

THE FOUR KEY STEPS IN THE WORKBOOK

The four key steps in the workbook are built around the metaphor of using apps such as Google Maps or Apple Maps or MapQuest to determine a route (and revise that route as needed) to help us complete our journey from our current location to our desired destination. Here are the four steps this workbook will lead us through:



Step #1: **Review** Your Current Location

Just as navigation apps use our current location so as to provide accurate directions to where we want to go, so Step #1 begins with noting our current location. In this planning process accessing our “current location” means pausing to remember how God has blessed us with growth by his grace in the previous year. These blessings come our way in two forms. Some blessings are more easily identifiable as such. Other blessings come more “well disguised” as particular elements of the cross God has asked us to bear as his child and his representatives in each of our various callings.

To help us consider carefully our current situation, Step #1 will ask us to:

- List specific blessings/growth in the past year in each of the areas/callings of our life; and
- Ponder life-lessons God may have been teaching us through all those experiences whether they brought a smile to our face or tears to our eyes.



Step #2: **Reflect** on Your Destination

One cannot make use of navigation apps without also giving the app an intended destination. Step #2 of this process seeks to ponder that destination as we consider growth in our lives. Greater faithfulness to God’s purpose for each of us in our callings is that destination. But the specifics of what that looks like will be different for each of us. Even though we all share the most important calling to faith in Jesus and the common goal of a gracious inheritance in heaven, yet for this life no two of us have the same exact set of other God-given callings. And in preparing us in advance for those unique callings, Christ has measured into our lives unique gifts and strengths.

All of that means that our varied public ministry settings, the gifts/strengths we have been given, the uniqueness of our household situations, as well the particular life-stage in which we find ourselves, all greatly impact the destination (“What will it look like for me to be faithful in all my callings?”). The uniqueness of that destination is one reason no one else can simply hand us a one-size-fits-all set of ready-made goals for growth.

In order to help us think about what our unique destination of faithfulness in our callings might look like, Step #2 will lead us to:

- Analyze our unique individual gifts;
- Consider the help in directing our growth that can come from considering the current life-stage or life situation into which God has placed us;
- Consult with others who can help us look at our faithfulness to our callings with a more objective eye; and
- Ponder what growth in faithfully using those gifts might look like in each of our callings.



Step #3: **Resolve** to Follow a Preferred Route

In navigation apps, once we've entered our location and our destination, the next step is to select the preferred route from our current location to our destination. In Step #3, this workbook seeks to help us select wise routes to move from where we are to the greater faithfulness we seek in each of our callings. Part of that means designing specific turn by turn routes we will pursue under God's blessing that we pray will move us toward the destination of greater faithfulness in each of our callings. While the exact eventual fruit from our actions rests with God, he still calls us to act in a way that takes seriously that his gifts have been given to us for the purpose of fanning them into flame. All this pursuit of growth is done for the benefit of those God has called us to serve as well as the benefit of our own souls.

In order to help us design such growth goals, Step #3 will lead us to:

- Assemble a list of potential goals for our Calling as a child of God, for our calling to public ministry, and for our royal priestly callings;
- Select from that list specific, concrete goals that we pray God will bless for his purposes in our callings;
- Anticipate steps to meet challenges that will inevitably arise to derail us from those goals; and
- Stay connected to how each specific goal we craft contributes to the overarching goal of honoring God as his masks in all our callings.



Step #4: **Revise** Your Route as Necessary

Finally, when using navigation apps, the whole process would be useless unless we actually head out in our vehicles and follow the directions – which includes wisely pondering mid-course revisions dictated by traffic or road conditions. As the app monitors our progress along our route, ignoring mid-course revisions risks significant delay or even failure in reaching the desired destination.

So too in Step #4 we will consider what it may look like to actively navigate by taking our goals and plugging them into the daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual routines and decisions of life. This prepares us regularly to remember our goals, assess progress toward those goals, and choose mid-course corrections as needed (with trusted partners all along the way helping us to see our way clearly). Since God has wisely chosen to hide from us the details of our future, such changes will almost always be needed as we receive from him our daily bread and new strength for each day.

In order to prepare us to assess progress regularly and revise our path accordingly, Step #4 will help us to:

- Build routines into our daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual patterns that will assist us in regularly monitoring how God is blessing our progress toward our goals;
- Enlist the regular support of others in the body of Christ who can encourage us and assist us with making wise mid-course revisions; and
- Celebrate God's blessings along the path – even when those blessings make their appearance in far different forms than we may have anticipated.