



LAP 3: The Next 5 Years

[Assignments in LAP 3 require completion of Session 8]

Do you want to be successful? In Session 7, Erik Weir explained that successful people establish written goals and objectives, while unsuccessful people simply dream of goals. It's not enough to say, "Someday I'll write down goals," or "Someday I'll accomplish this."

You have to do it—NOW!

A Note on Planning

The next several "Laps" all involve a significant amount of planning. These planning assignments are not intended to be completed on your own. Instead, we encourage you to:

- Seek the Lord through prayer and study of His Word
- Seek wisdom and advice from your parents. The more of this planning that you can complete in tandem with your parents, the better.
- Seek wisdom from godly men in your community. Simply approach them and say, "I'm trying to do some planning for the next five years of my life. Can I ask your advice on some questions I'm working through?"

3.1 Complete Worksheet 3.1 based on the Brainstorm Questions provided below.

Brainstorm Questions for Assignment 3.1

Dominion

Read Nehemiah 1:1-11 and consider the example of Nehemiah. Why was Nehemiah so grieved to hear about the walls of Jerusalem?

Nehemiah cared deeply about the Kingdom of God (of which the city of Jerusalem was a physical manifestation). Because Nehemiah had a heart to seek God's kingdom first, God gave him a special burden to bring about the restoration of Jerusalem's walls. Are you seeking God's kingdom first, and if so, has God given you a burden for any ways in which you can take dominion and "build up the walls" of His kingdom?

- What walls need to be built up in my life?

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- Self-control? Galatians 5:23; Proverbs 16:32; Proverbs 25:28
- Personal disciplines?
- Education?
- What walls need to be built up in my family?
 - Relationships?
 - Daily chores?
 - Projects around the house?
- What walls need to be built up in my church?
 - Needy widows or orphans?
 - Discipling and evangelizing others?
 - Serving others?
- What walls need to be built up in my community and culture?
 - Arts?
 - Sciences?
 - Obedience to Gods law?
 - Discipling and Evangelizing others?

Provider

As we have learned, the family is the primary institution in which you are to fulfill your calling as a provider. But even though you may not be married yet, it is essential that you set goals and begin to move in a direction now that will allow you to fulfill this duty once you do establish your own family. In light of this, consider the following questions:

- When would I like to be ready to start a family?
- What will the material needs of my family be, and how much will they cost? (Hint: ask your dad).
- In order to provide for these needs, how much money would I like to have saved by the

time I get married?

- How much money does that mean I will need to save every year between now and the time I get married?
- How much money does that mean I will need to save in the next five years?
- What do I need to be doing now in order to accomplish that goal?

Spiritual Leader

Are you a spiritual leader, or are you a spiritual laggard? Do you have a deep hunger for spiritual things, for the preaching of God's Word, and the spiritual instructions of your parents? Or are your desires focused in other areas? As Kevin Swanson pointed out, "You find that while young women are often enthusiastic about worship, out front, raising their hands, young men have their hands in their pockets. They're not all that interested in the worship of God, they're shuffling their feet, they're checking out the girls, and they don't seem to be all that engaged in the worship of God." The important point is this: you will never be able to lead others spiritually if you are not spiritually engaged, yourself—right now.

- Am I reading God's Word daily (Psalm 119:97)?
- Am I a man of prayer (1 Timothy 2:8)?
- Am I hiding God's word in my heart (Psalm 119:11)?
- Am I consistently engaged in corporate worship in my family and church?
- Do I instigate discussions on spiritual things with others in my church or family?
- What goals can I set for developing in each of these areas?

Protector

If you approached a father about marrying his daughter, would he look at you and be assured of your ability to protect his daughter and future grandchildren? Would he say, "I can tell by the way you carry yourself, the deference you show to the woman around you, and your display of confidence in the Lord that you will be more than able to protect my precious daughter."

- In what ways will I need to protect others physically, and am I prepared to do so?
- In what ways will I need to protect others spiritually, and am I prepared to do so?
- In what ways will I need to protect others emotionally, and am I prepared to do so?

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- Will God hear my prayers as the prayers of a righteous man, or will he disregard them as the prayers of a wicked man?
- What goals can I set for developing in each of these areas?
- What goals can I set for the actual protection of others in my life right now?

Shepherd

The role of Shepherd is at the very heart of God's calling for every young man. While many young men are content to remain wayward sheep, God is calling you to be the nurturer and guide of other sheep—right now! In the future, God will likely call you to fulfill the most important shepherding position as a father of children, and He may even call you to be a shepherd in the church of God. However, even now, God has put sheep in your life which you can and must disciple and shepherd in His ways. If you constantly neglect this responsibility in the present, you will never be able to fulfill it in the future.

- How does God want me to disciple my siblings and other young men in my church (1 Timothy 4:12, Titus 2)?
- How will God want me to disciple my future wife (Ephesians 5:25-33)?
- How will God want me to disciple my future children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Ephesians 6:4)?
- How does God want me to disciple the nations (Matthew 28:18-20)?
- How may God want me to be a shepherd and elder in the Church of Jesus Christ (Titus 3:1-7)?
- What spiritual disciplines and abilities will be required to fulfill all of these discipleship roles?
- What goals can I set for developing as a shepherd of others?
- What goals can I set for the actual discipleship and shepherding of others in my life right now?