

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOW TO HAVE YOUR MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR
Stand-Alone Sermon

ICEBREAKER: How would you describe your favorite meal?
— appetizer, drink, entrée and/or dessert?

OVERVIEW: It's 2019! It is time for a new start. A fresh beginning. 2019 does not have to be a repeat of 2018, or of every other year in your life so far. This can be your best year. Your most successful year. At the end of 2019 you can look back with pride, satisfaction, and joy. The only thing standing in your way is you. The Bible provides the principles and insights to be successful. All we have to do is discover and apply them to our lives.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. The sermon mentioned two different kinds of success, spiritual success and material success. How are they different?
3. Why is it important to prioritize spiritual success over material success?
4. Read 2 Chronicles 16:19. This verse contains a truth, a promise, and a condition. What are they?
5. The first biblical success principle is to pursue wholehearted devotion to God. What does it mean to pursue wholehearted devotion to God? How do you need to grow in this way?
6. Read Psalm 5:12. What is the promise and condition in this verse? The second Biblical success principle is to aim for righteousness. What are the two kinds of righteousness mentioned in the sermon, and how do they differ?

7. Read Ephesians 6:1-3. What is the promise and condition in this verse? The third Biblical success principle is to honor your parents. What does it mean to honor your parents? (Do you remember the acronym HONOR?)
8. Read Psalm 90:17. This verse is one of many examples in the Bible of praying for success. Why is it important to pray for success? How can you make sure that you make time for prayer?
9. Read Psalm 1:1-3. What is the promise and condition in this verse? The fifth Biblical principle of success is to study and master God's word. Are you committed to this? Explain.
10. Read Proverbs 3:13-18. A sixth Biblical principle of success is to seek Biblical wisdom. What are the benefits of wisdom mentioned in this passage? How can you grow in Biblical wisdom?
11. Read Proverbs 3:9-10. What is the promise and condition in this verse? What does it mean to honor the Lord with your wealth? How do you need to grow in this area?
12. Proverbs 21:5 (NLT) says, "Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty." The eighth Biblical success principle is to make good plans for your life. This is often called goal-setting. Have you thought about what you want to achieve in the months and years to come, and the action-steps you need to take to get there? Explain some of your short and long-term goals, and the steps you need to take to get there.

The Last Word: "Spiritual success is about relationships — a right relationship with God, with others, and with yourself."