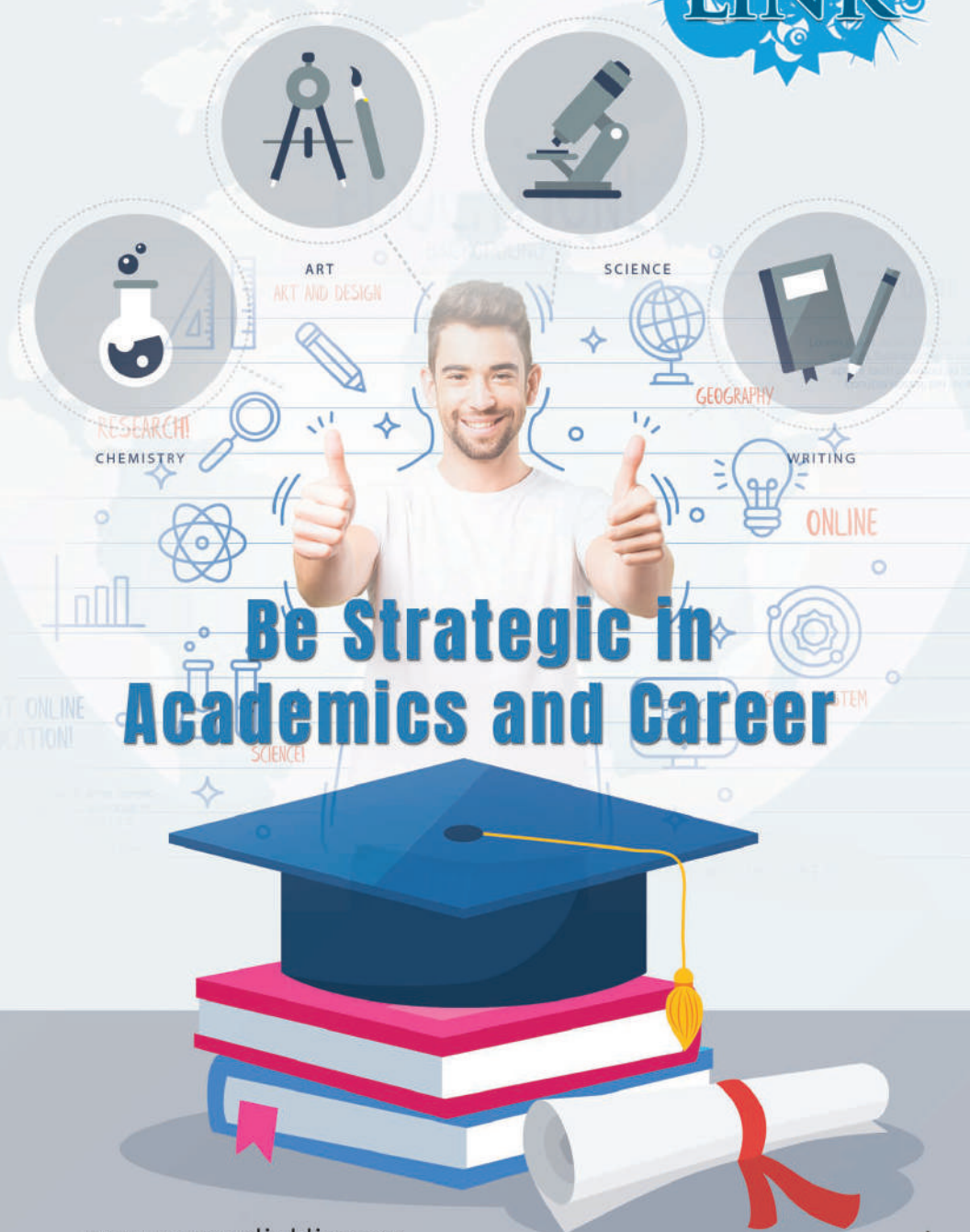


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CAMPUS LINK



LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME

Oh, it often feels like I'm behind in life

To go farther than now is all I strive

I'll be better than people in one or the other way

It's the comparison game many of us play!

What you have matters less than

What you do with what you have.

Do not become paralyzed with worry and fear

Cast your cares upon Him to bear.

Cheer up!

Compare yourself instead to your potential

What to do next will itself become clear.

In the Lord's sight, you are not behind . . .


The past you had is exactly what you need for whatever comes next

Start where you are . . .

Look up and dream again!




Esther Hembrom is a student from Madhepura, Bihar. She completed her 12th grade and is preparing for CUET 2025. She has been actively involved with UESI since November 2023.




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Align Academics and Career for God's Kingdom

We are called to be excellent stewards of our God-given talents either in academics or career and commit our plans to God (Prov. 16:3) who reveals His plans. Success is not a matter of chance, but it requires strategy, diligence, and dependence on God.

Set Clear and God-Honoring Goals: A clear vision is key to being strategic. Align academic and career goals with God's purpose (Phil. 3:14). Reflect: How can my academics and career serve to advance God's kingdom? Set prayerful goals for personal and kingdom impact.

Plan and Prioritize Wisely: Time is a limited resource so manage it wisely (Eph 5:15-16). Success in academics and careers requires planning: use schedules, prioritize tasks, and stay organized with tools. Set timelines for growth, skill-building, and networking.

Seek Excellence, Not Perfection: Excellence honors God, but perfectionism can lead to stress and burnout. Do everything wholeheartedly for the Lord, not for people (Col 3:23). Be diligent, creative, and persistent. Embrace learning, skill-building, and feedback to grow strategically.

Build Godly Relationships and Mentorship: No one succeeds in isolation. Build relationships with mentors, professors, career professionals, and fellow believers for guidance (Prov 15:22). Be regular to Christian fellowships for encouragement and accountability.

Trust in God's Timing and Direction: Strategic planning is vital, but trusting God's sovereignty keeps us grounded amidst challenges, distractions, and uncertainties (Prov 3:5-6). Jesus always acted and spoke as the Father commanded, both in what to say and how to say it (Jn 5:19 & 12:49). At Babel, people failed to submit their plans to God. Similarly, our academics, or careers can become a "Tower of Babel."

Serve God and Students with Purpose: Our academic and professional journey should serve others, uphold integrity, and advance God's kingdom (Matt 5:16), not pursue selfish gains like wealth or power.

Conclusion: As Christians, let's follow Daniel & his friends' example by making intentional choices, efforts to glorify God through wisdom, excellence, and faith in all we do either eating or drinking and academics or career (1 Co. 10:31).

May the Lord guide us to remain diligent and steadfast, trusting in His faithfulness to complete the good work He has begun in us (Phil 1:6).



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Academics and Career

A Gateway to Your Calling and Purpose in Life



Student life in a college/university is probably the best part of one's life. It is the gateway to explore and pursue new subject areas, new skills, all in a flexible environment compared to the inflexible school environment. Unfortunately, this is also a time when one is easily led astray into wrong habits, influences and ideologies. In such an environment, how does a Christian student bloom and accomplish all that God has in store for his/her academics and career?

