

PRAYER GUIDE

Next Four Weeks

Goals for Growth

Do you set goals? Do you write them down? Research shows that we are far more likely to realize our goals if we write them down and review them regularly.

Many people make new years resolutions, but most are broken before the end of the first month. This prayer guide for the next four weeks will focus on seven areas of potential growth.

As you pray, make a list of your goals. Make sure they are realistic and measurable. Write them down and review them each day in your time alone. Break them down into small reachable steps. A box is provided to list two goals. You may want to write out additional goals in your journal.

Luke 2:52 says *Jesus grew in wisdom* (learning goal) *and stature* (physical goal), *and in favor with God* (spiritual goal) *and men* (relational goal). Let's consider setting goals in seven areas—spiritual, learning, reaching, leading, mission, physical and relationship goals.

Growing can be fun so let's grow together. Let this month be the beginning of the greatest year of your life as you grow according to God's design. It can and will happen as you set goals. But I can also tell you that it is not likely to happen without a definitive written goal.

Let's set goals and go for it!

Vernon

SUNDAY: Personal and spiritual growth goals

Steps I will take to grow in Christ-like character: to think, have a heart for others, see the world, hands to serve, or ears to hear God like Jesus

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Ephesians 4:12-13 *equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to mature** manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*

- Guide me to fully mature into the person you have made me to be
- Direct me to consistently grow him in Christ-like character

Colossians 2:6-7 *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, **rooted** and built up in him, **strengthened** in the faith as you were taught, and **overflowing** with thankfulness.*

- Guide me to be rooted in Christ and be built up in him
- Direct me to consistently overflow with thankfulness in all things

MONDAY: Learning goals

What I will do to know: God, the bible, prayer, my work, my relationships, myself, my giftedness, leadership, or needs around me.

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Proverbs 2:2&5 *Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God.*

- Lord, give me ears to be in tune to your whisper of wisdom to me
- Open my mind and heart to gain your knowledge in my life

Proverbs 18:15 *Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge.*

- Give me a ready heart to learn in every occasion in my life
- Let my ears be open and my heart be disciplined to learning

TUESDAY: Reaching goals

Who are the people God is placing on my heart that brings tears to my eyes as I think about their eternal destiny without Jesus?

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Jeremiah 20:9 *And I can't stop! If I say I'll never mention the LORD or speak in his name, his word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones! I am weary of holding it in!*

- Give me a passion for reaching people like a fire in his bones
 - Direct me to unchurched people to develop an influential relation
- Psalm 126:6 He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.*
- Burden my heart with tears for those who do not know Christ
 - Direct me to sow seeds of the gospel in the soil of the unchurched

WEDNESDAY: Leadership goals

Books I will read, people I will seek to learn from, podcast I will watch, course I will take, or coaching I will seek to challenge my leadership

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Proverbs 1:5 *Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance*

- Help me to be disciplined in learning from various resources
 - Guide me to understand and put into practice what I learn
- Proverbs 18:15** *Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge.*
- Help me to watch for opportunities to learn with ready to learn
 - Help my ears and mind be open to learn from various resources

THURSDAY: Mission goals

Mission opportunities I will serve in 2023: Hillcrest, City Union Missions, Argentina, Spain, Compassion International, other?

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Isaiah 6:8 *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

- Help me to hear and obey your voice to serve in a mission

- Lord, "Here am I. Send me" to serve in a place of need

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

- Guide me to serve in mission by the power of your Holy Spirit
- Direct me to be a witness locally, regionally, or internationally

FRIDAY: Relationship goals

Relationships I will strengthen with family members, mentors, accountability partners, fellow workers, unchurched friends, neighbors, friendships, small group or business associations.

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Proverbs 13:20 *Spend time with the wise and you will become wise*

- Guide me to people of wisdom who can speak into my life
- Give him insight on how to learn from different people

Proverbs 10:17 *Whoever accepts correction is on the way to life, but whoever ignores correction will lead others away from life.*

- Direct me to accept correction from friends and accountable partners
- Protect me from ignoring correction from people around me

SATURDAY: Physical goals

Eating habits I will regulate and exercise regimen I will keep?

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1 Corinthians 6:19 *Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself*

- Help me realize my body is more than flesh and bone but the temple of your Holy Spirit
- Keep me mindful that my body belongs to you, and I must take care of it in the way I eat and exercise

1 Corinthians 10:13 *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.*

- Direct me to have accountability for when I am tempted to not eat or exercise right
- Help me to always have the discipline to see the way out