DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (2)
Introduction

Session Aims

- To continue the process of discerning God's vision for our lives.
- To explore practical ways to live out God's call on our lives.

Introduction and Review

- Red zone and tick-over living.
- Big stones.
- Vision is like a magnifying glass – it helps create focus.
- Developing a personal vision statement (PVS) is like a compass – it helps bring direction.

KEY INSIGHTS

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (2)
What are we Aiming for?

Approaches

- Work ethic.

- Leisure ethic.

- Bible centred ethic.

Balanced Life?

- Involves strain and stress.

- Unhelpfully compartmentalises life.

- Misleadingly simplifies life.

- Times where Jesus' teaching is not at all balanced.

KEY INSIGHTS

'Leisure is no longer rest. Leisure is consumption.'

'Busyness is not a problem. In anybody's life there will be periods of intense activity. The problem comes when we are persistently over-busy. If your life doesn't reflect the biblical pattern of work and rest then something is wrong.'

Tim Chester

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (2)
What are we Aiming for?

Our Goal?

The goal is to _____ God

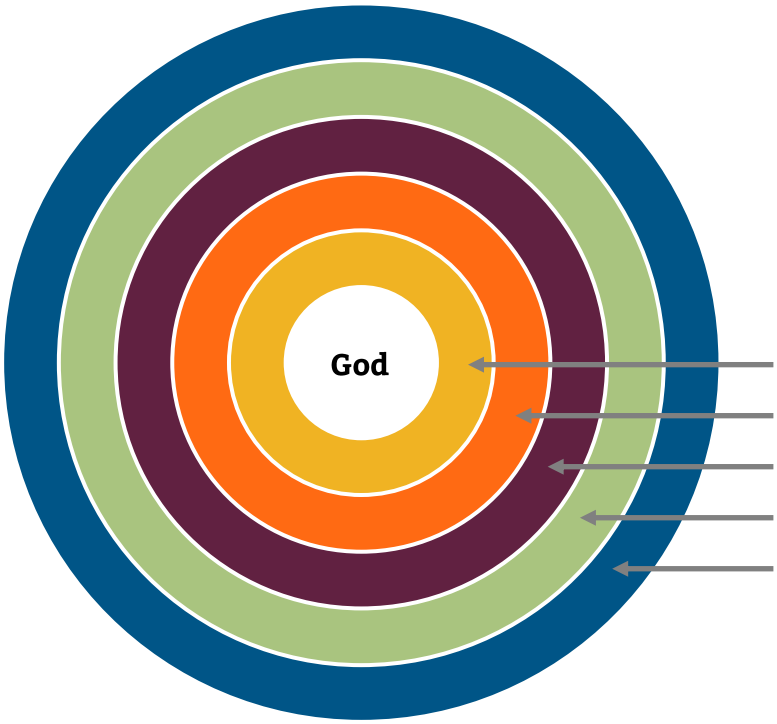
and be _____ in good works

through a _____ life

leading to an _____ life

lived out in a _____ life.

Blended Life



KEY INSIGHTS

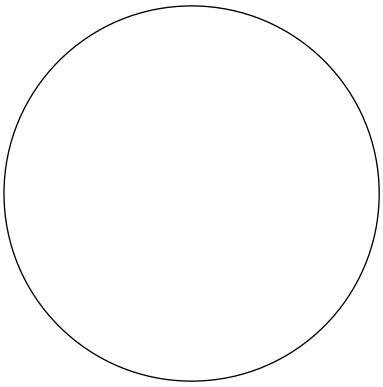
'Do not be afraid, you worm Jacob,
little Israel, do not fear,
for I myself will help you,'
declares the Lord,
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 41:14

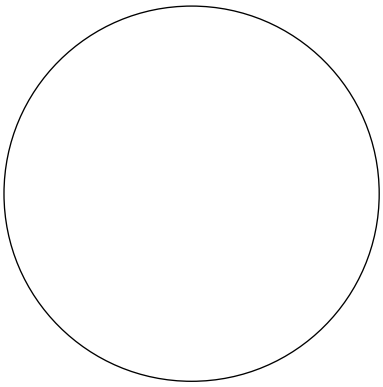
DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (2)
What are we Aiming for?

