

Journal Living With Purpose

Through this journal, you are invited to embark on a thoughtful exploration of the five-fold purpose of Cherry Hills Community Church:

Exalt Christ

Bring People to Christ

Bond People in Christ

Build People in Christ

Send People into Ministry for Christ

Our whole-hearted commitment to each of these five purposes is critical to the spiritual health of our congregation as a whole and to the individuals who make Cherry Hills their spiritual home.

If you are considering membership at Cherry Hills, we invite you to first spend some time using this journal to explore what the Bible says regarding each of these subjects. We recommend that you set aside about 30 minutes daily for six days—one day for each of the five major sections, and a final day for the Next Steps page at the end. Please bring your journal with you when you attend the Discovery Class.

If you are already a member of Cherry Hills, we encourage you to revisit our purpose as a church and explore how you can renew your commitment to *Living With Purpose*.

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO:

Journal: Living With Purpose
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3900 Grace Boulevard, Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80126-7801.

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Exalt Christ

God wants you to be a magnifier of his name.



One of the most familiar ways to exalt Christ is on Sunday morning when we come together for music, prayer and preaching. As a habit of speech, we refer to this as a “worship” service—and we may even have opinions about what style or tradition we like best. But Sunday morning represents only a small part of what worship really is—and it’s not about our personal preferences.

The Bible most often defines worship as literally meaning “to bow down” or “to serve.” As we cultivate our relationship with Christ, we learn to see our whole life as worship—every day, every decision, every thought, word and possession—offered in the name of Christ, to serve his purposes.

Read the following verses. In quotes is the idea about worship expressed in the Hebrew or Greek scripture texts. Write down the words that your translation of the Bible uses to express these ideas.

“Kissing toward” – Matthew 2:1-2, 4:8-11

“To bow down” – Psalm 95:6; Isaiah 2:8; II Chronicles 7:1-3

“To serve” – Psalm 100:1-3; Deuteronomy 10:12-13

To truly exalt Christ, we must first be in a relationship with Christ. Based on the verses below, describe your needs and God’s provision for those needs.

Your Needs
Romans 1:18-25

God’s Provision
John 3:16

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 6:23

Ephesians 2:8-9

John 1:11-13

Can you recall the time in your life when you made a personal commitment to following Christ? How did God use certain people or events to bring you to a turning point of acknowledging your need for Christ? Briefly describe your spiritual journey, including what your life was like before you had a relationship with Christ and what changes have taken place in your life since then.

Answer this hypothetical question: If you were to die tonight and appear before God who asked you, “Why should I let you into my heaven?” what kind of response would you give?

Express Yourself

Choose which of the following statements best expresses your relationship with God ...

- I do not believe I have ever asked Christ to be my Savior and Lord.
- I think I asked Christ into my life at some time in my past, but I don't seem to experience the reality of his presence in my daily life.
- I know I have established a relationship with God by accepting Christ as my Savior and Lord, and I experience the daily reality of his presence in my life.

... or write your own statement:

Choose which of the following statements best expresses how you are cultivating your relationship with God ...

- My worship of God is mostly limited to singing a few songs on Sunday mornings.
- I am trying to grow in my understanding of how God wants me to serve him, but the busyness of life gets in the way.
- Nearly every day, I try to show my love for God in how I respond to him and to all that he has given me: opportunities, relationships and possessions.

... or write your own statement:

Bring People to Christ

God wants you to be a messenger of his love.



In the previous section, you were asked to describe the journey through which you discovered God's love for you. People from your past may have come to mind as messengers who modeled and communicated God's love in ways that prompted you to make a personal commitment to Christ.

Now, you may have opportunities to be a messenger to those in your family, neighborhood or workplace—or even in another country. It can be a challenge at times, but it is also a tremendous privilege to express God's love to others. For every message, there must be a messenger.

Read the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32. In this story, we see both the heart of the father and the need of the son.

Why do you think the son returned to the father?

Why did the father welcome back his son?

Read the story of the woman at the well in John 4:1-30. In this story, Jesus breaks the social convention of his day by engaging in a conversation with the woman at the well. How did Jesus engage this woman to talk about spiritual things?