The word 'career' means 'a job or profession that somebody has been trained for and does for a long time'. Unfortunately, today most careers are chosen merely for the 'pay package' they offer. Christian students too are influenced by this peer pressure. In such an

environment, what Christian principles and strategies can we apply in choosing and pursuing one's academics and career? The Apostle Paul warned the Christians in Rome: "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

As a Christian student, one should always be confident that God has a plan and purpose for your life. God's Spirit resides in you and He is keen to guide you in the right path. We have excellent examples in the Bible of people whose life and profession brought glory to God. Three such men were Daniel, Nehemiah and Joseph. All these three men worked under pagan kings, but they were excellent in their profession. Their masters were able to see the secret

Lead

of their lives as their love for God and a deep desire to please God in all that they did.

When we study their lives, a few spiritual and personal qualities stand out – their strong dependence on God, their faithfulness in all that was entrusted to them, and their desire to see God's name glorified. We see Nehemiah spending time in prayer and also doing meticulous planning for the preparations and finally the work to be carried out for building the walls of Jerusalem. When we examine the life of Daniel we find that "... they (the fellow administrators and satraps) could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent" (Dan 6:4). That is an outstanding testimony coming from his rivals. About Joseph, the Pharaoh said, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God ... Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you" (Gen 41:38,39).

Let us briefly look at a few qualities that is vital for a Christian student to fulfil God's plans in his/her studies.

Discipline: One of the major temptations for a Christian student is to take his/her studies very casually. This is one of the reasons why a good number of our EU students are not doing well in their studies.

A Christian student should plan his/her time carefully. Discipline does not come naturally to most of us. Seek God's guidance and help through prayer. Make good use of the time and all the other resources God has given. Also, you need to plan your studies throughout the semester/year. That way you will not struggle in your studies just before the exams. Make it a habit also to write your answers while revising various subjects. Make your studies enjoyable by exploring the background and history of the various topics, whether it is science or history or any other subject. Always remember that our God is the source of all wisdom. You are privileged to be the son/daughter of the Most High God.

Faithfulness: The world is looking for successful people, but God is looking for faithful people. Be a faithful student who considers the opportunity, time and all that is given to you as a gift from God. Be a good steward of all that God has given you. Do not compare yourself with someone else. In the parable Jesus taught in Matthew's gospel we read, "To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability" (Mt 25:15). The one who received five talents and the one who received two talents doubled the talents given to

them. Their master gave the same reward to both of them. This is a very important spiritual principle. Our responsibility is not to compare what we have with someone else, instead we should faithfully use whatever has been entrusted to us – our time and talents that God has given us. When we faithfully use our talents and do our very best as a student, we will hear our Lord telling us one day, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things” (Mt 25:23).

Hard work: Another very important quality that God expects from all of us is hard work. Any good work requires putting in a lot of hard work. God will richly reward all your hard work. In Gen 41:46-57 we see the hard work Joseph put in to execute the plan God gave him to save Egypt from the severe famine. Similarly, from the book of Nehemiah, in chapters 2 to 6 we read the hard work Nehemiah put in to get the support of all the people living in Jerusalem. He carefully and meticulously executed the work in the midst of severe opposition. So be encouraged, if you find your studies difficult, it is just natural! Do not give up that easily. Take it as God’s process to train your ‘hands and fingers’ for something greater.

God will richly reward all your efforts.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Colossian church wrote the following to the slaves: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving” (Col 3:23,24). The above words of encouragement should act as our motivation to do everything as to the Lord.

Excellence: Consider your studies as an offering made to God on a daily basis. We must always offer the very best to God. Hence your attitude to studies matters a lot. Whenever tempted not to study or when tempted to become lazy with your studies, ask God to help you. Daniel was known for his excellent work. In general, we all are careful not to be corrupt, but not so careful when it comes to negligence. But Daniel was neither corrupt nor negligent. We should be known for our excellence. Being excellent means doing your very best. God knows your capability; hence if you are under-performing then that is not being excellent.

No need for any anxiety: One of the biggest problems with many students is anxiety. All of us need to watch out for this. Whenever you

Lead

are tempted to be anxious then remember what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippian church. This is a verse worth memorizing. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:6,7). These verses have both commands (what we should

do), and also God's promises (what God would do).

May our Lord inspire you through His Word to plan meticulously and to do your very best both in your studies and in your career, not for the fleeting treasures and fame of this world, but to please the eternal King, so that your academic life and career will bring glory and honour to God alone. In so doing, may you be fully satisfied in your academics and career.



Dr Joseph John was an EU student in 1974 while he was doing engineering in Kerala. He has been an active UESI graduate, contributing significantly over the past 27 years in Uttar Pradesh. Since 2010, he has been active with Mumbai EGF, UESI-MH, and served as UESI President (2012-2016). Retired from IIT Bombay in 2021, he is now an Adjunct Professor there. Married to Nina, they have two sons, Tim (married to Roshni) and Jamie, and a grandson, David. He can be reached through josina448@gmail.com

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Be Strategic in Academics and Career



Success in academics and career requires more than just hard work — it demands strategic thinking. The Bible provides wisdom on planning, diligence, and purpose-driven living. By applying biblical principles, students can set clear goals, manage their time effectively, and build a career that honors God.

1. Core Principles of Strategic Thinking

a) Goal Setting

Prov 16:3 says, “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” Goal setting should begin with prayer and careful consideration. As you begin to set your goals and plan, write your goal statement. Your goal statement must be **SMART** which we will look at below.

- **SMART Goals:** Ensure that your goals are **Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound** to stay focused and track progress. **Example:** Preparing for government exams like UPSC requires clear planning. Instead of vaguely saying, “I want to clear

UPSC and become a civil servant someday,” a SMART goal would be: “I will complete one subject every two months by studying four hours daily, take a mock test every Sunday to track progress, and revise my notes for one hour every evening.” This goal is **specific** (clearing UPSC with structured study), **measurable** (weekly mock tests and daily study hours), **achievable** (dividing the syllabus into manageable parts), **relevant** (focused on UPSC preparation), and **time-bound** (setting deadlines for each subject).

- **Short vs. Long-Term Goals:** Break big ambitions into small, manageable steps. Just as Joseph, prepared for years of famine (Gen 41), planning for the future ensures sustainability. **Example:** For a student aspiring to become a Chartered Accountant (CA), the short-term goals might include clearing each level of the CA exams one step at a time while gaining internship experience.
- **Align with Passion and Skills:** 1 Pet 4:10 encourages us to use our gifts wisely. Choose goals

that align with your talents and the calling God has placed on your life. **Example:** As a student if you are interested in teaching and mentoring, consider tutoring juniors or even teaching online in your subject, or start a YouTube channel where you present your passion and inspire others, or preparing for NET exams to become a professor. If you're interested in graphic design, start by freelancing on platforms like Fiverr or Upwork while studying or become a creator on social media platforms and leverage your creativity.

b) Planning

Jesus spoke about the importance of planning in *Lk14:28*: *"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?"*

- **Academic Roadmap:** Choose courses, projects, and activities that build relevant skills for your career. Think ahead about what knowledge and experience will benefit you the most. Keep a detailed roadmap as it will come in handy as you achieve each step.

Example: If you want to become a digital marketer, plan your academic journey by taking relevant courses in SEO, content marketing, and

social media management. Work on real-life projects by helping small businesses or student organizations with their online presence and earn certifications from platforms like Google and HubSpot.

- **Career Milestones:** Set specific checkpoints such as internships, certifications, and skill development to prepare for career success.

