

## 8 Planning for SUCCESS

25 Feb. 23



**Ice-Breaker:** *How would you define success?*

**Proverbs 3:1-12 cev** <sup>1-2</sup>My child, remember my teachings and instructions and obey them completely. They will help you live a long and prosperous life. <sup>3-4</sup>Let love and loyalty always show like a necklace, and write them in your mind. God and people will like you and consider you a success. <sup>5-10</sup>With all your heart you must trust the LORD and not your own judgment. Always let him lead you, and he will clear the road for you to follow. Don't ever think that you are wise enough, but respect the LORD and stay away from evil. This will make you healthy, and you will feel strong. Honour the LORD by giving him your money and the first part of all your crops. Then you will have more grain and grapes than you will ever need. <sup>11-12</sup>My child, don't turn away or become bitter when the LORD corrects you. The LORD corrects everyone he loves, just as parents correct their favourite child.

- *According to verses 3-4, how will we be considered a success?*
- *What do we hear the Lord saying to us in these proverbs?*
- *How do these verses instruct us on how to plan for success?*

**Colossians 3:18-25 cev** <sup>18</sup>A wife must put her husband first. This is her duty as a follower of the Lord. <sup>19</sup>A husband must love his wife and not abuse her. <sup>20</sup>Children must always obey their parents. This pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Parents, don't be hard on your children. If you are, they might give up. <sup>22-24</sup>Slaves, you must always obey your earthly masters. Try to please them at all times, and not just when you think they are watching. Honour the Lord and serve your masters with your whole heart. Do your work willingly, as though you were serving the Lord himself, and not just your earthly master. In fact, the Lord Christ is the one you are really serving, and you know that he will reward you. <sup>25</sup>But Christ has no favourites! He will punish evil people, just as they deserve.

- *In this passage, what attitudes toward others is Paul asking us to adopt?*
- *Bring this passage into our world: who are the masters we serve today?*
- *By serving other people who does Paul say we are really serving?*

- *In what way do we find this passage difficult?*
- *What does it mean that "Christ has no favourites," or "is no respecter of persons"?*

**2 Timothy 3:6-15 cev** <sup>6-9</sup>Some men fool whole families, just to get power over those women who are slaves of sin and are controlled by all sorts of desires. These women always want to learn something new, but they never can discover the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, these people are enemies of the truth. Their minds are sick, and their faith isn't real. But they won't get very far with their foolishness. Soon everyone will know the truth about them, just as Jannes and Jambres were found out. <sup>10-13</sup>Timothy, you know what I teach and how I live. You know what I want to do and what I believe. You have seen how patient and loving I am, and how in the past I put up with trouble and suffering in the cities of Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. Yet the Lord rescued me from all those terrible troubles. Anyone who belongs to Christ Jesus and wants to live right will have trouble from others. But evil people who pretend to be what they are not will become worse than ever, as they fool others and are fooled themselves. <sup>14-15</sup>Keep on being faithful to what you were taught and to what you believed. After all, you know who taught you these things. Since childhood, you have known the Holy Scriptures that are able to make you wise enough to have faith in Christ Jesus and be saved.

- *What would you say was the kind of success Jannes & Jambres were seeking?*
- *How was Jannes & Jambres able to trick and manipulate people?*
- *What warning do verses 6-9 send out regarding the kind of success we desire?*
- *How is Paul a good example in this passage?*
- *In what direction do verses 14-15 point us in order to find success?*
- *What conflicts do we find between how our culture defines success and how the Bible defines it?*
- *How do we question and re-think our plans and goals in life?*