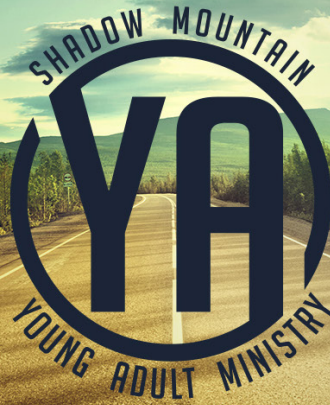


PURSUING PURPOSE



7 Ways to Pursue your Purpose

All of us are asking questions. For some of us, it's asking the question, "what?" What am I here for? Why get up in the morning? How do I make a difference in this world, 1 of 7 billion and counting? You're still Defining Purpose.

For others it's asking the question, "what now?" I know what my natural gifts and spiritual gifts are, and I know what I'm passionate about. What do I do with this? How do I make it all come together? Can I really serve the Lord this way? You're still Developing Purpose.

And for others it's the question, "what's next?" You've seen the Lord do incredible things in your life- maybe the past year was the best year of growth for you physically, emotionally, spiritually, and you've taken those intentional, satisfying steps towards purpose. But now you wonder- how do I top it? Where do I go from here? And you hope you haven't peaked. You're ready to keep Displaying Purpose.

Regardless of which question you're asking, the goal is the same- knowing our Purpose- and living with the confidence and focus that comes with it.

Here are 7 steps to help you Pursue your Purpose, and discover all that God wants to do in your life.

Pursue God's Word

We know that All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17. Think about that- equipped every good work. Whatever you want to do and wherever the Lord and life are leading you, the Bible, the Word of God, gets you ready for it. It makes you complete. Which means a person who does not take in and study God's word has something missing.

Sometimes reading the Bible can feel difficult but the instruction manual for life shouldn't feel like a mystery novel. We shouldn't have to "figure it out" and we shouldn't feel like we have to.

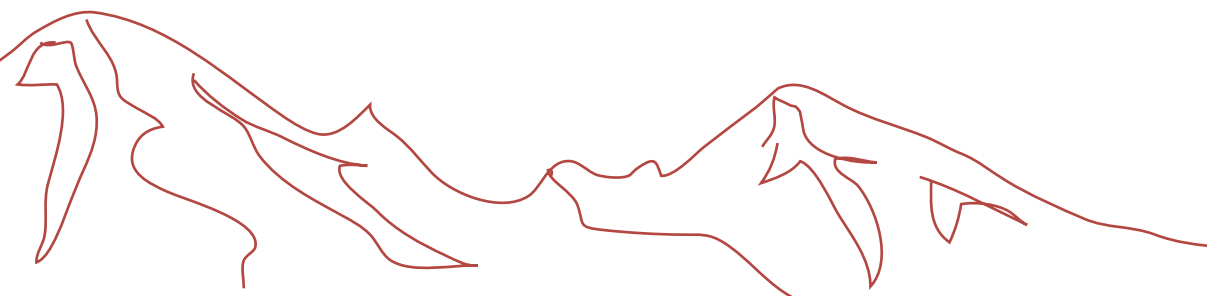
I don't believe that keeping the Bible out of reach was ever God's intention. If anything, the Bible is very plain. And if we're honest, it's a gift, because the Bible lets us know the mind and heart of God, and reveals ourselves through God's eyes

Pursue God's People

It's vital that you have people in your life who know what you're going through and are doing life with you. We need more than ever to be reminded that we're not alone on this journey. So partner up with people who are going the same direction as you; share the load. When you're in a community of believers who surround you with God's encouragement, love, and assistance it makes the journey that much easier.

Pursue God's Work

Giving our lives to serve others helps us find our own. Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Serving others is one of the best ways to discover our purposes, because our gifts and passions can be utilized. There is truly so much more that we can do as a group and as a body of believers to touch lives with God's love and the gospel. We may not change the whole world, but we can change someone's world. And in so doing, we'll change our own.



Be Intentional

Intentional means doing something with purpose on purpose. Chose to be intentional this year- don't just float through and hope things happen. Choose to work towards those things. Often we stand at the crossroads of purpose and indecision and become afraid of taking the first steps. But God allows U-turns, and he can protect us from wrong paths. You will, however, take the necessary steps when you are finally more afraid of staying where you are than where you might end up.

Be Involved

None of us is as strong as all of us. In the book of Nehemiah, all the people came together and rebuilt the city and gates around Jerusalem. Everyone contributed, everyone showed up, and defying expectations and constant opposition, finished the project in 52 days. Why? Because everyone was involved. Be a part of something bigger than yourself!

Be Invested

More than being involved, be invested. Investing means expecting a return in the future. It means putting something in to get more out. Whether you are giving of your time, your money, or other resources, when you invest you're expecting long term gains for short term sacrifice. Investing in life in Christ will always cost us something, but the return is always far more than we could ask or think. You just need to decide what you are willing to give up that you can never keep in order to gain what you can never lose.

Be Inviting

Church, and life, was never intended to be “us 4 and no more”, and certainly not an exclusive country club. One thing we see consistently in the gospels are people whose lives have been touched by Jesus, and who then bring others to Him so that they can be touched as well.

If you want to pursue your purpose, you cannot be the center of your universe. Your world can't only be about yourself. You need to invite others along and help them on their way to purpose. As you experience a life or purpose, multiply your impact by inviting others to join you on the journey.

For more about Pursuing your Purpose, join us Sundays at 10:45 for Young Adult Café at Shadow Mountain Community Church. Find us online at ShadowMountain.org/YoungAdults

