

Reverse-Engineering Your Life

© 2005 Mark Driscoll and Jon Phelps All rights reserved.

Guiding Principles

- Rule #1: Your life is a checkbook and you write a check every day
- Rule #2: You must see the macro before the micro
- Rule #3: To see the macro you need faith and an imagination
- Rule #4: If you are going to dream, dream big
- Rule #5: You must have a plan and it must be written down
- Rule #6: You must count the cost
- Rule #7: Positive negativity is key (you need a safe place to contemplate the downside)
- Rule #8: Premeditated fun must be in your plan
- Rule #9: A unified team is the only way to succeed

Step #1: Write out your 7 priorities and prioritize them in order of importance

Step #2: Pick a day for yourself, your family, and your ministry in the future and envision that day. To do so, answer as many pertinent, specific questions about life on that day as you can reasonably generate. Examples include:

Health

- How much will you weigh?
- How much will you exercise weekly?
- What will have changed about your appearance?
- How many hours of sleep will you average a night?
- How many times a week will you nap?
- On which day will you Sabbath?
- What do your vacations and holidays look like?
- Other?

Practical

- Where do you live?
- What are the features of your home (e.g. parking for guests, square footage, size of yard, number of bedrooms, home study, hardwood floors, air conditioning, etc)?
- What vehicle will you drive?
- What furniture and appliances will you have gotten rid of or acquired?
- Other?

Financial

- What is your job?
- Where do you work?
- How much money do you make?
- How is your money spent?
- How is your money saved?
- How is your money invested?

- How is your money tithed?
- What is your insurance, medical, and dental package?
- Other?

Marriage

- How often do you pray together?
- When is your date night?
- How do you take better care of one another?
- Why has your love grown?
- How has your home become a place for unplanned connecting?
- What brings you together?
- Other?

Sexuality

- What have you and your spouse experimented with?
- How often are you intimate?
- What things are different?
- How have you and your spouse changed physically and sexually?
- What is different about your bedroom?
- Other?

Family

- How many children will you have?
- How old will your children be?
- How will they be educated at that time?
- What special attention will each child need regarding their maturation up to that day?
- Which family and friends are you closest with as a family?
- Other?

Extended Family

- Which close relatives are not living?
- What is your relationship like with each close family member (e.g. mom, dad, brother, sister, grandparent, etc)?
- How are families related to vacations and holidays?
- What has changed with your extended family?
- Other?

Friends

- Who are your closest friends?
- Which people have you dropped as friends?
- What things do you do with your friends?
- Who no longer has your direct phone number and/or email?
- Other?

Learning

- What areas have you studied deeply?

- How many books have you read by that date? What are some of the titles?
- What other learning experiences have shaped you (e.g. conferences, mentors, spiritual disciplines, etc)?
- How many minutes do you read each day?
- Other?

Ministry

- How big is your church?
- Where does it meet?
- How many services do you have?
- How many people are on staff?
- How is your leadership structured?
- How many personal assistants do you have and what do they do?
- What is your church budget?
- How many nights a week are you out for ministry?
- How many days a year do you travel?
- What things are you no longer doing?
- What new responsibilities have you picked up?
- Other?

Changes

- What 3 things do you hope have changed with your spouse? Yourself? Your ministry?
- What top 3 emotion-, time-, and energy-wasters do you need to drop immediately?
- What 3 changes in your life would make the biggest difference?
- What 3 things do you need the most (e.g. new car, computer, home office, cell phone, high-speed wi-fi at home, etc)?
- What obstacles are keeping you from living by your convictions (e.g. a cluttered house, no budget, lack of prayer time, etc)?

People

- List the people who are wasting your time and how many hours a month or year they take.