Example: Let's consider a B.Com student who wants to become a financial analyst, a career milestone could be getting an NISM certification before graduation to stand out in job applications.

- **Time Management:** *Eccl 3:1* reminds us that there is a time for everything. Prioritize your tasks, avoid procrastination, and develop discipline to meet deadlines.

Example: Use the "Pomodoro Technique"—study for 25 minutes, take a 5-minute break, and repeat. *Using your break time to connect with God reminds you for Whom you are studying and Who helps you achieve your goals and rely upon Him.* Students preparing for exams like JEE or UPSC can use this to maintain focus and productivity. You can also use planners, time-blocking apps, or tools like Google Calendar to manage your daily schedule.

c) Continuous Learning

The Bible encourages lifelong learning. *Prov 18:15* states, “*The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out.*”

- **Lifelong Learning:** Stay updated through training, certifications, and workshops. Never stop growing in wisdom and knowledge. *To be a lifelong student in life is a virtue you can live out and it begins with your desire to be a lifelong student of the Word of God.*

Example: Engineering students can take online courses on AI or robotics, while commerce students can pursue financial modelling to enhance their resumes. Medical students should attend industry seminars and update themselves with new research findings.

- **Industry Trends:** Keep an eye on developments in your field to stay competitive and innovative. *Aim towards dominating your domain, seek to become an expert and do not settle for mediocrity in your field of interest. Learn how the leading experts are not only keeping up with the industry trends but are setting the trends.*

Example: Students in the IT field, follow influencers on LinkedIn and subscribe to tech blogs like TechCrunch or YourStory to stay

updated on AI and blockchain trends. Similarly, if you are in fashion design, study emerging trends, follow top designers, and attend fashion expos. In our current digital age, we are not short of information to keep ourselves updated with the latest trends.

- **Learning from Failure:** Even biblical heroes like Peter and Paul faced setbacks. Instead of being discouraged by failure, use it as an opportunity to refine your approach and improve.

Example: If you fail in your first attempt at the CAT exam, analyse your mistakes, take mock tests, and adjust your strategy instead of giving up. If a business idea fails, reassess the strategy, learn from feedback, and try again.

d) Networking and Collaboration

Prov 27:17 says, “*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*” Your network plays a crucial role in your academic and professional growth. Networking with the right people who can walk with you on your journey, give right guidance and correct you when you make a mistake is a bonus.

- **Build Connections:** Engage with mentors, peers, and professionals who can provide guidance, encouragement, and opportunities.



Example: Attend college fests, seminars, and LinkedIn webinars to connect with professionals in your field. Join student communities like IEEE, AIESEC, or Toastmasters. A law student can attend moot courts and legal networking events.

- **Leverage Relationships:** Use networking to open doors to job prospects, internships, and valuable insights. Building a network of relationships takes you a long way in your career.

Example: A student who actively participates in campus placement training and alumni networking events is more likely to secure internships and referrals. If you like to explore content writing, start by creating a blog or contributing to college magazines. Connect with experienced writers on LinkedIn, ask for feedback on your work, and explore freelance opportunities on platforms like Medium or Fiverr.

- **Collaboration:** Learning to work effectively in teams is

an important skill. The Bible emphasizes teamwork in *Eccl 4:9*, “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.”

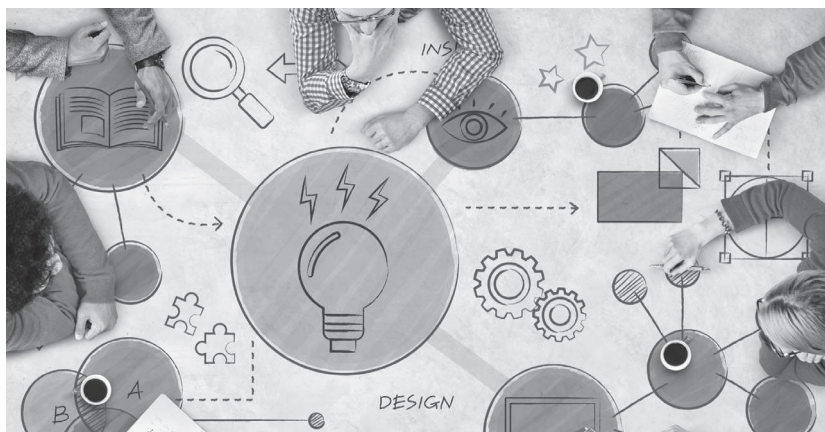
Example: A computer science student could collaborate on GitHub projects with peers. Or if you are in business school, participate in case competitions to improve teamwork skills.

Conclusion:

Success in academics and career is not just about working hard, it is about working smart with a strategic mindset. The Bible teaches us to set clear goals, plan wisely, continue learning, and build meaningful relationships. Remember, strategic planning does not mean relying solely on your own understanding. As Prov 3:5-6 reminds us, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”



Amos, a mechanical engineer is embracing a new chapter with UESI as a staff under probation. He was an EU student in Hyderabad In 2010, and later became a UESI graduate in New Delhi. UESI has played a pivotal role in shaping and strengthening his faith. He has a passion for riding through hills, experimenting with innovative recipes, and immersing himself in diverse cultures. Alongside his wonderful wife, Senia Rai, he has devoted his life to mentor students to become disciples of Jesus. He can be reached through amosprasoonp@gmail.com



Biblical Strategies for Career

I. Biblical Basis for Work

1. Designed to Work: Many people misconceive the theology of work, mistakenly believing it to be solely a consequence of the fall. However, work was part of God's design for humanity even before the fall. As our Creator works, we too are called to work, reflecting His nature as beings made in His image. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it" (Gen 2:15).

2. God provides us with unique skills, gifts and talents, and calls us to specific roles and activities: Although the roles may seem to differ in importance, all callings from God are equal, with none considered second-class. We will prove worthy of His calling if we remain devoted to our relationship with Him and continually seek His guidance (Eph 4:11; Mt 25:14-30).

3. Quality, character, and ethics are foundational for our work: We are responsible not only for the quality of our work, but also for our faithfulness to God in the way we pursue that work, and for our own good character while working. We will be judged and rewarded accordingly (Mt 25:21; Col 3:23-24).

4. Our work is yoked with Christ: We should work as if yoked to Jesus Christ. Our work, and the decisions we make, should be based on these principles: aligned with God's moral standards, always concerned with the fair treatment of others and with a clear expression of Christ's love for all people (2 Cor 6:14-15).

5. God's work multiplies through relationships in fellowship: We need to be in relationship with other followers of Christ to provide

support and accountability. We should look for mentors and mentor others (1 Tim 3:15; 1 Cor 12:27).

II. God's Guidance in Our Work

The Bible emphasizes the importance of seeking God's guidance in all our endeavors. It reassures us that when we trust in the Lord, He will direct our paths. Let's remember that our careers should be aligned with God's will, allowing Him to lead us towards fulfilling our purpose. By submitting our plans to Him, we not only gain direction but also the assurance that our journey is not taken alone (Pro 3:5-6; Js 1:5).

1. Hard Work and Diligence: Being diligent in our careers is another biblical principle that guides us toward success. Our efforts, backed by a strong work ethic, reflect our faith and can serve as a testimony to others. Let's commit to working

hard, knowing that our work/toil can produce fruitful results in our lives and the lives of those we touch (Col 3:23; Pro 14:23).

