

Living Forward Life Plan Example

Rachel

Eulogy

Rachel is absolutely the sweetest person I have ever met. She always had a smile on her face and had such a positive outlook on life. Since she was a little girl, Rachel had spunk about her that wouldn't quit. Her "overachiever syndrome" was evident from an early age and was further corroborated when she was selected as Most Likely to Succeed of her high-school senior class. Eager to get out into the educational workforce, she completed her undergraduate degree in only three years and graduated with her MSE plus 30 shortly thereafter.

Rachel was a phenomenal educator. She *loved* her students with her entire being and tirelessly poured into their development. She structured her classroom as a safe learning environment where her students felt worth within their classroom community. She later served in administration roles both as an instructional technology director and assistant principal in order to broaden her impact on student achievement. Even years later, she stayed connected with former students and continued to pour into them.

Rachel excelled in making others feel worth and dignity and made all who encountered her feel as if they could conquer the world. Through building relationships, she developed a strong and loyal customer base, many of whom became personal friends and valued her as a true partner and colleague.

Rachel excelled as an educational sales rep, never missing a given sales quota and always exceeding her given goal. She was passionate about education and strove to see children succeed! She was loyal to her customers and them to her. She was seen as a solid partner for schools and districts as well as a respected colleague.

There was a genuineness about Rachel that is not commonly found. She lit up a room when entering. Anyone she encountered was always glad to see her. She was sincere, encouraging, and had the kindest heart I knew.

Rachel's faith grounded and centered everything she did. Despite walking through difficulties, she maintained a positive outlook and firmly held to the fact that her Father was

working good on her behalf. She chose to use her pain and weaknesses to tirelessly pour into others. She was adamant her pain not be in vain and be used as a catalyst for growth in herself and others. Rachel lived in a constant state of improvement.

Her love for Jesus was also exemplified in the missions work she participated in over the course of her life. For as long as I remember, Rachel served in the local church in some capacity. In her thirties, after completing many mission trips domestically, she opened her heart to a country in Central America desperately needing the hope and love only Jesus can bring. Rachel fell in love with Guatemala and served many missions here.

Rachel loved her family. She was a daughter, sister, aunt, niece, and cousin and enjoyed spending any and all time she could with her family, whether close or distant. Her mom, Naomi, and her sister, Tanya, were truly her two best friends. She would have rather spent time with them than anyone else in the world. The three of them maintained a deep, close, and personal relationship.

In the little spare time she found, Rachel loved to play tennis and work in her yard. She found great joy in the outdoors and living in the sunshine. She was also an avid reader with a voracious desire to soak in new knowledge and information.

Rachel was truly a unique individual on many levels. It is a rarity to find someone so dedicated, so trustworthy, so caring, and so incredibly genuine.

Action Plans

Account 1: God

Envisioned future: I want to fully serve God, walking in his divine will and purpose. I want to be used magnificently to grow his kingdom and share his love and hope with others.

Purpose: My purpose is to live my life in a way so there is no question of my faith or loyalty to my Savior. I want others to see him in me and know where my joy and hope lies. My purpose is to exude Jesus.

Specific commitments:

- Spend a minimum of thirty minutes per day in quiet time and prayer.

- Read one spirit-filled book per month.
- Have continuous conversations with God throughout the day about anything and everything.
- Attend one Christ-centered conference per year.

Obstacles:

- Hectic schedule sometimes gets in the way of quality quiet time.
- Since I typically read at night, exhaustion sometimes replaces reading, and I choose to sleep.

Account 2: Me

Envisioned future: I am happy, living a life of freedom, flexibility, and service. I am continuously investing in myself and growing intellectually and spiritually while maintaining my mental and physical health.

Purpose: My purpose is to live a positive and encouraging life displaying the love of Christ in every aspect.

Specific commitments:

- Take one “unplugged” day per month.
- Continue coaching and development of my life plan to become the best me.
- Have quiet time on Sunday afternoons to relax and be at peace.
- Allow for two weekends a year for a trip alone to rest, recoup, and spend time with the Lord.
- Attend the 2015 World Domination Summit to be around like-minded, entrepreneurial people.

Obstacle:

- The largest obstacle to this account is overextending myself with work and personal commitments. More often than not, this account gets placed by the wayside and is not

made a priority.

Account 3: Family

Envisioned future: I am a devoted daughter, taking care of my parents as they age. I owe them immensely for molding and shaping me into the person I am today. It is my heart's desire to spend as much quality time with them as possible, being available when needed to assist with life events. My siblings and their families are very much a part of my life, and I am also available to assist them physically, emotionally, etc. In addition, extended family also plays a big role in my life. I desire to be loyal and a support system for them when needed.

Purpose: My purpose is to highly prioritize my family and their needs. Our time on Earth is limited and I will love my family well and deep for the time I am blessed to have them.

Specific commitments:

- Be more patient with my parents as they age. Understanding mental/health struggles they face and will face.
- Take meaningful trips with my parents, providing for expenses they cannot afford.
- Spend one weekend a month with my parents (this will be hard until I can move closer).
- Spend two weekends a year with my sister at her home and trips together as our schedules allow.
- Text/talk with my brother and his wife. This is a huge step, as we have never communicated regularly. No reason why—just life has gotten in the way. I need to develop and build a solid relationship with both of them.
- Attend extended family events at least twice a year.
- Have consistent communication with extended relatives.

