

Preparations for the Future

Dear Facilitator: This week we will get a little more practical as we begin to plan or prepare for the future. We will think more about the hopes and dreams that God puts within us and how we can make plans to accomplish our goals.

The scripture story for today's lesson is found in 1 Chronicles 28. David had hopes and dreams to build the temple, and God gave the work to his son Solomon. Does this mean that David's hopes and dreams were not important, or that he was wrong in his desires somehow? No, God works in ways that we can't always know or understand. God said that David was a man after His own heart, so obviously God loved him, valued him, and had a purpose for him. David was very instrumental in passing down detailed plans to build the temple and to encourage Solomon to follow God. We may not understand how God uses our hopes and dreams. He fulfills our hopes and dreams in ways that we could never imagine, and this affects others—particularly our children, our neighborhoods, our communities, and our world. Look at how David's family influenced the nation of Israel!

It might be helpful for you to know what we hope to accomplish through this lesson. Participants will:

1. Explain why families should plan and prepare for the future.
2. Identify what gives them strength and power to prepare for the future.
3. Uncover ways they can begin to prepare for the future.

During the past few lessons, we have made commitment statements. This week's commitment statement is: We plan and prepare for the future to bring honor and glory to God and to fulfill our calling and purpose as families.

We pray that God will give you direction and clarity as you prepare the lesson and activities. We hope that the families in your group will grow together in God's love and become a source of friendship and support for one another.

Blessings

Welcome *5 minutes*

 **Say:** Welcome back! I hope it's been a good week for all of you as you have been working diligently on many things that are positively influencing your family.

Last week we spent time talking about the importance of increasing in wisdom by becoming a lifelong learner. We focused on how to successfully prepare for college.

 **Ask:** Did anyone try something this past week that made a positive difference in your family that you would be willing to share?

Introduction *5 minutes*

 **Say:** Sometimes we get overwhelmed by our hopes and dreams and just want to quit; however, many of you have had to persevere and work hard to accomplish your hopes and dreams.

In today's session, our teaching objectives are to:

1. Explain why families should plan and prepare for the future.
2. Identify what gives us strength and power to prepare for the future.
3. Uncover ways we can begin to prepare for the future.

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Family & Table Talk 20 minutes

Today during our table talk time, we are going to discuss how hard work and planning has helped you be successful in your life.

1. What is the hardest job that you have ever done?
2. What helped you complete the job or reach your goal?
3. How do you feel once the job was complete and the goal was achieved?

After the meal, children are dismissed to their group.

Notes

40 minutes

Parent Training

Engaging the World

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

How was your dinner discussion? What did you learn about some of the hardest jobs that others have done and how they did it? Did anyone talk about preparation or planning? I'm sure that most of you who have completed difficult tasks feel very good about your accomplishments and probably spent time planning and preparing how you would go about reaching your goals.

We've all heard the phrase, "Work smarter not harder!" That thought will contribute to our discussion tonight as we consider three questions:

1. Why we should plan and prepare?
2. What gives us strength and power to prepare?
3. How do we plan to accomplish our hopes and dreams?

In the appendix, look at the saying "One can choose..."

Discuss if the saying is true.

In the appendix, review the list of famous failures.

Discuss.

There was a man in the Bible, a man after God's own heart, whose dream was to complete a difficult task. That man was David, and his dream was to build the temple. We know, however, that David did not get to achieve this goal himself.

We also know that because David was a man who planned and prepared to fulfill his dreams through prayer, obedience, and trust in God's promises, his dream for the temple did still become a reality. In the end, it was God's plan that David's son, Solomon, would be the one to build the temple, but it's clear that David's diligent planning and preparation was key in bringing the plan together. If David had given up and thought his dream was a failure when he realized he would not be the one to see it through, the temple may never have been built.

We may have hopes and dreams and even plans, as David had, but God has a plan that is sometimes beyond our understanding. He wants us to trust Him and do our part to be used by Him in His plans. Listen to the story of David's plans in 1 Chronicles 28.