2. Integrity and Ethics: The Bible encourages us to act with honesty, fairness, and ethical standards. Our actions in the workplace reflect our character and can impact our witness for Christ when we choose to uphold integrity. Let's strive to be professionals who embody integrity, knowing it will establish our reputation in our fields (Pro 10:9; Col 3:24).

3. Perseverance in Challenges: In our pursuit of career success, we will inevitably face challenges and setbacks. The Bible reminds us that perseverance is vital during tough times. Our struggles can serve as valuable lessons that build resilience and character. Let's not shy away from adversity but

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embrace it, knowing that through persistence and faith, we can emerge stronger and closer to our goals. **Remember, every setback may be setting us up for a divine comeback!** (Gal 6:9; Rom 5:3-4).

III. Process of Working:

1. Trusting God's Plan for Our Work: It's natural to feel anxious about making the right career choices. The Bible reminds us that God has a plan for each of us. Trusting in His plan means acknowledging He knows what's best for us, even when we don't see the bigger picture (Rom 8:28; Pro 16:3).

2. Being Proactive - Choosing to Act: While trusting God is crucial, He also calls us to be proactive. The Bible encourages us to take initiative, work diligently, and seize opportunities that align with His will (Col 3:23-24; Pro 21:5).

3. Use Your Gifts and Talents: God has blessed each of us with unique gifts and talents. Your career is a significant way to use these gifts to serve others and bring glory to God (1 Pet 4:10; Rom 12:6-8).

4. Serve Others: The Bible teaches that our work should embody love and service, reflecting Christ's love for us (Mk 10:45; Phil 2:3-4).

5. Seek Counsel: Career decisions are often complex, and seeking

wise counsel is crucial. The Bible encourages us to seek advice from others, particularly those who are spiritually mature and experienced (Pro 15:22).

6. Dealing with Career Challenges:

Challenges and setbacks are inevitable in any career. The Bible offers wisdom on persevering through difficulties and trusting that God is working all things for our good (Js 1:2-4).

7. Stand as a Witness for God:

Your career is a powerful platform to stand as a witness to God's love and truth. Living out your faith in the workplace can influence others and attract them towards God (Mt 5:16; 1 Pet 3:15).

IV. Personality of Excelling in Work (Joseph: Gen 37-50):

1. Humility: The most dominating character of our Lord, shown to the world (Mt 11:29).

2. Purity: Joseph protected himself from all sorts of impurity.

3. Integrity: Joseph was a man of integrity. When He was given a task by his father/ Potiphar/ Prison Warden/ Pharaoh, he performed it sincerely and faithfully. If it is entrusted to Joseph, it shall be done. Jesus Himself also fulfilled what was entrusted to Him.

4. Industry: Do it with all your might (Eccl 9:10). Only in the dictionary success comes before work.

5. Generosity: Giving is the best way of living (Mk 10:28-31; Mal 3:10).

V. Essential for Success in Work:

- ♦ **Aim (Vision):** What to do
- ♦ **Action (Mission):** How to do
- ♦ **Aptitude:** Mind to do
- ♦ **Attitude:** Personality

5. Altitude:

It is not the APTITUDE, but ATTITUDE that decides the ALTITUDE in work!

VI. Process of Excellence in Work (Paul: Phil 3:14):

1. **Set a Goal:** Too many Goals are Goal mall (*Golmaal*)
2. **Say no to Others:** Sometimes we succeed by not doing the un-necessary
3. **Satisfy Not:** Always have high ambitions till you break all your own records
4. **Strain is involved:** Only in the Dictionary does success come before work
5. **Systematic Life:** There is no achievement without discipline

VII. Goal Setting in Work - SMART:

1. **Specific,** 2. **Measurable,** 3. **Attainable,** 4. **Realistic,** 5. **Tangible/ Timely**

VIII. SWOT/SWOC -Analysis in Work:

SWOT is an acronym for **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats/**C**hallenges. By definition: Strengths (S) and Weaknesses (W) are internal factors over which you have some measure of control. Also, by definition, Opportunities (O) and Threats (T) or challenges (C) are external factors over which you have essentially no control.

IX. Balancing Secular Work, Family and Spiritual Ministry

1. Don't think about balance. Think of quality: The amount of time you spend with work can be more than the amount of time you have with your family but the quality of the time matters.

2. Wherever you are, be fully there: It's easy to be present physically, and absent mentally. Don't be with your family while thinking about your work, just like you shouldn't be at work only thinking about your family.

Devote yourself to wherever you are in the moment, fully present, and fully engaged with the people around you.

3. Work at your family like you work at work: If most of us worked at work like we work on our family, we would be fired.

Take a few minutes each week to plan your family time. Plan a project or two to do with your kids. Your job isn't done when you get home. When you get home from work, you are clocking into your second job as a husband or wife and a father or mother if you have kids.

4. Think seasons, not hours: Not every season is the same. In ministry, there are some seasons that you know will absolutely be busier than others. Christmas and Easter are two of them. In those seasons, your family needs to know that you will be busier.

5. Integrate family and ministry when you can: Bring your family with you when you can. Help them see the mission and be partners with them in the ministry.

6. Choose your family first: Put your family first. Your family will see the priority that you place on them and feel valued.

7. Plan an annual family calendar: Husband and wife should sync up calendars on their phones so they can always see what they have

planned. This will be a huge help for them.

8. Train your replacement: You need to delegate authority and responsibility to others. If you aren't taking vacations because you don't have anyone else who can do your job, consider this a giant red flag and a flashing red light that you are heading for disaster.

9. Get rid of time suckers: Your time is precious and you don't have much to waste. The problem is that most of us do waste time when we are finally at home with the family.

10. Set workday deadlines: Many work late to make up for their inefficient use of time. They work less in more time when the best employees work more in less time.

More hours doesn't always equal more work. Get more done in less time, so you have more time for family.

Conclusion :

Glorifying God Through Our Work,
Loving People Through Our Work
and Making a Difference Through
Our Work!



Dr. John Paul Pulipati, B.E, M.E, Ph.D. Principal at Ellenki College of Engineering & Technology, Hyderabad, TS, is an author of several textbooks on ECE widely used in colleges across India and abroad. He was a Bapatla EU student (1981-86). He is married to Dr. Kezia, who is also an associate professor. They are active EGF members at Hyderabad. They are blessed with son Dr. Daniel Paul and daughter Christiana Shiny who are working in USA. You can reach him at jppulipati@gmail.com



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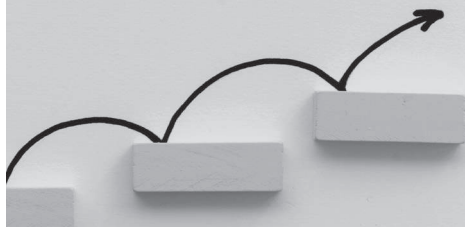
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[Dr. I. Joshua, former staff worker of UESI, is the founder and director of Marina Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Religion (MCISR).]

Strategic Steps in Academics



Merriam - Webster defines strategy as a “careful plan and method to achieve a specific goal.” But why do we need a strategy? In fact to create strategies, one ought to invest time in planning, take other factors into consideration like commitments, obstacles, priorities and break down the plan into smaller steps. But you might ask, *“Why not just go with the flow? Why do I need a strategy for academic success in the first place?”* You may answer promptly, *“Well, to achieve the goal!”*

Once you are clear with *why* you want to achieve this goal that you are working towards, you will become serious to achieve the goal for a deeper purpose.