Blended Life

1. Summer Holidays.



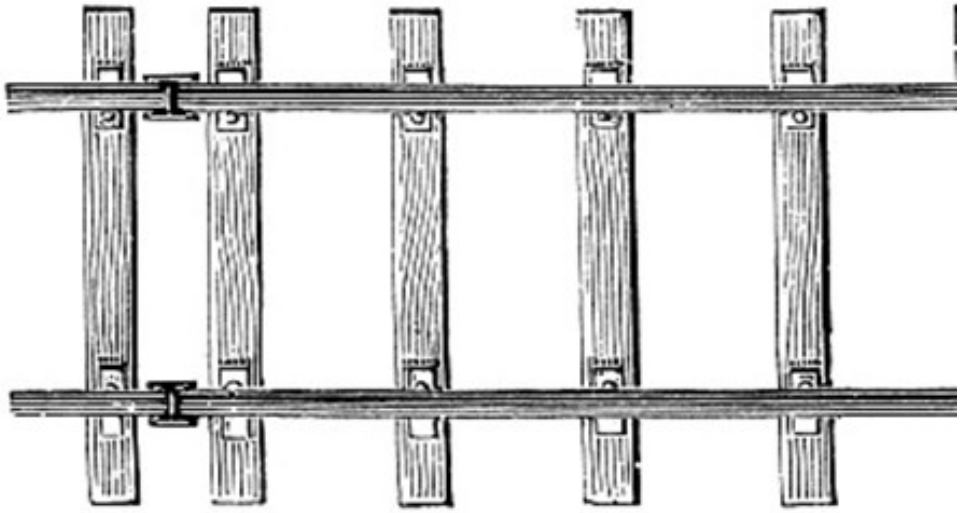
2. Last week before coming on Arrow.



KEY INSIGHTS

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (2)
Rest and Work: Keeping them in Godly tension

Train Track Analogy



Tracks

1.

2.

Sleepers

1.

2.

3.

4.

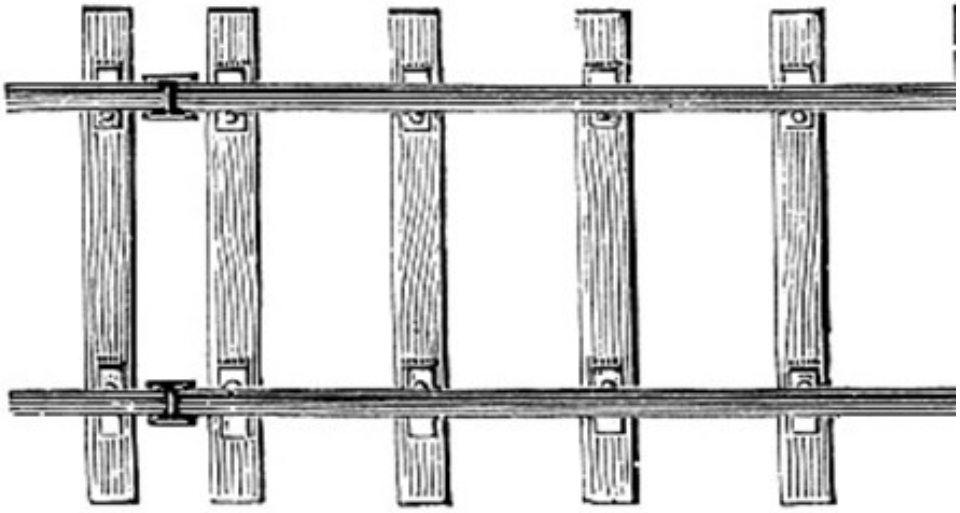
5.

KEY INSIGHTS

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (2)

Practical steps to discerning how to live with his priorities

Sleepers steps



Sleeper 1

Sleeper 2

KEY INSIGHTS

'Time is a gift because it is God's time not ones own, and time is a friend because there is nothing to fear from what God has in store.'

