



1. Take a few minutes to see how everyone is doing in tracking their goals.
2. Are you a goal setter? What are some goals you have set in the past that you accomplished? What are some that you set and did not accomplish? What was the difference between the ones you did and did not accomplish? Why is it better to set goals and fail than to not set goals at all?
3. Read Matthew 5:43-47. What did Pastor Rick say is the highest goal that we should have? How did God model this teaching? Who is it hardest for you to love? If you were to make a goal to love that person, what would you need to do?
4. In his message, Pastor Rick said that we should make goals that stretch our faith, that make us uncomfortable, what do you think he meant? Why is that so important? What would happen to us spiritually if we do not do this with our spiritual goals? Why is it so hard to do this? Read Hebrews 11:6. Why do you think our faith is so important to God?
5. Read Daniel 1:20-21. What was the result of Daniel and his friends going against what the Babylonians wanted them to eat? What were the four realities about setting the right kinds of goals that Pastor Rick taught in his message that we Daniel and his friends applied? Do you think it was a coincidence that everything turned out so well? How should that encourage us with our goals?

## Answers

- 1. Take a few minutes to see how everyone is doing in tracking their goals.**
- 2. It is better to set goals and fail because you will accomplish much more than you would have if you had not set any goals. There are a few “proverbs” that refer to this: Shoot for the stars and you’ll hit the moon, It is better to have loved and lost than not to have loved at all, If you never shoot, you will never hit anything.**
- 3. The highest goal we should have is to love everyone, even the unlovable. The way you show God’s type of unconditional love for people is that you just decide you are going to always treat them in a loving way no matter how you feel about them. The best way to begin to love people you do not like is to make a list of good things you could do for them and then begin to do them.**
- 4. Stretching your faith is when you trust God to do things that you do not see how it could happen or there is no guarantee of success. It is important because your faith is like a muscle, if you do not exercise it and put heavier loads on it, it will never get stronger. If we do not set spiritual goals we will not grow spiritually and we will have spiritual atrophy, just like if we do not use our muscles regularly. Faith is so important to God because it expresses a willingness on our part to trust in him rather than ourselves, it demonstrates our love and confidence in him.**
- 5. Read Daniel 1:20-21. What was the result of Daniel and his friends going against what the Babylonians wanted them to eat? What were the four realities about setting the right kinds of goals that Pastor Rick taught in his message that we Daniel and his friends applied? Do you think it was a coincidence that everything turned out so well? How should that encourage us with our goals? The result of Daniel and his friends stepping out in faith and being obedient to God was that God blessed them and made them superior to anyone else that served the king. The four realities is that our goals should: a. Bring glory to God; b. Be motivated by our love for God; c. Give our lives purpose; and d. Be achieved by God’s power, not ours.**