Having a strategy provides one with a sense of direction and coupled with actionable steps, it enables one to have right priorities. One will then allocate resources accordingly.

Most importantly, it leaves no room for ambiguity and gives the person a sense of clarity and the drive and guidance to accomplish the goal. (Chirgwin, 2016)

Now for the “*how*” i.e. various strategies in academics for fruitful learning. One of them is incorporating study techniques like active learning, summarization, spaced repetition, mind mapping, mnemonics, flashcards, pomodoro technique and so on.

Active learning is primarily defined as instructional activities assigned by the teacher who acts as a guide, engaging students in doing interactive tasks rather than passively listening to the expert and taking down notes.

This culminates in not just learning per se but rather a nuanced understanding of the subject or topic of study. It involves participation through group discussions, review-

ing research studies in class, group projects to conduct workshops, presentation, self-reflection and moreover thinking critically about those tasks (Bonwell & Eison, 1991).

Summarization is another technique that helps students identify essential ideas that are relevant, focus on key words and phrases and consolidate key details. (*Classroom strategies*).

Spaced repetition is a scientifically proven method that involves reviewing information at closer intervals, boosting your memory, and making it less likely that you will forget everything. Studies show it can significantly improve learning and reduce the time spent studying. The 2357 method, precisely talks about doing the revision not on a daily basis but with few days of break in between which is technically known as spaced repetition. (Birmingham City University).

Pomodoro technique is quite popular as it gives the student the liberty to choose the number of hours one wants to study and later that duration is broken down into each session for example 25 minutes session coupled with five minutes break. It helps one to stay focused without getting distracted as it gives breaks in completion of a 25 minutes session which acts as a reward for staying

consistent in each session which motivates oneself.

The other component in achieving academic success is to put the available resources to use such as libraries, online tools, tutoring, workshops, seminars, professors, online websites like coursera, udemy, and experts on the campus, etc.

Visiting libraries as a student ought to be part of the academic journey as it is very helpful in building new knowledge and it is cost-effective too. For assignments, libraries are a great place to finish them on time and layer them with secondary critical material apart from the primary material as reference. It helps in staying away from the screen and focus meaningfully on the work if one seriously struggles with screen time.

Online spaces too facilitate an enhanced academic learning through online tools such as Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science which are three popular academic research databases that have wide access to scholarly articles, journals, theses, books, conference papers and full texts that support as good secondary material after the primary materials like the text books and original theories. It is important that students source their knowledge from research papers as it is supported by credible, evidence-based, experts in

the field, making sure the knowledge is accurate and reliable, unlike information from less scholarly sources. When we use AI tools as ChatGpt to get the work done swiftly without much work but just with one click of the finger to derive the knowledge, we acquire half- baked knowledge that lacks depth and the nuances.

Building a college network starts from being active on the campus by being a part of societies, clubs, events, planning, event management teams, workshops, academic seminars and later you may want to go and attend college events, seminars at different campuses for a diverse perspective and broad network. It requires the student to invest time in interacting with experts like the faculty members, field experts who come to college, supervisors from the internships, alumni, fellow classmates and even find people relevant to one's field from linkedIn. It provides with growth opportunities, learning new skills, acquiring knowledge from them and most importantly staying updated about the job market — requirements, reality check and the present scenario therefore helping to prepare oneself accordingly. (Indeed, 2024)

Possessing knowledge itself is not enough if one does not know the

art of sharing it. There are two types of skills associated with effectively sharing knowledge. **Core skills encompass critical thinking skills, communication skills and technical skills. “Critical thinking is the practice of solving problems, among other qualities ... a term used by educators to describe forms of learning, thought, and analysis that go beyond the memorization and recalling of information and facts.** Critical thinking occurs when students are analysing, evaluating, interpreting, or synthesising information and applying creative thought to form an argument, solve a problem, or reach a conclusion”. Master (2022)

Communication is the art of articulating the given piece of information or rather the critical opinion, effectively, coherently and with clarity, refined language and terminologies relevant to the subject and moreover being able to convince the listeners or readers. (Master, 2022)

Technical skills are relevant to each field of study and that must be acquired like the style of writing — MLA, APA, Chicago, building a resume, CV, statistical tools like JAMOWI, NVIVO, SPSS, software skills like MSWORD, MSEXCEL, PPT, coding languages like JAVA, PYTHON and so on.

Soft skills include emotional intelligence, adaptability and teamwork. The Cambridge dictionary refers to it as, "People's abilities to communicate with each other and work well together".

Emotional intelligence is an important skill of managing one's own emotions and understanding the emotions of others. This intelligence requires five key elements: *self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and social skills*. This is cultivated over time to effectively handle conflicts with the superiors, classmates, be emotionally self-regulated and helps to develop good interpersonal relationships. As college students, it helps a lot while working with team members in a group assignment, in managing one's own

emotions, managing exam stress and enables one to better focus and concentrate. Carolyn MacCann, Yixin Jiang and Luke E. R. Brown

Team work is a great skill to possess because through collaboration with different minds, new ideas and perspectives emerge which is better than having one idea. It also broadens one's horizon as one can learn through critical thinking and by allowing one's point of view to be challenged thereby learning new ideas. Team work results in an effective work because many people are joining hands working towards a shared goal.

Having acquired the knowledge, skillset, exposure, network, experience, achievements and so on, it is essential to consolidate them all in



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a portfolio which is a compilation of academic and professional materials that will highlight the skills, qualifications, education, training and experiences.

In a nutshell, there is a plethora of strategies and techniques for excelling in academics, but having a clear explanation to the 'why' for what you are intending to do as a disciple of Christ will position your

heart in the right posture, set the priorities straight and motivate you to develop strategies that will help you give your best for God because Eccl 9:10 says, "Whatever your hand finds to do, verily, do it with all your might." So whether you eat or drink, or whatever (study) you do, do everything for the glory of God, 1 Cor 10:31.



S. Wiselyn Amy is pursuing MSc in Wellness Counselling Psychology at Jyoti Nivas College, Bangalore. She unwinds by reading, writing and music, loves socializing and listening to thought-provoking discussions. She leads the Bible studies at her college EU cell group and she is a student member of BCSE ICEU, Bangalore. She can be reached at amy98spencer@gmail.com



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STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENT

Steering Academics and Profession with Direction

*Wise Decisions, Brighter Tomorrow —
Becoming an Education and Career
Strategy Master*

Discovering one's way in life is an inevitable process. Though it is no wonder that every person has to find their way ahead, accomplishing one's objectives most optimally can be confusing and daunting. You are not alone if you are unsure of your academic and professional path. Many young people struggle with identifying their dreams, much less creating a good plan to make them happen.

The world keeps changing, and the old way of working hard is not enough. Both academic and career success demand a well-planned strategy, effective planning, and

perpetual self-enhancement. To guide you through this journey, we have summarized important principles that will lead you to success, while keeping in mind biblical wisdom to strengthen and encourage you.

Set a Clear Goal

The initial and most crucial step in any successful path is having a clear target. Without purpose, it's easy to lose direction and waste time on endeavours that do not help you progress. As Prov 29:18 states, *"Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction."*

Having a goal provides motivation, clarity, and purpose.