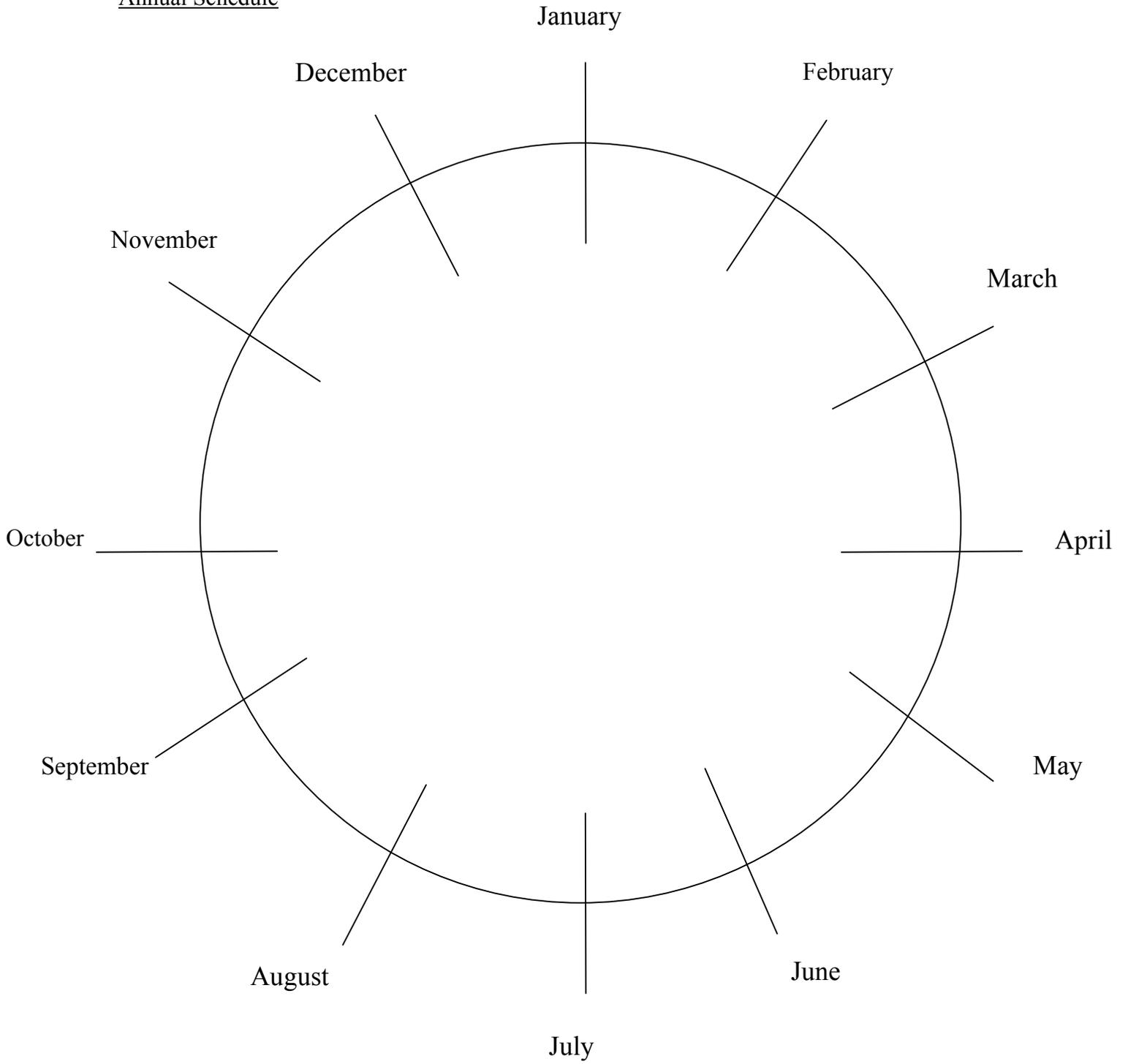
Things

- List the things you need (e.g. workout equipment at home or a gym membership, new appliances, car, computer, clothing, furniture, bed, etc).

Handing Off

- List all the things you can hand off to someone else (e.g. ordering groceries online and having them delivered, mowing your lawn, doing your taxes, household projects, watching kids, running errands, outsourcing dry cleaning and ironing, scheduling appointments, answering your phone, etc).

Annual Schedule



Weekly Schedule

- What does your weekly schedule look like in light of your priorities?
- What changes must be made?
- What does a typical week look like?

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5:00 am							
6:00 am							
7:00 am							
8:00 am							
9:00 am							
10:00 am							
11:00 am							
12:00 pm							
1:00 pm							
2:00 pm							
3:00 pm							
4:00 pm							
5:00 pm							
6:00 pm							
7:00 pm							
8:00 pm							
9:00 pm							
10:00 pm							
11:00 pm							
12:00 am							
1:00 am							
2:00 am							
3:00 am							
4:00 am							

Staying on Mission

Question #1: Can you do it?

1. Something you think you can control and you can = DO IT	3. Something you think you can control and you can't = LET IT GO
2. Something you think you can't control and you can = DO IT	4. Something you think you can't control and you can't = LET IT GO

Question #2: Should you do it?

Quadrant 2 These things are important and urgent. These are sudden crisis and critical things that demand to be done right away and must be done.	Quadrant 1 These are things that are important and not urgent. They need to be done, but do not need to be done right now. These items are often the most easily overlooked.
Quadrant 3 These things are not important but are urgent, often because they are important to someone else who is seeking to make them important to others. These items are the most deceiving because this person's pleading or demands can cause time and energy to be wasted.	Quadrant 4 These things are not important and not urgent and therefore simply a waste of time and energy.

Taken from Covey's "First Things"

The key is to regularly assess your schedule and work in 1 and 2 and get out of 3 and 4. For example, in 1 is fundraising, leadership development, facilities, etc. If 1 is not done, then the important matter slips into 2 and becomes urgent because it has reached a crisis phase. The problem is that the leader must be the umpire and decide what is important and what is urgent and not allow people to take his time with 3 and 4 when such things can be done by someone else, or should not be done at all.

Question #3: Are you working from guilt or conviction?

Question #4: Should you have a "to do" list or a priority list each day?

Question #5: What good is it to put something on your daily priority list if you don't plan to do it?

Question #6: Why do we exchange results for busyness?

Question #7: Why do we let the software and organizational tools enslave us?

Question #8: Where is your grass catcher list of priorities to do in the future?

Question #9: Why not work 2/3 of each day (7am-12pm, 12pm-5pm, 5pm-10pm)?

Question #10: Mark out your relationship lanes (e.g. friend, counselee, acquaintance, employee, etc).