Sam Wells

'...the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.'

1 John 2:6

'Make sure your life sings the same song as your lips.'

St Augustine

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (2)

Practical steps to discerning how to live with his priorities

Sleeper 3

Sleeper 4

WORK WITH NATURAL RHYTHMS

- Recognise daily rhythm.
- Recognise weekly rhythm.
- Recognise monthly/termly rhythm.
- Recognise yearly rhythm.

THE BIG 3

KEY INSIGHTS

'In the absence of clearly defined goals, we become strangely loyal to performing daily trivia, until ultimately we become enslaved by it.'
Robert Heinlein

'The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.'
Stephen Covey

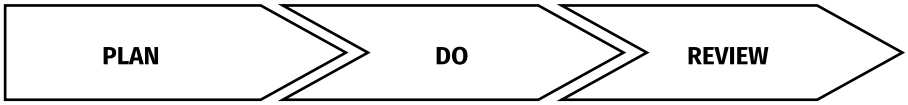
RESOURCES

- At Your Best: How to Get Time, Energy and Priorities Working in your Favor, Carey Nieuwhof (Waterbrook Press).
- Lead to Win Podcast No. 149, Complete your Daily Big 3 with Two Simple Questions, Michael Hyatt.

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (2)

PVS — Practical Next Steps

DEVELOPING OUR PVS



KEY INSIGHTS

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (2)
Revise Your Personal Vision Statement Regularly

Questions to Use for Reflection

- What have I learned about God and myself over the last year?

- What has changed in my personal, family or work life?

- What needs changing in the light of the answers to the previous questions to ensure my vision statement continues to reflect where I sense God is leading me?

A Final Thought – beware PESTs

Pressure.

Expectations.

Sin.

Tyranny of the urgent.

KEY INSIGHTS

'Spend your time in nothing which you know must be repented of; in nothing on which you might not pray for the blessing of God; in nothing which you could not review with a quiet conscience on your dying bed; in nothing which you might not safely and properly be found if death should surprise you in the act.'

Richard Baxter

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (2)
What is Likely to Scupper Us?

Driven Beyond the Call of God

- I'm overbusy because I need to prove myself.
- I'm overbusy because of other people's expectations.
- I'm overbusy because otherwise things get out of control.
- I'm overbusy because I prefer being under pressure.
- I'm overbusy because I need the money.
- I'm overbusy because I want to make the most of my life.

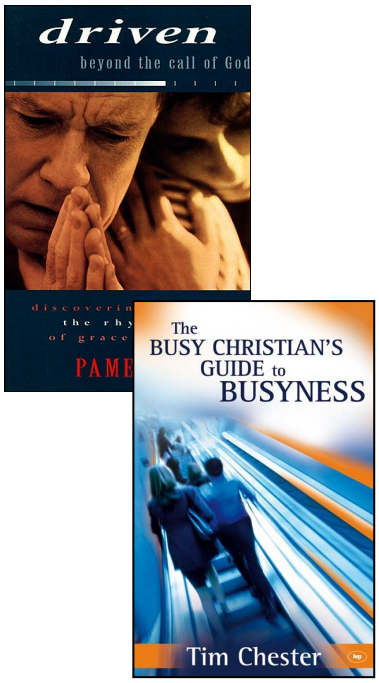
Taken from The Busy Christian's Guide to Busyness, Tim Chester, IVP

Development Goal Option

Read chapters 7-12 of Tim Chester's book and identify which issue is likely to drive you beyond the call of God. Create a poster to remind you of this issue and what you are going to do about it. Put it somewhere visible.

You may also like to read Driven Beyond the Call of God, Pamela Evans, BRF, chapter one 'What's driving you?' and chapter six 'Authority and Leadership'.

KEY INSIGHTS

'If I am a member of the body of Christ, it is not really a matter of "where do I want to go?" but rather "where does he want to take me?"'

Terry Fulham