Ask yourself:

- What do I aim to accomplish scholastically?
- What job is most fascinating to me?
- Where would I like to be in 5 to 10 years?

Dividing your dreams into short-term and long-term goals helps make them achievable. Your short-term goal might be enhancing your marks in a specific subject, while your long-term goal might be getting a degree or securing a job in your desired company. *“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans”* (Prov 16:3). Let your ambitions be aligned with God’s plan for your life.

Manage Time Wisely

The quote, *“Time is money”* is true, particularly in the fast-paced world we live in today. Time is a limited resource, and how you use it will reflect on the level of your success. The Bible reminds us in Eph 5:16 to *“Make the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”* Wise time management ensures that you stay productive and focused.

Good time management entails:

- Prioritization – Determine the urgent and important activities.
- Scheduling – Plan your days, weeks, and months.
- Procrastination avoidance – Divide large tasks into smaller ones to accomplish them efficiently.

Students often struggle with last-minute cramming, leading to stress and poor grades. Similarly, professionals may miss deadlines due to

poor planning. Through effective time management, you minimize stress, enhance productivity, and leave space for self-development.

Learning and Improving Continuously

The world is changing rapidly, and new technologies and information keep emerging. To stay ahead, continuous learning is necessary. Prov 1:5 says, *“Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance.”* The more you invest in education, the more doors of opportunity open up for you.

Here’s how you can continue to develop yourself:

- Read books, articles, and research papers in your area of expertise.
- Pursue online courses or certifications to improve your skill set.
- Stay updated on industry trends and breakthroughs.
- Seek mentorship and feedback to sharpen your knowledge.

Employers and educational institutions appreciate individuals who demonstrate curiosity and flexibility. In a competitive job market, having more skills than your degree can help you stand out.

Build Strong Networks

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another” (Prov 27:17).



The value of networking cannot be overstated. Building meaningful relationships with mentors, peers, and professionals can accelerate growth and open doors to unexpected opportunities.

Here's how to establish and develop a robust network:

- Surround yourself with like-minded, ambitious individuals.
- Network with mentors, teachers, and professionals in your field.
- Attend seminars, webinars, and networking events.

- Join student organizations, online forums, or professional societies.

Many individuals hesitate to reach out to successful people for fear of rejection. However, the majority of professionals welcome the chance to mentor young upstarts. With the right attitude and questions, networking can lead to lifelong mentorship and invaluable career advice.

Get Practical Experience

While theoretical knowledge is foundational, practical experience sharpens your skills and prepares

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you for real-world challenges. *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters”* (Col 3:23). Excellence in your work is a testimony of your dedication and faith.

Ways to gain hands-on experience:

- Internships – Gain exposure to industry operations.
- Volunteering – Engage in community service or projects to hone leadership skills.
- Personal Projects – Work on independent projects, research, or freelancing to apply what you’ve learned.
- Part-time Jobs – Gain professional exposure while studying.

Today, employers prefer candidates who have work experience over degree, as it demonstrates initiative and the ability to apply knowledge in real-life situations. Even small projects or internships can make a significant difference in building your resume.

Final Thoughts: Work Smart, Not Just Hard

Academic and professional success is not merely about putting in long hours — it’s about working smart. Strategic planning, effective time management, ongoing learning, networking, and hands-on experience collectively create the formula for a successful future.

Prov 16:9 reminds us, *“In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”*

As you strive for success, remain prayerful and trust that God will guide your journey. Set your objectives, prioritize your time, continuously learn, form valuable connections, and seek hands-on experience. The effort you put in today will shape the opportunities of tomorrow. Your future self will thank you for the seeds you sow today!

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Prov 3:5-6).



Mezuho Belho is studying Master of Computer Application (MCA) in NIELIT, Aizawl. He is the Secretary for NIELIT-EU, Zuangtui, Aizawl, Mizoram. He attended DTC in 2023 and SLTC in June 2024, and he was part of a camp committee of EC and DTC organized by Aizawl ICEU.

TESTIMONY - Steven Jones

The EU has consistently provided me with unwavering support to this day! I was introduced to the EU by my friend Allan Shawn. I joined the EU in 2022.

I was born in a Christian family so doubt about God's existence was nil but yet I had not accepted Him as my personal Saviour. My past was nothing short of a nightmare. On the 14th of Sep 2021, on my birthday, I met with a car accident. I tried to get out of this misery but sunk deep into despair through the influence of my friends. In order to repay the bills of the car, I was influenced to lend money, also gamble in the IPL and much more. I fell into debt and then only I chose to inform my parents as well as my friends' parents. Consuming liquor started becoming a habit where earlier my friends forced me to drink by giving me juice mixed with alcohol which I spat. After reaching home, questioning God about all this became a big question mark for me. God answered me by leading me to attend an EU camp. Every session spoke to me. There I gave my life to Christ and accepted Him as my Lord and Saviour.

I started attending the EU fellowship regularly and it was not shortly after that, God started using me as a Secretary in the EU!!

Then after completing my PU, I wanted to pursue my studies in the medical field; but my marks weren't good enough to fetch an MBBS seat. I took a year's break in Mangalore. It was one week prior to the exam that God spoke to me during my quiet time through Heb 11:39-40, "and all these through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had decided on an even better plan for us ..." I was shocked and prayed to God asking, "Why this ... on my exam day (5th May)?" I was very sick and vomited all the way to my exam centre. I was very disappointed and failed once again since I did not score the required marks.

But I forgot that it was me who failed, not God!

I came back to my hometown (Bidar). I was so blessed to have godly people from the EU and EGF around me praying and uplifting me during those dark times. I tried every other way for MBBS, then searched for all the other degrees by putting God first. Then I ended up searching for an engineering college. My kcet rank was 76426.

This was not enough to secure a seat in a good college but this is where God was so gracious to me and blessed me with an admission into

'Don Bosco Institute of Technology', a reputed college, whose cutoff was 40k last year. I never deserved this blessing but He made me deserving and blessed me to score the highest marks in all of my exams. He is also using me as a vessel to share the good news in the campus, and is also using me in the BSW EU for His Glory.

If I look back now, I would never be able to express the gratitude I have for EU, for raising me and moulding me into a masterpiece!

I've been a vessel of God in the EU for more than 2 years now.

My only message through my testimony is,

"He giveth more grace when burdens grow greater,

He sendeth more strength when trials increase,

His Love has no limits, His Grace no measure,

For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, giveth and giveth again!"

We need to be patient and listen to His call.

May this testimony be a beacon for His glory and His Kingdom.