Read David's story (1 Chronicles 28)

There was a king in the Bible named David, and one day he called in all the important people of Jerusalem. He told them that he really wanted to build the temple, but God said no!

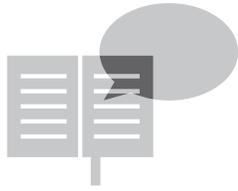
This was not to discourage David because he was a man after God's own heart, and God was very pleased that he was king. To show his favor of David, God chose his son, Solomon, who was obedient to God too. David strongly encouraged Solomon to keep being obedient so that all would go well for him.

David also encouraged Solomon to stay close to God because God sees every heart and knows every plan and thought we have. David told him that if you seek God, you will find Him. He told Solomon to take the job of building the temple seriously and to do a good job.

David had been very busy making plans and preparing drawings and other arrangements for the temple of God, and he gave them to Solomon so he could be successful. He told him not to worry or be afraid of failing because God wouldn't fail him or leave him. God was on his side.

DISCUSS

- What are some things that you notice about the way David responded and reacted?
- As a parent, what could you do to help your children realize their hopes and dreams?
- What kind of planning could you do to help those in your family be successful?
- What are some ways that we can persevere in the planning and preparation for our hopes and dreams, even in times when things are not going as we had planned?



Scripture SUPPORT

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 4:5

Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them.

Proverbs 1:8

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 23:12

Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.

We are to bring honor and glory to God in everything we do and fulfill the calling that He has given to us and our families. This includes hard work, determination, diligence, and living as God intended us to live.

DISCUSS

- What gives us strength and power to prepare for the future?
- What ways do prayer and God's Word help us as we prepare for the future?
- How can other people help us as we prepare for the future?

How do we begin to prepare for the future?

What are some of our hopes for the future (some might have already completed a "Hopes and Dreams" worksheet from the session, "Hope for the Future." If not, compile a list of hopes and dreams.

ACTIVITY

1. Prioritize and choose one hope or dream that you think is important for your family.
2. In small groups, talk together about how you might investigate or find out who else has done this or what other information might be available to help you plan.
3. When you are done, list three steps or goals to start your plan to make your dream a reality. You will probably want to repeat this step again after you complete these steps and possibly reprioritize your goal and update your investigation techniques as you learn. It's important to be diligent and determined. (Goals and Planning Worksheet)

As we close this evening, let's remember that planning and preparation is an important part of realizing your hopes and dreams.

SUMMARY

We covered a lot of material in the lesson.
Our objectives were to:

1. Explain why families should plan and prepare for the future.
2. Identify what gives us strength and power to prepare for the future.
3. Uncover ways we can begin to prepare for the future.

During the past few lessons, we have made commitment statements. This week's commitment statement is: We plan and prepare for the future to bring honor and glory to God and to fulfill our calling and purpose as families.

To end our lesson, please answer the following:

1. Who has an insight tonight about something you've learned or want to try?
2. What will you change or improve in your role as a parent this week?



Scripture SUPPORT

Isaiah 54:13

All your children will be taught by the LORD, and great will be their peace.

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2 Timothy 3:14-15

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Goals and Planning Worksheet

Prioritized Dream

Investigation Ideas

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- ---

- ---

Plan

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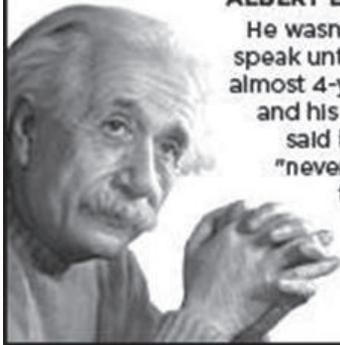
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“One can choose to go back toward safety or forward toward growth. Growth must be chosen again and again; fear must be overcome again and again.”

