



## Sharpen Your Focus – Message 2

### Announcements

**Summer Small Groups start June 3.** The Small Groups Department will be emailing a survey about your summer plans shortly. Discuss and decide with your group what your plans are for the summer semester, held June 3–August 11.

### Warm-up

Imagine it's your birthday and you've just blown out your candles. What wish will you make?

### Word and Application

1. We learned last week that **vision is an inner picture of a preferable future**. For a Christian, vision originates in the heart of God. He then breathes it into our heart and mind. Have you been able to identify the God-given vision for your life? Do you feel comfortable sharing it with your Small Group?
2. Sometimes we may have difficulty discerning if our vision is from God or from ourselves. Here are a few ways to know if our vision is from God.

A God-given vision: begins with God's priorities and purposes  
will mirror our core strengths and passions  
always includes others  
is always bigger than us  
has eternal value

Which of these apply to your vision? Have you been able to determine if your vision is from God?

3. Goals help us focus. **Goals are the stair steps to the fulfillment of our vision. Read Jeremiah 31:21.** What instructions are given in this Scripture? We all need goals. They keep us moving in the right direction.

### How to set goals

- Put your goals in writing.
- Set your goals in the context of time.
- Set goals for different areas of your life.

Has this message convinced you of the value of goal setting? Why or why not? Some of the things that prevent us from setting goals are lack of knowledge, slothfulness, fear of failure or lack of faith. What might be other hindrances of goal-setting?

What would be the best way for you to record or write your goals? (Journal, Digital, Binder, Poster Board, App...)

Goals can range in time from immediate (daily or weekly), short-term (one to three months), and long-term (a year or more). A true goal has an endpoint within a particular time frame. Why is it important to determine an endpoint for our goals?

Pastor Steve recommends setting goals in different areas of our life:

- Faith Goals
- Family and Friend Goals
- Fitness Goals
- Financial Goals
- Professional Goals

Give reasons why each area is important. How might you rank these goals in order of immediate need or importance in your life?

### Life Challenge

Set aside a block of time this week to pray about goals to your vision that cover several areas of your life. Write them down and determine an endpoint. Remember, a dream without goals is just a wish.

## Prayer

Pray for the specific needs of the group.