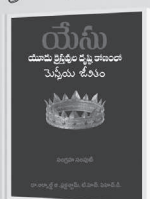
Steven Jones, is pursuing Engineering in Don Bosco Institute of Technology, Bangalore. He is an EU Student of BSW EU. He accepted Jesus as his Personal Saviour through UESI in 2022. UESI helped him in following Christ and making life Christ Centered. It has given him many opportunities to build leadership qualities and to lead a witnessing life. He was an EU secretary in Bidar. He can be reached at stevenjones14@gmail.com

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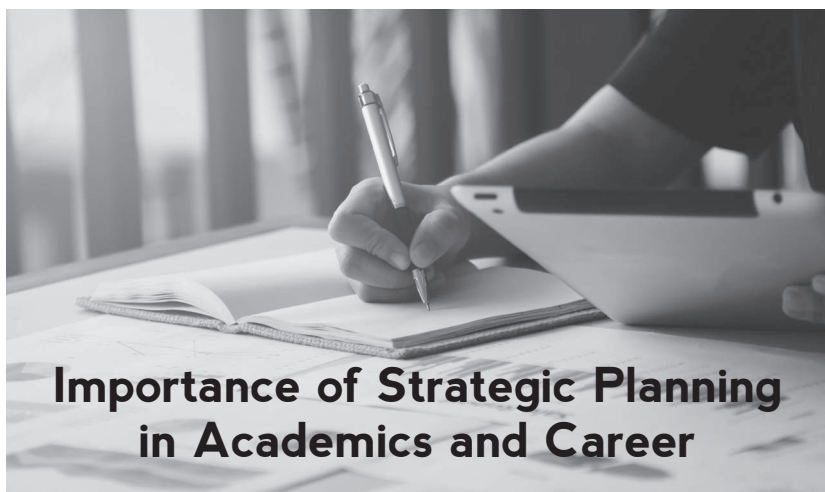
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Importance of Strategic Planning in Academics and Career

In today's fast-paced world, students often find themselves overwhelmed with academic pressure and career expectations. Success in these areas requires more than just intelligence or luck; it demands strategic planning, discipline, and perseverance. This article explores the biblical foundations of strategy and planning and their importance in academics and career development.

1.1 God as a Planner

God is the ultimate planner, and His works reflect purpose and foresight. Scripture affirms that He has plans for each person's life, giving them hope and a future.

Jer 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This verse reminds us that God's plans are for our good,

even when circumstances seem uncertain.

Prov 16:9 states, "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." While we make plans, God ultimately directs our steps, ensuring His will prevails. As students, setting academic and career goals is important, but trusting God's guidance is essential.

Stewardship: Managing Time, Talents, and Resources Wisely

Stewardship is about managing God-given resources responsibly, including time, skills, and opportunities.

Mt 25:14-30 (The Parable of the Talents) illustrates that God expects us to use our gifts well. Those who do are rewarded, while those who waste them miss out on His blessings.

God calls us to wisely use our time, talents, and resources. This means prioritizing studies, choosing careers carefully, and using talents effectively. By doing so, students align with God's plan and make the most of what He has given them.

1.2 Diligence: Hard Work and Commitment

Success requires dedication, effort, and persistence. Diligence is key to excellence in studies, work, and personal growth.

Prov 10:4 warns, "Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth." This means that consistent effort leads to prosperity, while neglect leads to struggles.

Col 3:23 teaches, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." This verse encourages us to pursue excellence and integrity in all our work.

Diligence means staying committed even when challenges arise. Hard work and faithfulness reflect God's character and open doors to greater opportunities.

2. Importance of Strategy in Academics and Career

Success in academics and career development requires a strategic approach. Here are key reasons why strategy is crucial:

2.1 Purpose: Knowing Strengths, Passions, and Goals

A smart approach starts with self-awareness. Students should recognize their strengths, interests, and goals to avoid distractions or paths that don't align with God's plan.

Reflecting on strengths and weaknesses helps in making wise study and career choices. Setting short-term and long-term goals provides a clear roadmap for success.

2.2 Efficiency: Maximizing Time, Effort, and Opportunities

Efficiency means making the most of every opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

- A study plan helps students prepare well for exams without feeling overwhelmed.
- Setting priorities reduces stress and improves productivity.
- Seeking internships, mentorships, and networking opens doors for career growth.

2.3 Adaptability: Staying Flexible Amid Changes

Life is unpredictable, and unexpected challenges arise. A well-thought-out strategy includes flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances.

Prov 19:21 reminds us, "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it



is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Trusting Him helps navigate change with confidence.

- Adjusting study habits when faced with difficulties ensures progress.
- In career planning, being open to new opportunities and industry trends helps students stay relevant.

Adaptability allows students to grow and succeed despite uncertainties.

2.4 Competitive Edge: Standing Out with Preparation and Execution

A strong strategy helps students excel academically and in their careers.

- Employers value candidates with clear goals, experience, and initiative.
- Well-prepared students perform better in exams, interviews, and job applications.
- Leadership skills and extracurricular activities enhance a student's profile and create new opportunities.

2.5 Resilience: Overcoming Challenges with Confidence

Resilience helps students stay focused, adapt, and move forward with confidence.

- Viewing failures as learning opportunities builds character and problem-solving skills.

- Trusting God's plan provides strength and perseverance during tough times.
- Learning from past experiences refines strategies for future success.

2.6 Long-Term Success: Building a Sustainable Future

Success is not just about short-term achievements but about lasting growth.

- Academically, a solid foundation supports lifelong learning.
- Career-wise, continuous growth and skill development open doors to meaningful opportunities. Spiritually, combining faith with work brings purpose and fulfillment. Strategic planning builds a future that is both stable and rewarding.

Conclusion

Academics and career development require more than just talent; they demand careful planning, wise stewardship, and commitment. Aligning personal efforts with God's guidance leads to success while honoring Him.

Planning is not about controlling the future but preparing wisely while trusting God's direction. As students seek excellence in their studies and career paths, they can find encouragement in Prov 3:5-6:

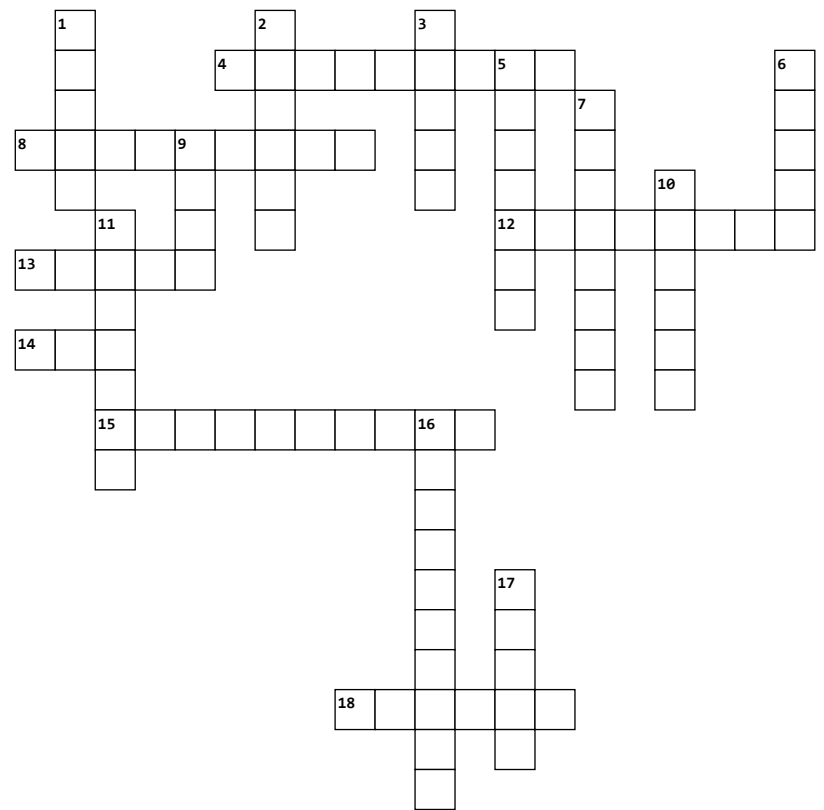
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

By applying biblical principles to strategy and planning, students can make wise decisions, stay confident in challenges, and trust God’s guidance for their future.