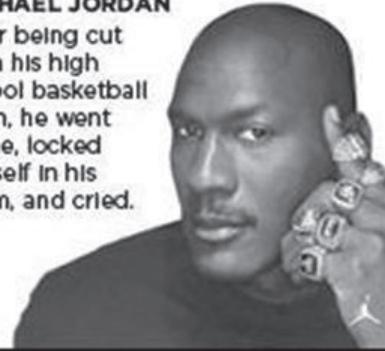
A. Maslow

FAMOUS FAILURES



ALBERT EINSTEIN

He wasn't able to speak until he was almost 4-years-old and his teachers said he would "never amount to much"



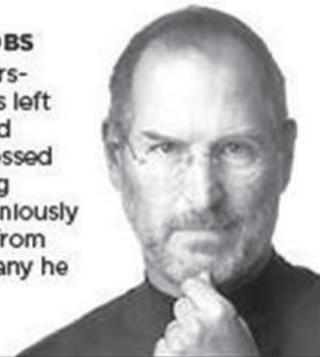
MICHAEL JORDAN

After being cut from his high school basketball team, he went home, locked himself in his room, and cried.



WALT DISNEY

Fired from a newspaper for "lacking imagination" and "having no original ideas."



STEVE JOBS

At 30-years-old he was left devastated and depressed after being unceremoniously removed from the company he started.



OPRAH WINFREY

Was demoted from her job as a news anchor because she "wasn't fit for television."



THE BEATLES

Rejected by Decca Recording Studios, who said "We don't like their sound—they have no future in show business."

**IF YOU'VE NEVER FAILED,
YOU'VE NEVER TRIED ANYTHING NEW**



Ages 4-16

40 minutes

Student Training

Engaging the World

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Objectives

- Help children be aware of why we need to prepare for the future.
- Help children be aware of the most important part of God’s plan for their life.
- Help children be aware of what gives us strength and power to prepare for the future.
- Help children be aware of ways we can begin to prepare for the future.

Even before you were born, God had a plan for your life. In the Bible, in Jeremiah 1:5, He tells us, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.” God is telling you that He thought about you and decided He needed and wanted you to be in the earth for a very special reason. He has set you apart for a specific assignment. When God created you, He placed inside you a unique and special gift that only you can give to the world, and then He formed you in your mother’s womb to be born.

The most important part of God’s plan for your life is to make sure you grow up to be His representative—His disciple. Therefore,

God gave you Christian parents that would teach you to love and honor Him and His Son Jesus. God has given you to your parents as a gift, and He is partnering with them to carry out the plans He has for your life. Psalm 127:3 says, “Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.” It is your parents’ responsibility to help you come to realize what your gifts are and why you were created. As you are growing up, your parents provide the care, instruction, experiences, and opportunities you need to practice and develop your gifts and abilities. Yes, God intends to use you to be a blessing to others and bring Him glory.

God is a planner and goal setter, and since we are created in God's image, it is natural for us to want to plan and set goals. When you are young, your parents set goals for you and make most of the plans for your life. They pray to God for direction and guidance as they make decisions that will impact your future.

Parents prepare for your future in so many ways. For instance, they select the school you attend, they choose what activities you participate in, they monitor the TV shows you watch and the music you listen to. Parents realize they have a command from God to raise you according to the instructions in the Bible. Proverbs 22:6 tells them, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." The most critical thing that parents do to make sure you have a successful future is guide you into accepting Jesus as your personal Savior. For you to develop a loving, committed relationship with Jesus is of utmost importance to them. Your parents know that it is essential to help prepare you for your eternal future as well. They do this through many ways like teaching you about God, praying with you, guiding you to make wise choices, and exposing you to Christian families and friends.

