

ROCK SOLID PRIORITIES

A while back an expert on the subject of time management gave the following object lesson to a group of business students. As the expert stood in front of the group of high-powered overachievers, he said, "Okay, time for a quiz." He pulled out a one-gallon wide-mouthed Mason jar and set it on a table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he



Then he asked the group once

Everyone in the class said, "Really?" He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. He dumped some gravel causing pieces of themselves down between the big rocks. The expert asked the group once "Probably not," one of them answered. "Good!" He replied. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in and it went into all the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, "Is this jar full?" "No!" The class shouted. Once again he said, "Good!" Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Finally he looked up at the class and asked, "What is the point of this illustration?"

produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he said, "Yes." Then he reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. He dumped some gravel causing pieces of themselves down between the big rocks. The expert asked the group once more, "Is this jar full?"

One eager beaver raised his hand and said, "The point is. No matter how full our schedules are, if we try really hard, we can always fit more things into it!" "No," the speaker replied, "That is not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is: If you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all."

What are the 'big rocks' in your life? A project you want to accomplish? Time with your loved ones? Your faith, education, or finances? Teaching or mentoring others? Help your priorities be rock solid. Remember to include the BIG ROCKS first or you'll never fit them in at all. So, tonight or in the morning when you are reflecting on this story, ask yourself this question: What are the 'big rocks' in my life? Then, put those in your jar first.

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Picture source: www.cgu.ca/english/4/7_2_6.html