Abinison is pursuing B.Sc. Physics (Hons) Final year from Chandigarh University. He is the Treasurer of ICEU Chandigarh. He can be reached at abin11136@gmail.com

Puzzle - Academic & Career



Across

4. Proverbs say this leads to abundance; laziness leads to poverty.
8. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of this.
12. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths _____. (Proverbs 3:6)
13. The root of many kinds of evil, when loved excessively (1 Timothy 6:10).
14. This insect is praised in Proverbs 6 for its hard work and planning.
15. Daniel had this excellent quality that made him rise in his career.
18. The plans of the diligent lead to _____. (Proverbs 21:5)

Rush, fill up your correct answers in the boxes, take photograph (Pg. 33) and send us along with your details such as name, place, EU/EGf&mobile no. to ruthsimoncollins1997@gmail.com/9841826902 before 20th March. The names of first 10 winners will be published in the upcoming issue and the first 3 winners will get Campus Link Magazine for one year (free subscription).

Down

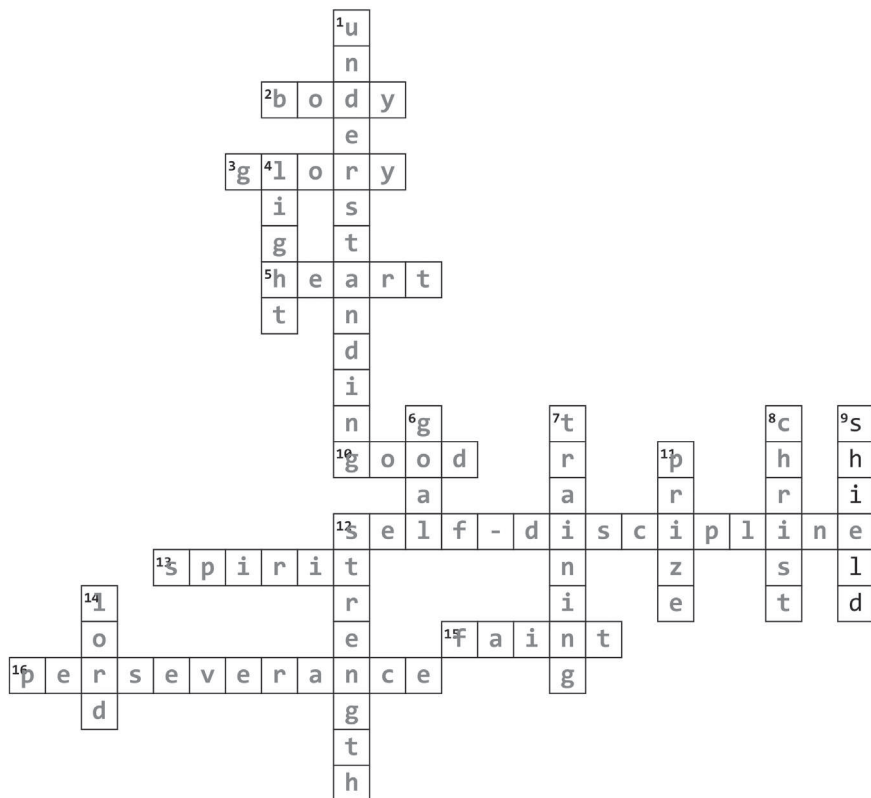
1. "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your ____." (Proverbs 16:3)
2. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of _____. (Proverbs 9:10)
3. According to Colossians 3:23, work at everything with all your _____.
5. Proverbs 15:22 says "Plans fail for lack of _____, but with many advisers they succeed."
6. Jesus said if you want to build a tower, first do this to see if you have enough.
7. Paul tells Timothy to "study to show yourself _____ unto God."
9. The Bible encourages us to be diligent and avoid being _____. (Proverbs 6:6)
10. Without _____ the people perish. (Proverbs 29:18)
11. Iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens _____. (Proverbs 27:17)
16. God told Joshua to be strong and _____, because he would lead Israel.
17. He was a shepherd boy who became king—known for strategic thinking and courage.

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Answers for the Puzzle on Fit for Christ

Last Issue CL Jan - Feb 2024



Across

- ✓2. "Do you not know that your ___ is a temple of the Holy Spirit?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- ✓3. "Whatever you do, do it all for the ___ of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- ✓5. "A cheerful ___ is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." (Proverbs 17:22)
- ✓10. "Let us not become weary in doing ___, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)
- ✓12. "Walk by the ___ and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)
- ✓13. "He gives power to the ___ and increases strength to the weak." (Isaiah 40:29)
- ✓15. "He gives power to the ___ and increases strength to the weak." (Isaiah 40:29)
- ✓16. "Let us run with ___ the race marked out for us." (Hebrews 12:1)

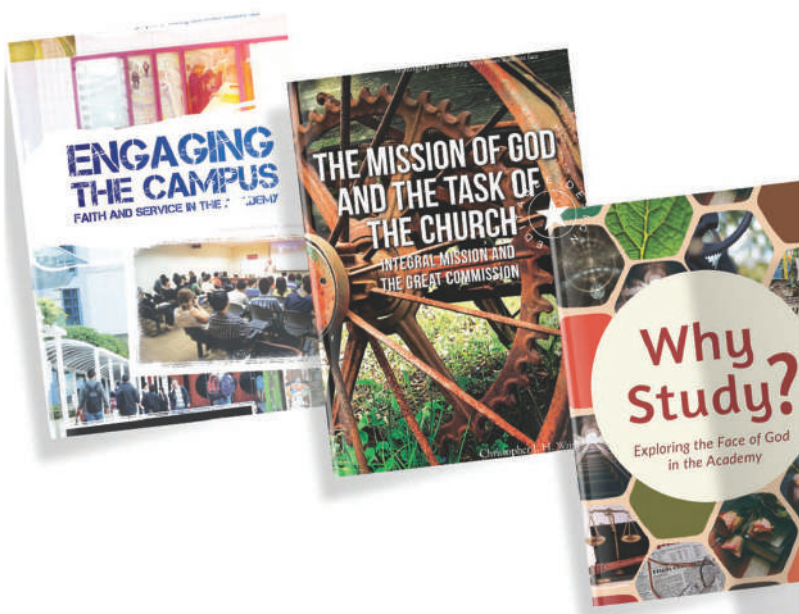
Down

- ✓1. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own ___." (Proverbs 3:5)
- ✓4. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a ___ for my path." (Psalm 119:105)
- ✓6. "I press on toward the ___ to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)
- ✓7. "Physical ___ is of some value, but godliness has value for all things." (1 Timothy 4:8)
- ✓8. "I can do all things through ___ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)
- ✓9. "The Lord is my strength and my ___; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me." (Psalm 28:7)
- ✓11. "Run in such a way as to get the ___." (1 Corinthians 9:24)
- ✓12. "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their ___; they will soar on wings like eagles." (Isaiah 40:31)
- ✓14. "Be strong in the ___ and in His mighty power." (Ephesians 6:10)



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