

The Family: God's Greenhouse for Transformation

Module 2 - Intentionality in the Home
Class 4

Goals & Aspirations: Yours & Theirs (and God's)

Discussion Question

Importance of Goals

We are revelation-receivers and meaning-makers.

Work existed before the Fall.

Where there is no vision, the people perish... Proverbs 29:18a (KJV)

Colossians 3:23–24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Goals - another opportunity for discipleship

Luke 14:27–33

[27] Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. [28] For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? [29] Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, [30] saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' [31] Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? [32] And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. [33] So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Conformity vs. Transformation - are our goals for ourselves and our children being pressed on us by the world? Or are they from a renewing of our mind and pressing on toward transformation?

Ownership vs. Stewardship - how much control do I actually have in this process? It's not ultimately my process – it's God's. Yet I am called to stewardship.

Outward Activity vs. Heart Motivation - Are we looking to the heart of our child? Or only looking for the outward result? Progressive idols of conformity?

Tension of Agency and Sovereignty

Proverbs 21:5

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance,
but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way to death.

Proverbs 16:33

The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the LORD.

Acts 27:21–26

Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. But we must run aground on some island.”

Acts 27:27–32

When the fourteenth night had come, as we were being driven across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land. So they took a sounding and found twenty fathoms. A little farther on they took a sounding again and found fifteen fathoms. And fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it go.

Pitfalls with Goals

Proverbs 21:2

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,
but the LORD weighs the heart.

Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
but a wise man listens to advice.

Judges 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Pitfalls, continued

"Everything nourishes what is strong already." *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen.

Is there anything about your life that the world would look at with confusion?
There should be.

Practical Aspects of Goals

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Proverbs 16:33

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Proverbs 16:1-4, 9

- [1] The plans of the heart belong to man,
but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.
- [2] All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes,
but the LORD weighs the spirit.
- [3] Commit your work to the LORD,
and your plans will be established.
- [4] The LORD has made everything for its purpose,
even the wicked for the day of trouble.
- [9] The heart of man plans his way,
but the LORD establishes his steps.

How to Make Wise Decisions

Become wise

Proverbs 11:3

The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.

Proverbs 12:5

The thoughts of the righteous are just;
the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.

Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
but a wise man listens to advice.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way to death.

Psalm 37:3-6

Trust in the LORD, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.

Psalm 37:23-25

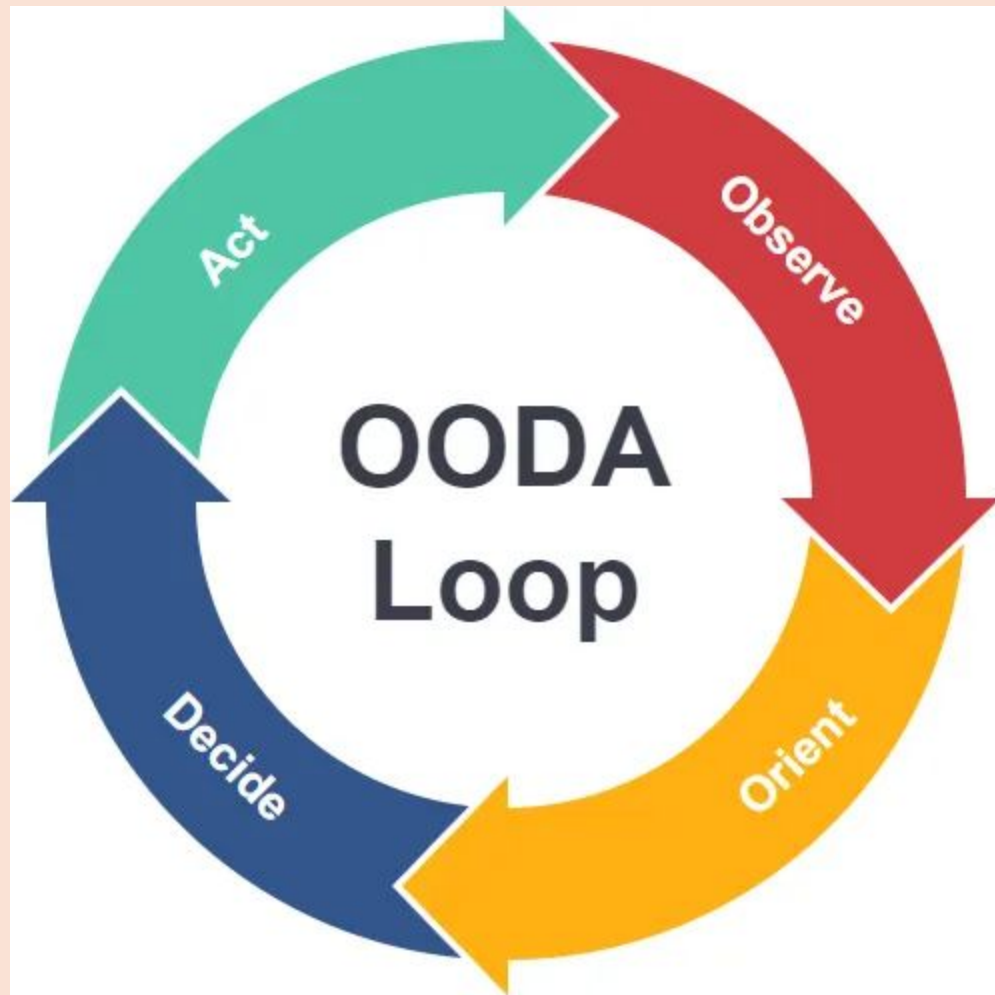
The steps of a man are established by the LORD,
when he delights in his way;
though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong,
for the LORD upholds his hand.

Goals to encourage

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

The goal of our instruction is love... 1 Timothy 1:5

To help one another and our children appropriate the grace of God.



Proverbs 1:5

Let the wise hear and increase in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,

Proverbs 11:14

Where there is no guidance, a people falls,
but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

Discussion Question

Proverbs 16:1-4

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[4] The LORD has made everything for its
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(ESV)

Proverbs 16:9

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Luke 14:27–33

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