As you continue to grow and develop, God expects for you to play a bigger role in preparing for your future. Luke 2:52 says, "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." And God wants you to mature and grow wiser and in favor just like Jesus did. Instead of your parents having to monitor you, God wants you to take ownership for making the right, godly choices for yourself. God wants you to take time to read your Bible and spend time praying. He wants you to choose wholesome TV shows, positive media experiences, and only listen to clean music. It is important to God that you choose friends who love and honor God, and that you attend church because you want to be there not just because your parents make you go. God smiles when He sees you put into action the lessons the Bible is teaching you because then you demonstrate to God that you

are becoming more committed to your relationship with Him.

As you prepare for your future, more than anything else, God wants you to accept His precious Son, Jesus, as your Savior. You will then have God's power, the Holy Spirit living inside of you to help you as you plan and make decisions about your life. John 14:26 says, "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." And Philippians 4:9 says, "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

Just like God has plans for you as an individual, He also has plans for your family. God wants every family to have a mission and set goals to accomplish their mission. A mission is a special assignment that God has given to a family. It is their reason for existing. Joshua 24:15 says, "As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." That should be the declaration of every Christian family. Parents are the leaders in a Christian family, and it is up to them to find out what God is calling them to do.

As you pray and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance, you will find that there is a very special assignment God has planned for your family. As all of you learn more about God and Jesus, your family will grow in God's grace, knowledge, and favor and be able to make a positive contribution to our world. In John 17:4, Jesus says to God, His Father, "I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do." Let that be your goal as an individual and as a family—to brightly reflect the glory of the LORD. That is true preparation for your future on earth and your future in eternity!

Notes

DISCUSS

- Lead children in a discussion about why we need to prepare for the future.
- Lead children in a discussion about what can help guide us in planning for the future.
- Lead children in a discussion of ways we can begin to prepare for the future.
- Lead children in a discussion about the most important decision they can make in planning for the future.



Activities

Activities are age appropriate. One is focused on ages 4-11, and the second is for older children ages 12-16.

AGES 4-11

Materials

Technology to show video

Pencils, crayons, or markers

8x11 tag board (enough for each child to have one)

Easel or white board for group discussion (optional)

Have children view YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/RUup841pZrs>

“100 Kids Tell Us What They Want to Be When They Grow Up”

- After viewing the video, on a piece of 8x11 tag board, in large letters, have students write what they would like to be when they grow up. When all are completed, have students stand and hold their tag board to display their choice for their future job or career. Have them say, “When I grow up, I want to be a _____.”
- Then have them tell why they made that choice. Film each one, and then show the completed video to the group.

AGES 12-16

Materials

Technology to show video

“My Goals” worksheet

Pencils, crayons, or markers

Easel or white board for group discussion (optional)

Have children view YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/jKxdrx3KuMQ>

“What’s Your Plan for the Future?”

- Discuss briefly.
- After viewing the video, have students work in pairs to fill out “My Goals Worksheet.” When students are finished, have them share with the group (from their worksheet) some of their goals and some of the things they will have to do to accomplish their goals. Below are two good additional videos to help students think about Preparation for the Future. If time permits you may want to include them in the activity.

<https://youtu.be/nJRd-yzC5GI>

“Where Am I Headed?”

<https://youtu.be/Zxlttn4R7g>

“3 Steps to Knowing God’s Will for Your Life.”

Notes



CHALLENGE QUESTION

AM I DOING WHAT I NEED TO DO
TO PREPARE FOR MY EARTHLY FUTURE
AS WELL AS MY ETERNAL FUTURE?

CHALLENGE COMMITMENT

WHAT CAN I DO TO WORK
ON THE CHALLENGE QUESTION?



AFFIRMATION *Have children repeat:*

*I know that God has
great plans for my life.*

GOALS WORKSHEET



Areas of My Life:	Goals to Write	What I Would Need to Learn or Find Out?	Actions to Take	Who Could Help Me?
<i>School and Study</i>				
<i>Relationships and Friends</i>				
<i>Leisure Activities and Hobbies</i>				
<i>Sports</i>				
<i>Health and Fitness</i>				

Signature: _____ Date: _____

