

## **LESSON: SETTING GOALS, FOLLOWING EXAMPLE OF PRES. JIMMY CARTER BY LINDA LEE HANDY**

**1. JIMMY CARTER, 39<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT OF U.S., A DEVOTE CHRISTIAN, WAS KNOWN FOR HIS STRONG BELIEF IN GOAL SETTING.** Study his very productive life, as many honored him for his accomplishments at his passing at the end of 2024 at age 100. Initially he wanted a career in the Navy, but resigned to help his family with their peanut farm after his father died. He continued to live a life of service. What can we learn from his statements? *"My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference. "I believe that anyone can be successful in life, regardless of natural talent or the environment within which we live. This is not based on measuring success by human competitiveness for wealth, possessions, influence, and fame, but adhering to God's standards of truth, justice, humility, service, compassion, forgiveness, and love."*

*"We have to inspire our children and grandchildren to take on challenges and risks that at first may seem to be overwhelming, or even impossible. They need to understand that the only failure is not trying. "I have learned that our greatest blessings come when we are able to improve the lives of others, and this is especially true when those others are desperately poor or in need."*

**2. HOW DOES A FAMILY SET GOALS SUCCESSFULLY?** Often, I would hear my daughter and her husband being asked, "Tell us your secret of parenting. Your children are turning out so well. We want to do the same." One of my answers would be that they have Sunday family goal setting and review that were based on serving God, Family, and Country. Both my daughter and her husband, a native of the island of Tonga and devoted, naturalized citizen, learned these principles in their own youth. These parents are prayerful and want their children to strive to be the best they could be. The children knew the expectations of high standards. They were encouraged to be the first there and the last to leave in helping with a church, school, or sports event. They were expected to always raise a hand when volunteers were needed. Nothing is more rewarding in later life for a grandparent, then seeing the fruits of your labors in your amazing children and grandchildren. To spotlight some of their children: Oldest daughter, devoted wife & mother, achieved her goal of 6 children before age 30. First son, now a father of 4, graduated from Air Force Academy, Military Medical School and is serving as a Radiologist in the military. Second son, now a father of 5, was the first Pacific Islander to graduate from Yale Law School and is making his mark in helping others build equity.

**3. FAMILY DISCUSSION:** How can your family (whether is a group of roommates, or a family with young children) strive to set meaningful and productive goals, individually and as a family? How can we remember, and listen to the guiding Holy Spirit, that we are beloved Children of God, who has a great plan for us, and we must strive to fulfill this plan. Ask: Why am I here on earth? What is my relationship in following Jesus Christ as the way? How can we rejoice in living in these days? How does a covenanted life prepare us for this eternal destiny and reunion in Heaven with faith, prayer, respect, forgiveness, and service?

**4. RESOURCES:** <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/lessons-learned-from-legacy-president-jimmy-carter-atul-tandon/> <https://www.ldsliving.com/he-served-in-the-bishopric-his-1st-year-of-law-school-now-hes-yale-laws-first-polynesian-grad> June 2022