

# Big Rocks Self Coaching Lesson #05 Priority Management

THE STORY:

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A teacher is addressing his class. He fills a jug with big rocks and asks the class if it's full. The class responds with a "Yes". So, he adds pebbles to the jug. He asks again if the jug is full, and again the class responds, "Yes". He says "No" and now adds sand to the jug.

The sand and the pebbles represent the small daily tasks we fill our lives with. If we don't fit our big rocks in first, our lives will fill with only sand and pebbles. BUT if we start with our big rocks, we create room for what's important in life - and the sand and pebbles can only fill the spaces in between.

INSTRUCTIONS: This exercise helps you align how you spend your time with your "real" priorities, your "Big Rocks". Start by answering the questions below, then fill in your big rocks and then complete the final page to see what changes you'll make from what you have learned.

**1. Where or on what do you currently spend most of your time?** (Make a list of whatever jumps into your mind)

i. ....

ii. ....

iii. ....

iv. ....

v. ....

**2. What is the SINGLE biggest thing that ZAPS your time at present?**

..... (We are looking for an unwanted time-zapper here - not things that are a wanted or necessary part of your life)

**3. What NEEDS to change?**

.....

**4. Take a few moments to really think about what's TRULY important to you in your life. What are your Top 3 Priorities in life?** (Make a list of whatever pops into your mind)

i. ....

ii. ....

iii. ....

**5. What one thing is MOST IMPORTANT to you right now?**

.....

**Identify & Prioritize Your Rocks!**

i. Using the story we started with as your guide, write your KEY priorities/activities on the biggest rocks below.

NOTE: Think carefully. What are your real "Big Rocks" in life right now? What's most important to you in life?

ii. Now fill in the smaller rocks - your pebbles - with your next (lower) level priorities/activities.

iii. Then, in the tiny gaps between the rocks, write your lowest priorities/activities.

iv. Finally, add a priority to your "Big Rocks" from 1 to 5.

NOTE: Use this tool regularly to prioritize your week or month - and to make sure you schedule your BIG ROCK items first!

**Review your Learnings!** What changes will you make following what you have learned about yourself?

**1.** How does where you currently spend your time compare to your "Big Rocks" - your REAL priorities?

.....  
.....  
.....

**2.** What does this tell you?

.....  
.....

**What Needs to Change?**

**3.** What could you be doing differently?

.....  
.....

**5. What are you WILLING to change to prioritize your time better?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**6. Smash those Obstacles:**

What could get in the way? If you were going to sabotage yourself how would you do it?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. What is the EASIEST change/s you could make to prioritize your time better?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What will you commit to?**

**7.** What WILL you change or do differently? Take a look at the entire worksheet and identify 3 actions you will take to focus on your BIG ROCKS in life:

**1st Action** \_\_\_\_\_ By when \_\_\_\_\_  
**2nd Action** \_\_\_\_\_ By when \_\_\_\_\_  
**3rd Action** \_\_\_\_\_ By when \_\_\_\_\_

Now copy these out on post-it notes and stick them in your car, wallet, locker, fridge door, desk drawer or any place where you will see them often.

**8.** I am committed to achieving these 3 actions:

**Signed** ..... **Date** ..... **i**

What is the BIGGEST thing you learned about yourself from doing this exercise?

.....  
.....

*"How you spend your time is more important than how you spend your money.  
Money mistakes can be corrected, but time is gone forever." **David Norris***