



Creatures of Habit
Planning to Fail (Proverbs 21:5)
By Pastor David Hillis, 15 January 2017

BIG IDEA: People who fail to plan, plan to fail.

The book of Proverbs speaks, in a number of places, to the importance of planning and being diligent in different areas of life, as a way of honoring God. Proverbs 21:5 is an especially powerful reminder of the importance of planning for all of us who struggle and have given up on making our habits what we want them to be.

“The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.” — *Proverbs 21:5 (ESV)*

Make a plan

- Formulate a plan for not just reading the Bible, but making it a highlight of your day. A plan that gets you through the toughest moments. A plan that actually turns into a habit.
1. **Schedule it.**
 2. **Claim your turf.**
 3. **Start small.**
 4. **Make it your way.**
 5. **Track your progress and reward yourself.**
 6. **There’s strength in numbers.**
 7. **No plan is sacred, or perfect.**
 8. **Plan to fail.**

NEXT STEP:

Do I have a plan that makes my personal time with God work consistently for me?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. Read your first week’s readings as part of the Community Bible Experience. If you prefer, you can download the CBE app, add the CBE readings to your YouVersion Bible app, or listen to it via audio. For all of these resources, go to www.gracetucson.org/cbe-resources.
2. As you do your readings, consider these 5 questions (which will be the 5 questions everyone shares in their book clubs next week):
 1. What’s something you noticed for the first time?
 2. What questions did you have?
 3. Was there anything that bothered you?
 4. What did you learn about loving God?
 5. What did you learn about loving others?
3. If you haven’t signed up for CBE yet, don’t delay! Stop by the church office, or sign up today online at www.gracetucson.org/cbe.