
- ◆ Imagine the "end picture" so your daily actions move you closer to it.
- ◆ Make choices today that help you become the person God wants you to be tomorrow.

Story One: Sophia's Garden

AGES 6-10

READ TOGETHER

Sophia loved flowers. Every spring she dreamed of having the prettiest garden in the neighborhood. One Saturday morning she grabbed a bag of seeds and ran outside. She scattered them across the yard as quickly as she could and then proudly admired her work.

A few weeks later, she was disappointed. Some flowers grew, but many did not. Weeds had appeared everywhere, and the garden looked messy.

Her father noticed her frustration and sat beside her.

"Sophia," he said, "before planting a garden, a gardener thinks about what he wants it to look like when it's finished."

"What do you mean?" Sophia asked.

"If you want tall flowers, short flowers, and colorful flowers, you have to plan where they go. You start with the end in mind."

Together they sketched a simple garden plan. They picked flower types, measured the spaces, and arranged everything on paper before planting.

Every day Sophia watered the garden and pulled weeds. Some days it felt like hard work, but she kept picturing the beautiful garden she wanted to see.

Months later, bright reds, yellows, purples, and pinks filled the yard. Neighbors stopped to admire it.

Sophia smiled because she understood something important. The beautiful garden didn't happen by accident. It happened because she first imagined the end result and then worked toward it every day.

Story Two: Caleb's Big Goal

AGES 10–14

READ TOGETHER

Caleb was eleven years old and loved baseball.

One day his coach announced that next summer a travel team would be holding tryouts. Caleb immediately imagined himself wearing the team jersey.

That evening he told his older brother, Ethan.

“I really want to make that team.”

Ethan nodded. “Then what are you doing today to make that happen?”

Caleb shrugged. “I don’t know.”

Ethan smiled. “That’s not living with purpose. If you already know where you want to go, you need a plan to get there.”

The next day Ethan helped Caleb create a simple list:

- Practice throwing 15 minutes every day.
- Spend 15 minutes hitting baseballs off a tee.
- Run twice each week.
- Watch one instructional video each weekend.
- Keep a positive attitude during games.

Caleb taped the list beside his bed.

Some days he didn’t feel like practicing. Sometimes his friends were playing video games, and he wanted to skip his workout. But whenever he felt tempted, he looked at the picture of the travel team logo hanging on his wall.

That logo reminded him of his goal.

Over the next year, Caleb gradually improved. His throws became stronger. His hitting became more consistent. His confidence grew.

When tryout day arrived, he wasn’t nervous. He knew he had prepared.

A few weeks later, Caleb received the call. He had made the team.

As he celebrated, Ethan reminded him of something important.

“The position on the team wasn’t won today. It was won every day you chose to work toward your goal.”

Caleb realized that living with purpose wasn’t just about baseball. It was about becoming the kind of person who thinks ahead, makes a plan, and is disciplined enough to follow through.

Jesus' Example

READ TOGETHER

No one ever lived with more purpose than Jesus.

Even as a boy, Jesus understood why He was here. When Mary and Joseph found twelve-year-old Jesus in the temple, He asked, “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49).

As a man, Jesus stated His purpose plainly: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). He knew where He was going, and He made every choice with that end in mind. Scripture says that when the time came, Jesus “resolutely set out for Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51) – even knowing what awaited Him there.

Near the end of His life, Jesus prayed to the Father, “I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do” (John 17:4).

Jesus began with the end in mind – and He finished. When we live with purpose, planning our days around what God wants us to become, we follow His example.

Why This Matters

READ TOGETHER

God wants us to live with purpose. He doesn't want us simply drifting through life. Instead, He wants us to think about the kind of people we are becoming and make choices that honor Him.

When we live with purpose, we ask questions like:

- What kind of friend do I want to be?
- What kind of student do I want to become?
- What kind of person do I want to be?

Then we make choices each day that move us toward those goals.

Just as a builder uses blueprints before constructing a house, God gives us His Word to guide our lives. Following His plan helps us become the people He created us to be.

Bible Verses

READ TOGETHER

Proverbs 16:3 – *“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”*

Jeremiah 29:11 – *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord.*

Matthew 6:33 – *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

Proverbs 21:5 – *“The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance.”*

Luke 14:28 – *“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost?”*

What is a Proverb? A proverb is a short, memorable, traditional saying that expresses a perceived truth or offers practical life advice.

Discussion Questions

PARENT LEADS

1. What is a goal you would really like to reach this year?

2. How is planning for a goal different from just wishing for it?

3. Why do you think so many goals never happen? What usually gets in the way?

4. What kind of person do you want to be a year from now? What is one choice today that moves you toward that?

5. How do we learn what God's purpose is for our lives?

6. Why should we commit our plans to the Lord instead of only trusting our own ideas?

7. Parent's turn: tell about a goal that took you a long time to reach - what kept you going?

Vocabulary Words

READ TOGETHER

Commitment: A promise you make and work hard to keep, even when it becomes difficult. *Example: Practicing piano every day because you committed to learning a new song.*

Perseverance: Continuing to do what is right even when it is difficult. *Example: Keeping up with baseball practice even when you're tired.*

Goal: Something you want to achieve or accomplish in the future. *Example: Reading two books this summer.*

Planning: Thinking ahead and creating steps to help you reach a goal. *Example: Making a schedule to complete a school project before it's due.*

Diligence: Working carefully and consistently toward a goal without giving up. *Example: Practicing multiplication facts every day until you master them.*

Purpose: The reason God made you - to know Him, love others, and use your gifts for His glory. *Example: Using your kindness to welcome a new student because you know God put you there for a reason.*

Faith Builder

YOUR MOVE

This week, create your own **"End Picture" Plan**.

1. **Pick one goal** you'd like to reach in the next month. It can be for school, sports, music, reading, or helping at home.
2. **Draw or write the end picture.** What does it look like when the goal is finished? Put it somewhere you'll see it every day.
3. **Pray about it.** Ask God to guide your plan and help you become the person He wants you to be - not just to reach the goal.
4. **List three small steps** that will move you toward the goal.
5. **Do one small step every day** this week.

At the end of the week, write down:

- What is your goal, and what does the "end picture" look like?
- Which small steps did you complete?
- What was the hardest day, and what kept you going?
- How did praying about your goal change the way you worked toward it?

Closing Prayer

READ TOGETHER

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for creating me on purpose and for a purpose. Help me to stop drifting through my days and to start making choices that lead somewhere good. Teach me to picture the person You want me to become and to take one faithful step toward that every day. When I make plans, remind me to bring them to You first, because Your plans are always better than mine. Give me diligence when the work is hard and patience when the results are slow. Thank You for Jesus, who knew His purpose and finished the work You gave Him.

In Jesus' name, Amen.