

# THE JOURNEY OF A GOOD REAL MAN

## PLANNING YOUR LIFE

<p><b>Describe the Issue</b></p>	<p>It is good to have goals in life and to plan how to attain them</p>
<p><b>Define the Problem</b>          Create small groups          After discussion ask for Group Feedback noting it on flipchart if appropriate</p>	<p>Many people live from day to day. They hope things will go well or that someone will help them but they do not plan how to succeed or guard against failure  <b>Split the participants into small groups (max 4) and ask them to list :</b>          a) the reasons for not planning for the future          b) the problems this causes to men.  <b>Feedback – ask for answers and then suggest any important ones they have missed e.g; a) don't realise God has a plan for their life, never thought of planning, cannot imagine anything changing, do as family or others tell them, b) lack of motivation or energy, a sense of hopelessness and no future, failure to see or take opportunities,</b></p>
<p><b>Scripture Teaching</b></p> <p><b>This is not to be intended to be used as a message to be delivered to the men.</b>  <b>It is Bible information to give leaders confidence that they know enough about the subject to lead a discussion on it.</b></p> <p><b>This information may give ideas for more than one discussion.</b></p>	<p><b>WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT THE ISSUE OF PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE?</b></p> <p>1. The Bible teaches us that God plans what He does. He planned and accomplished creation, He planned and accomplished our salvation and He plans to come again and take us to be with Him forever.</p> <p>2. We also know that God made us like Him, to work and see good results. Therefore we also should plan to do the best we can with our life, plan to lead and provide for our family, and plan to be a good husband and father. It is good for all men to plan ahead even if they are not sure what will happen. It helps men to focus their thoughts and efforts on what is good and productive, it helps them to avoid wasting time or making foolish decisions.</p> <p>3. Having a plan also helps men to be decisive and not be pushed around by others. SUGGESTION Consider the example of Nehemiah. When enemies tried to stop him building the walls of Jerusalem by calling him to a conference he said <b>“I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?” (Neh 6:3)</b> Four times they sent him the same message, and each time he gave them the same answer. He knew his plan was good and from God, so he refused all opposition or distraction.  <b>Ask the men if they have been in a similar situation - facing pressure from others.</b></p> <p>4. Planning helps a man to decide what training or education he needs, where it is good to live and work, how to spend money wisely, what qualities to look for in a wife, how to bring up children correctly, even what kind of friends to choose. SUGGESTION <b>ask the men to suggest what they could plan and how it would help.</b> <b>Prov 29:18</b> says <b>“where is there is no vision (or plan), the people perish.”</b> If we have no plans things easily go wrong. We can be influenced by our circumstances, feelings or other people. They can tell us different things which confuse us so we do not know what to do. Then if things go wrong we get discouraged, worried or angry. God loves us and does not want this to happen. He wants us to succeed not fail</p> <p>5. The best plan a man can make is to seek God so that both his earthly future and his eternal destiny are made secure. When we decide to give our lives to God a wonderful thing happens – God begins to give us wisdom when we plan, and He fits us into His great plan for His people. He said to His first chosen people, Israel <b>“I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare, and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”(Jer 29:11).</b>          This is true for everyone who plans to follow and obey God.          SUGGESTION <b>ask for experiences of receiving help from God when making plans</b></p> <p>6. God knows and loves us before we become believers and He has already planned</p>

	<p>good things for us to do after we become His followers.  <b>(Eph2:10) "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."</b>          In other words when we become Christ's follower we become part of God's plan. He begins to change us and make our lives better in many ways. He then shows His love and goodness through us in ways that are specially chosen by God for us to do.  <b>SUGGESTION ask for testimonies God giving a man something new to do</b></p> <p>7. How can we make sure that we are planning as God wants?          - We should decide to be good and to do good and start to make our plans.          - We can ask for advice from trustworthy people who do things well in their lives.          - We must decide to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and plan to serve Him.          This includes leaving old sinful ways, fellowshiping with believers, reading God's word, praying for wisdom and God's help, and telling others about the gospel.          If we plan time to do these things we will be blessed.  <b>SUGGESTION get the men to discuss why these steps are necessary</b></p> <p>8. Two wise proverbs say:  <b>Prov 16:3 "Commit to the LORD everything you do. Then your plans will succeed."</b>  <b>Prov 16:1 "We can make our own plans, but the LORD gives the right answer."</b>          If we pray about our plans God is able to give us new ideas. If we obey Him, God's blessing will follow. We have only one life to live. God wants it to be a good life not a wasted life, we are very precious to God. If we plan wisely we will never regret it.</p>
<p><b>Group Discussion</b>          See how this applies to Khmer men-note feedback on flipchart</p>	<p>This is not carried out by many Christian Khmer men or by most other men.  <b>Split the participants into small groups and ask them to list either or both:</b>          a) if Christian men do not plan ahead, how can they be helped?          b) how can the benefits of planning ahead be shared with other Khmer men?  <b>Feedback – ask for answers and then suggest any important ones they have missed e.g; a) personal testimony of a plan that worked, help them make a plan for a future goal, keep asking them how it is going, pray with them asking God to reveal His plan for their life b) same as a)</b></p>
<p><b>Summarise</b>          How Good Real Men deal with this issue and how they can help friends and other Khmer men with this.</p>	<p>Today we learned that men often do not plan, or seek God's plan for their life, which causes problems such as: *****. The answer for Christian men is *****. Then we can share this truth with others. <b>*(summarise the answers from the discussions)</b>          # We understand that when we Jesus is Lord He intends a good future for us and as we pray He will help us to plan for the future.          # It is good to help each other by listening to and praying for each other.          # Also we need to be humble enough to ask for help when we need it. None of us is perfect so Jesus has brought us together as brothers to help each other.          # Good friends keep things told privately to themselves. If we need help with such a friend it is good to talk together with someone you trust.          # Finally it is good to ask God to give us opportunities to talk with others about God's way to plan for our future. Some may laugh when we talk about this but others will be glad we were a true friend and showed them the way to be helped.</p>
<p><b>Close and agree the next meeting and what you will do</b></p>	<p><b>If you pray - include personal commitment to, a) receive the power of the Spirit to please God (but not legalistic striving to be good) b) help each other c) seek opportunities to befriend others and share the truth with them.</b></p>



Journey of a BLP  
**Level 1**  
**Module 4**