

# THE STORY PLANNER



## Living a Brand New Story

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What is the chief end of humankind?  
To glorify God and enjoy him forever.

That's the first question and answer to one of my favorite catechisms. I really love that one, first, because I can actually remember it (you should see some of the others), and second, because it makes life simple.

This defined chief end is a valuable tool for goal-setting and planning for several reasons:

- It declares firmly that we have a God-given purpose.
- It provides a grid as we seek to discover the goals and plans we need to pursue at a particular point in our stories.
- It points us to **The Story**, Scripture, which is our primary tool for living the brand new story God has written in us.

### Our Primary Tool: The Gospel Story

Sadly, too many goals and plans fail because they are centered in the wrong story. Much of the instruction you find about goal setting relies on the story of good old fashioned American individualism and humanism. "You can do it!" "You have it in you!" The motivation is too often to bring glory to our selves, or put negatively, to "save face" (as in the story a friend told me about her daughter's volleyball coach screaming, "Second place stinks!" when they failed to win first. *Sigh.*)

Our focus in The Story Planner is the gospel. And the gospel's focus is God's glory and our good.

When we understand the good news the gospel gives, it helps us to set goals, make plans, overcome resistance, and celebrate what God has done:

- **Creation:** God designed us in his image, gave us a mission.
- **Fall:** We will struggle with sin and shame, distractions and disappointments as we seek to reach good goals.
- **Redemption:** God redeemed and restored this world through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
- **Restoration:** One day Christ will return to finish his kingdom restoration work, and all of our life purposes will finally truly be fulfilled.

This true story tells us that we have everything we need as we begin our journey—the faith, hope, and love that God is growing in us, to compel and propel us forward.

Are you ready to get started? (I am. On your mark, get set, let's go!)

# PART ONE: WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

1. Pray. Ask God to give you wisdom and insight.
2. In a sentence or two, list the top **three** important events, changes, accomplishments, losses in your life in the past year.

## Top Three Stories of 2021

1

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2

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3

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# Changes in Significant Areas

1. Pray.
2. Consider major areas of your life and make a few notes about any changes you have seen.

<b>RELATIONSHIPS</b>	<b>WORK</b>
<b>FINANCIAL</b>	<b>SPIRITUAL/ EMOTIONAL &amp; PHYSICAL HEALTH</b>
<b>PLAY/REST/ RECREATION</b>	<b>OTHER</b>

# PART TWO: WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

1. Pray. Ask God to give you wisdom and insight.
2. In a sentence or two, list the top three important events, changes, accomplishments, you would like to see happen in 2022. (You may also include losses you think will probably happen.)

## Top Three Stories of 2022

1

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# Changes in Significant Areas

1. Pray.
2. Consider major areas of your life and make a few notes about any changes you want to see or know you will likely see.

<b>RELATIONSHIPS</b>	<b>WORK</b>
<b>FINANCIAL</b>	<b>SPIRITUAL/ EMOTIONAL &amp; PHYSICAL HEALTH</b>
<b>PLAY/REST/ RECREATION</b>	<b>OTHER</b>



Lined writing area with 20 horizontal dotted lines and one solid line.



# PART FOUR: MAKE YOUR ACTION PLAN

Now it's time to make plans for action.

1. Re-visit your story. Look at the actions you imagined taking.
2. Use the table on the next page to write down some actions you will take.
  - In the first column, write the action.
  - In the second column, write the date to be completed. Also write this date on your calendar, or put a reminder on your phone.
3. In the third column, write a note about whether you took the action, and if you did, what happened.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN	DATE	FOLLOW UP

