Big Idea

In this week’s message, Pastor Chris presented a third uphill habit for us to develop: keeping our lives aligned with our purpose. This habit is crucial because each of us has a God-given purpose that He had in mind for us before we were created. With this in mind, we need to live by design, not by default. Our time on earth is short, and there is competition for our time and attention, so we need to live our lives on purpose. We can master the habit of staying aligned with our purpose by first deciding what is important and prioritizing those important things. We need to give our priorities calendar time, not necessarily doing something all day but rather every day. We should make time for renewal, doing something that refreshes us; time for relationships, connecting with life-giving people; and time for reward – doing something that matters and has an eternal impact. As we establish our priorities, we should also eliminate non-essential things by saying “no” to anything that bogs us down or doesn’t align with our purpose. An overwhelmed schedule will produce an underwhelmed soul! Finally, we must regularly take inventory of what we are doing with our lives, because priorities don’t stay put on their own; we need to revisit them every day. If we don’t intentionally define our lives, the world will define them for us. Prioritize what is truly important!

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” – Ephesians 2:10

Discussion Questions

- Talk about the benefits of aligning the things you do each day with your purpose. Why is it sometimes difficult to stay in step with your purpose? What are some practical ways for you to regularly take inventory of what you are doing to ensure you stay aligned with your purpose?

- Pastor Chris shared John Maxwell’s idea of choosing five things that you want to be sure to do every day. One of Pastor Chris’ five things is making a difference in someone’s life. Brainstorm practical ways to not only make a difference in someone else’s life every day but to do so in a way that has an eternal impact. Share other actions you might consider to be on your list of five.

- We all tend to make “To-Do” lists. Talk about why it is important to also identify items for a “Not-To-Do” list. Think about what is keeping you from reaching important goals for your life, and share some non-essentials that we all might benefit from eliminating. During the media fast last week, what did you discover about the way you spend your time? How do you want to adjust the way you spend your time as a result?

Prayer Focus

Ask God to clearly reveal His purpose for your life and remind you of it daily. Thank Him for choosing you for the good works He has prepared for you to do, and ask for the strength and focus to passionately pursue those things. Ask God to help you place your life in alignment with your purpose and to give you the wisdom and discipline to identify what is important and shed whatever is holding you back.

Next Step

Be intentional with how you spend your time. Set boundaries and eliminate activities of low value. Identify the five things you want to do every day, and be deliberate about carrying them out. If you want to make a difference in someone else’s life, consider joining an Outreach Small Group. You can find information about the various types of outreach opportunities available by searching the Small Groups Directory found at www.churchofthehighlands.com/groups.

Leader Tip

As a leader, it is important for you to continue to grow personally. For resources to help you develop as a leader, visit www.churchofthehighlands.com/groups/leadership-development.