

LESSON 2

Six Components of Your Plan

SEE THE BIG PICTURE

You only get one chance at this life. Why not live it to the fullest? When it comes to the time you spend in the workplace, why not give it your best? Many workers drag through life, day-after-day, complaining about their jobs...straining to hear a good word from the boss...jockeying for position...cutting corners...under performing...fussing over the small stuff...living from weekend to weekend. Why not be different? Why not stand out from the crowd?

Unlike *many in the workplace*, you can be proactive. Look for ways to make your time on the job interesting, meaningful, and productive. Make it an adventure. (*Adventure*: an exciting or very unusual experience...a bold, usually risky undertaking.¹)

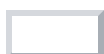
You can search for ways to energize your hopes and dreams. *Why not raise the bar on your expectations?* Plan to grow and to become more than anyone thought you could. Surprise a few people. Discover your God-given potential. See what He's up to. Become a fellow worker with Him. Plan to make the "successful experience" you would like to have in the workplace an adventure with God.

Like a football coach preparing a game plan for the Super Bowl, you can plan for something extraordinary. Look for ways to make it happen. Commit to it. Then pour your energy into it.

A well thought-out game plan can turn your work into an adventure. It can make the difference between a meaningless grind and a meaningful experience. It can accelerate your progress from point A to point B.



A game plan is like a bridge spanning a great chasm. When purpose-inspired, it fills gaps in meaning, purpose, and direction. It helps you overcome obstacles and speeds you on your way toward a more meaningful adventure.





NOTES

For a football coach, there is more to creating a game plan than choosing the starting quarterback. He must consider a variety of factors. A coach must know the game of football inside and out. He must know the team's strengths and weaknesses. He must evaluate the skills of each player. The information he pieces together over time enables him to determine which plays the team can run effectively and which ones they cannot. He also studies the competition. He watches tapes and gets to know their strengths and weaknesses. He looks for patterns and clues. With the knowledge he accumulates, he is able to decide which plays to use offensively and how to prepare defensively.

In a similar fashion, we need to examine a variety of factors in order to bridge the gap to our future. There is more to *Creating a Purpose-Inspired Career Game Plan* than choosing a career field. We too must consider the greater context. Regardless of the occupation we choose, there are several things we need to know in order to create an effective plan for our time in the workplace. We'll explore six essential components:

1. Know your God
2. Know your game
3. Know your purpose
4. Know yourself
5. Know your options
6. Know your way

Let's take an introductory look at each component to get a feel for where we're going.

1. Know your God

Who or what is the highest priority in your life? Who or what do you serve? Ultimately, whom do you seek to please? In other words, who is your God?

For some people, their highest priority is sports or some other form of recreation. For others, it's things. It might even be one's personal appearance or a girlfriend or boyfriend. How we use our time and money also reveals our priorities. Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other" (Matt. 6:24).





Dr. A. W. Tozer (a respected and influential twentieth century author and pastor) said:

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us... Without doubt, the mightiest thought the mind can entertain is the thought of God, and the weightiest word in any language is its word for God.¹

When we make the effort to discover some real and lasting purpose in life (including the workplace), it stretches us beyond ourselves. It takes us past a physical perspective into a spiritual perspective. In fact, it begins with our knowledge of God and our experience with Him. Influential author Rick Warren points out that:

Without God, life has no purpose, and without purpose, life has no meaning. Without meaning, life has no significance or hope.²

It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance, and our destiny. Every other path leads to a dead end.³

Therefore, this study is based on the God that the Bible reveals. He is the One in whom we find our ultimate origin, true identity, greatest purpose and significance, even our eternal destiny. The Bible is where we learn that there is one God and that He alone is worthy of our utmost dedication, obedience, and worship. Look how God described Himself to the ancient Hebrews:

“You are My witnesses,” declares the Lord, “And my servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me. I, even, I am the Lord; and there is no savior besides Me... And I am God. Even from eternity I am He.

Isaiah 43:10-13

It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands, and I ordained all their host.

Isaiah 45:12

I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me.

Isaiah 44:6





Describe at least five truths God wants you to know about Himself based on these statements.

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| 1. | |
| 2. | |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |

Which thought impresses you the most?

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God is the rock-solid foundation on which our entire future rests. In fact, the Bible refers to Him as “The Rock!” (Deuteronomy 32:4).

To realize the benefits of this course, you will need to be able to understand God’s Word (the Bible). In order to do that, you need to have a personal relationship with the divine Author of that Word. The Bible says:

But the unspiritual man simply cannot accept the matters which the Spirit deals with—they just don’t make sense to him, for, after all, you must be spiritual to see spiritual things.

1 Corinthians 2:14, JBP

In other words, since the course material is based on the Bible, you need to know God in a personal way for biblical truths to make sense. God is spirit (John 4:24), and He created humans with a spiritual nature (Genesis 1:27). He created us according to His plan and design. The world of work is also part of His design. To appreciate what He says and to understand His plans for us, we must be able to understand what the Bible says and see the world, including the world of work, through spiritual eyes.