Obstacles:

- Lack of time
- Distance
- Coordination of schedules

Account 4: Service

Envisioned future: My service is not limited by full-time employment, and is only limited by the hours in the day. I am serving in the local church and community as well as internationally to spread the love and hope of Jesus.

Purpose: My Father has immensely blessed me, and while I can never fully repay him for his goodness and mercy, my purpose is to share his love and hope with all I encounter.

Specific commitments:

- Attend “Feed the Need” two Saturday nights a month.
- Serve in international missions at least twice a year.
- Host dinners in my home to bless others who are less fortunate, are down-and-out, or simply need encouragement.
- Actively seek out and pray about other opportunities to serve in the local church and community.

Obstacle:

- Retention of a full-time “employed” job will reduce the amount and quality of time I am to serve.

Account 5: Career

Envisioned future: I am self-employed, freeing me up to live a life of service that lends greater purpose for the kingdom. I blog, encouraging others whom have walked a similar path, sharing the love and hope my Father has graciously showered upon me. I have multiple real-estate holdings which allow for passive income. As time allows, I travel nationally and internationally providing professional development opportunities for educators and also maintain an independent sales relationship with my current company. I also maintain a booth at an antique store where I sell repurposed/painted furniture and antiques.

Purpose: My purpose is to earn income and fully support myself while being self-employed. This, in turn, will open me up for greater flexibility and opportunities for service and for growing his Kingdom.

Specific commitments:

- Become fully self-employed in 2015.
- Purchase one rental property in 2015.
- Begin blogging in 2015.
- Secure booth space in an antique store.
- Use industry connections to gain per diem work opportunities.

Obstacles:

- False sense of security of being employed full-time drives fear.
- Many opportunities and choices make it difficult to select a path.

Account 6: Personal Relationships

Envisioned future: While my span of relationships is very broad, I am a close and loyal friend to a small handful. I invest in others continuously, but I have a core group of friends that “sticks closer than a brother.” I am trustworthy and dependable and available when my core group is in need.

Purpose: My purpose is to develop deep, lasting, and godly relationships with a few very close friends.

Specific commitments:

- Spend a minimum of one night a month with girlfriends.
- Take one annual girlfriends trip.
- Actively reach out to close friends to secure opportunities to pray and minister in their

lives.

- Send notes of encouragement when appropriate.

Obstacles:

- I really like being alone, and it's often easier to relax than to put forth effort into getting ready and attending an event with a friend.
- I often have good intentions to reach out to a friend but get sidetracked or preoccupied.

Account 7: Financial

Envisioned future: I am completely debt-free. Because I was frugal and saved in my early working years, I have a retirement that is able to sustain me. I accept per diem work opportunities on a case-by-case basis. I have passive income being generated through rental properties and blogging. I continue to be a good steward of the resources my Father has lovingly and mercifully blessed me with. I give above and beyond the 10 percent that is required, while also investing in missionaries and other organizations. I don't desire to be "rich" or have things, but I desire to live comfortably and be able to spend time and money on experiences and philanthropic venues.

Purpose: My purpose is to earn income, support myself, and continue to live a life free of debt. In addition, it is my purpose to earn income in order that I may give back to the local church and other faith-based organizations, therefore supporting the growth of the kingdom.

Specific commitments:

- Max out retirement contributions annually.
- Read books (e.g., *Launch* by Jeff Walker, *The 4-Hour Workweek* by Timothy Ferriss) to discover and inspire new ways to generate passive income.
- Maintain a healthy standard of living while taking a large pay cut in exchange for a flexible schedule.
- Give away 20 percent or more of my income annually.

- Meet with a financial advisor to look at the full picture before transitioning into self-employment.

Obstacles:

- If self-employed and income is not steady, retirement and philanthropic contributions could dwindle.
- Unforeseen circumstances could arise, greatly affecting my stable financial situation. This thought sometimes drives fear.

Account 8: Physical Health

Envisioned future: I will maintain a healthy body weight and BMI, supported by a Paleo diet and daily exercise.

Purpose: My body is his temple and my purpose is to keep it functioning for as long as possible so that I may effectively carry out his will and plan.

Specific commitments:

- Walk ten or more miles per week.
- Play tennis two times per week.
- Eat a diet high in protein, fruits, and vegetables and low in carbs.
- Drink five to six bottles of water each day or the equivalent.
- Wear sunscreen if I'm outside for an extended period of time.

Obstacles:

- Travel sometimes prevents me from eating healthy, exercising, and drinking water like I should.
- Lack of time and energy prevents me from playing tennis.

Account 9: Hobbies and Travel

Envisioned future: I have a full life that includes opportunities for travel and leisure. I travel nationally and internationally to experience the wonders the Lord has provided. I am experiencing new cultures that allow for a greater appreciation of life.

Purpose: My purpose is to live a rich, full, and culturally diverse life with an appreciation for simplicity.

Specific commitments:

- Play tennis twice a week.
- Read one to three books per month.
- Travel internationally two to three times per year at minimum for missions and leisure.
- Visit three or more new places in the US each year.
- Maintain a lush, rich, and colorful yard.

Obstacles:

- Hobbies often take a back burner to other work and personal commitments.
- Full-time employment/lack of vacation days prevents me from traveling as I wish.