



**MONTH 3**

**PRIORITIES: WHERE WILL YOU FOCUS YOUR ENERGY?**

**Luke 9:51 (NRSV)**

*“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.”*

**OBSERVE**

Who is someone in your life who seems to have clear direction? What impact does this have on how she or he lives?

On our life journeys, we must take time to discern our mission and prioritize the goals that will help us achieve what God is calling us to do. Figuring out which of our goals are most important is key as we seek to live purposeful lives.

When Jesus **set his face to go Jerusalem**, it became the overarching priority in his ministry. Luke repeats this priority in Luke 13:22, 17:11, 18:31, 19:11, and 19:28, and the progression towards this goal culminates with Jesus’ triumphal entry. Jesus knew that by living out this priority, it he would fulfill and accomplish the purpose for which God had sent him.

**Go back and restate your life focus/mission:**

What 2-3 top priorities are reflected in this statement?

## IDENTIFY

Below, you will find a link to the Bugbee Servant Profile Assessment. This assessment is a helpful way to begin the process of identifying ministry passions, spiritual gifts, and your personal style.

The assessment can be found at this link - [www.brucebugbee.com/group](http://www.brucebugbee.com/group)

Registration Code: rcawomen

Follow prompts to create username, password and complete requested information.

**Take the three assessments (ministry passions, spiritual gifts, and personal style), print out the PDFs and explore your results. Prepare these questions prior to your coaching conversation.**

- Where do you find your greatest passion for leadership?
- Which spiritual gift/gifts stood out most as you took the assessment?
- Prior to taking the assessment on personal style, were you aware of your leadership style? How have you observed this leadership style in the roles and relationships in your life?
- As you reviewed your results, how did you initially react to them? Were you surprised? Did the results ring true to you?

Our priorities are often determined by our passions, gifts, and style. Priorities can also be determined through the roles and responsibilities we assume: for example, daughter, sister, spouse, mother, pastor, staff member, lay leader, equipper, teacher, influencer, coach, friend, colleague.

Make a list of your **top 5 roles and/or responsibilities**, putting them in priority order.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

In order to live out each role/responsibility most fully, ask yourself, and share with your partner:

- What do I need to **know, be** and **do** to most effectively engage this role/responsibility?
- What 2 -3 top priorities are reflected in these roles/responsibilities?

Living with intentionality requires us to focus our energy. We cannot focus our energy effectively without **determination, resilience, and perseverance**.

- **Determination:** the act of deciding definitively and firmly; a firm or fixed intention to achieve a desired end.
- **Resilience:** the ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.
- **Perseverance:** the continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition.

Ask yourself:

- On which 2 – 3 priorities do I need to concentrate my energy over the next three - five years?
- What are my desired outcomes with each of these priorities?
- What commitments do I need to make to see these priorities realized?

## **APPLY**

Clarifying your priorities helps focus your efforts to achieve the goals and objectives you have identified, both personally and for your church/ministry. Our lives and ministries bear the most fruit when we are able to take our priorities and overarching goals and move them into practical steps we can live out each day.

The trouble is, sometimes our desired priorities are not in alignment with our daily habits and practices. It can be a helpful exercise to drill down into each priority and examine it we are intentionally incorporating our priorities into our daily lives.

Take some time to examine each of your priorities, and see how they align with your habits and practices.

*Priority:* \_\_\_\_\_

- How am I living this out?

- How am I not living this out?
- What one goal could I set to help myself more fully express this priority this year?

### *Evaluating All Priorities (weekly/daily)*

- What are all the things I need to accomplish in the next seven days? How would I prioritize their importance?
- If I could choose only three things to accomplish today, what would they be?
- What do I need to delegate? Postpone? Take off the list?
- Who can help hold me accountable to ensure I am focusing on the important, not just the urgent, as I live out the priorities in my life? How can I engage with this person on a regular basis?
- What spiritual practices (journaling, prayer, solitude, peer coaching, etc.) are available to me to help me stay focused on my priorities?

### **Rosalind Brewer, President and CEO of Sam's Club**

*"You can and should set your own limits and clearly articulate them. This takes courage, but it is also liberating and empowering, and often earns you new respect."*

Ask yourself:

- What challenges do I encounter as a leader in living out my priorities?
- What limits and boundaries might I need to set in order to focus my energy and achieve my priorities and goals?

### **NEXT STEP**

**Celebration** and fun. So often we only focus on the tasks before us, the goals we want to achieve, and living a purposeful and prioritized life. When was the last time you celebrated the accomplishment of a goal? What did you do?

How could you celebrate—every six weeks or at least once every six months—living out your priorities and the outcomes they produce? How might you reward yourself for significant progress?

**REFLECT**

**Matthew 6:21 (NRSV)**

*"For where your treasure is there your heart will be also."*

**Maya Angelou**

*"Never make someone a priority when all you are to them is an option."*