



The NIV version of the Bible is used for these questions.

1. Have you ever had dreams about what you wanted to do in life? What were they? Did they come to pass or not, or are you still working toward them? When making plans for the future, do you leave room in your plans for God to change the direction you are heading if he wants to? How do you think he would do that, how would you recognize it?
2. Pastor Rick talked about how God gave him the desire to start a church. Has God ever given you a desire to do something that would impact people spiritually in a positive way? What is it? What steps do you think would be necessary for you to take in order to accomplish it in the next five years?
3. Pastor Rick spoke about the law of the harvest, that you reap what you sow. Why do you think it is referred to as a “law”? How should the truth of this spiritual law affect your thinking about your spiritual future? What four areas must you become healthy in now in order to accomplish what God would have you do in the future?
4. Read Luke 14:28-30. What practical truth is this verse stating? If we were to apply this idea to the spiritual world, what might it cost a Christian who decides that they want God’s will to be accomplished in their lives no matter what? Is that scary to you? Why? Rhetorical Question—At this point in your relationship with God, are you willing to pay that cost?
5. Read Genesis 37:5-11. In this part of Joseph’s story, what did the two visions he had say would happen? Did they every come true, from what you know of the story? How? (You could read Genesis 45 if you want to see what happened). What cost did Joseph have to pay to get to this point? Do you think you would have persevered if you had been in Joseph’s situation?
6. Read Galatians 6:9. What important truths about living for God are taught in this verse? Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. What promise does God make that should encourage us to persevere like Joseph did when challenging circumstances occur in our lives that seem like obstacles?

Challenge: Think big this week: What could God do through you if you were willing? Every journey starts with the first step—what step will you take tomorrow to begin to accomplish what God wants to do in your life?

ANSWERS

- 1. The point of this message is to begin to see that it is possible for any Christian to accomplish amazing things for God if they will begin to believe that God can use anyone, but it requires commitment on their part. See if you can get your members to consider that the things that are occurring in their lives could be God trying to direct them to do something or stop doing something.*
- 2. Again, try to challenge your members to begin thinking about their own spiritual influence possibilities. Paul did say "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". Do we really believe that is true, or is it just a platitude? Why not start acting like it is true?*
- 3. When something is called a law, like a scientific law, it is because it is always true in all situations. You will reap the results of your actions. Many Christians want to sow their wild oats and then they pray for a crop failure: It will not happen, the crop will come in. That should make us realize that what I do today will influence my future, for good or bad, the decisions I make today will determine what my future will look like. The four areas we must work on today is to be spiritually, relationally, financially, and physically healthy.*
- 4. Anyone who is planning to build anything first has to determine what it will take to finish the job, what is the cost and what will be needed. This is true spiritually also. God sacrificed himself for us and he asks us to do the same in return: To serve God requires us to be willing to sacrifice what we want to accomplish what he wants. If you are unwilling to make sacrifices, you will never accomplish anything of spiritual impact in the lives of others. See what they think might be some of those sacrifices we might be called upon to make to see God's will accomplished in our lives.*
- 5. Read Genesis 37:5-11. In this part of Joseph's story, what did the two visions he had say would happen? Did they every come true, from what you know of the story? How? (You could read Genesis 45 if you want to see what happened). What cost did Joseph have to pay to get to this point? Do you think you would have persevered if you had been in Joseph's situation? *The two visions showed his family members bowing down to him. They came true when Joseph had become the second most powerful person in Egypt. Because of a famine in Canaan, his brothers went to Egypt to get food and they had to go to Joseph to get it. They wound up having to bow down to him in order to survive. Talk about all of the bad things that Joseph had to endure to finally get to the point where the visions came true. He was rejected by his family, he was sold into slavery by his brothers, he was falsely accused and thrown into prison and left there for years**
- 6. Galatians 6:9 tells us that the law of the harvest will occur, we will reap good things if we do good, but it may take time and there will be times we feel like quitting because it won't be easy. We will need to persevere through those times when it seems it is too hard. 1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us that God will not allow anything to happen to you that you cannot handle, even when it seems to you that it is beyond your ability. The caveat is that without God's help, it will be impossible so you must lean on God for the strength you will need to persevere.*