What was Jesus trying to accomplish through this interaction?

Now, read John 4:39-42. In your own words, describe the result of the woman's encounter with Jesus.

Express Yourself

Choose which of the following statements best expresses your attitude about those who don't know Christ ...

- I am not very concerned about the eternal destiny of people who do not know Christ.
- In my mind, I realize that God cares about lost people, but this knowledge does not create compassion in my heart.
- In my heart, I know that lost people matter to God, and so I seek opportunities to be God's messenger.

... or write your own statement:

Choose which of the following statements best expresses your relationships with those who don't know Christ ...

- I rarely seek to develop relationships with people who do not believe in Christ.
- I have relationships with non-believers but seem unable or unwilling to talk to them about Christ.
- In my relationships with non-believers, I am frequently able to talk about my faith in Christ.

... or write your own statement:

Bond People in Christ

God wants you to be a member of his family.



We live in a society that is raising the value placed on privacy and isolation. We live in a world of fences, automatic garage-door openers, caller ID, and “do not disturb” signs. It would be easy to go several weeks without even seeing our neighbors, much less having a conversation with them.

Although our culture may value this withdrawing of self, God does not. God has designed us to be in meaningful and connected relationships—with himself and with other people. Therefore, a third purpose of Cherry Hills Community Church is to help bond the people of Christ together in fellowship.

Read John 17:20-23. Describe in your own words the potential of relationships as expressed through these words of Jesus.

Look at Hebrews 10:24-25. What are the instructions given in these verses? What sometimes gets in the way of your carrying out these instructions?

Read I Peter 4:8-10 and Ephesians 4:14-32. List below some of the ways God wants you to relate to others.

Are you currently active in a “community” at Cherry Hills, such as a small group, Bible study, class or volunteer team? If so, what has that experience been like? If not, what prevents you from establishing those kinds of connections?

Express Yourself

Choose which of the following statements best expresses the status of your relationship with others ...

- I have a few acquaintances, but no real friends in my life.
- I have several friendships in my life, but I find myself longing for deeper and more intimate connection in those friendships.
- I have meaningful relationships in my life, in which I feel valued, appreciated and cared for.

... or write your own statement:

Choose which of the following statements best expresses the style of your relating to others ...

- In a group of people, I often find myself withdrawing from others or trying to dominate or control the interactions.
- I desire to have meaningful relationships but struggle with being real and genuine when I am with others.
- People tell me that they enjoy being with me and feel like they “have been heard” after we spend time together.

... or write your own statement:

Build People in Christ

God wants you to be a model of his character.



Perhaps you can recall a time during your childhood when you imitated the behavior of your parents or adults you looked up to. If you are a parent, you likely recall occasions when your child has acted just like you—sometimes to your delight, and other times to your dismay.

Modeling is important. God, our heavenly parent, wants us to grow up spiritually and emulate his perfect character—both because it honors him and because it rubs off on the people around us. Therefore, Cherry Hills places a high priority on building into the spiritual lives of children and adults.

What is the importance of God's Word for spiritual growth?

II Timothy 3:16-17 _____

Hebrews 4:12 _____

In what ways does God want you to grow?

I Peter 1:3-9 _____

II Peter 3:18 _____

Galatians 5:16-26 _____

Read Colossians 3:1-17 and list below what God wants you to “put on” and what he desires for you to “put aside.”

Put on ... _____

Put aside ... _____

What moments in your life has God used to define and shape your character? Describe one of those defining moments.

Express Yourself

Choose which of the following statements best expresses where you are in learning about God and his Word ...

- I really don't read the Bible and would not know where to begin even if I wanted to read it.
- I read God's Word occasionally, but it is difficult to understand and apply to my life.
- I consistently read, understand and apply God's Word to my life.

... or write your own statement:

Choose which of the following statements expresses your modeling of God's character ...

- I often find myself doing and saying things I know do not please God.
- I have a growing desire to be a more consistent reflection of God to others.
- I daily seek to reflect a Christ-like attitude and character in my relationship with God, my family and others.

... or write your own statement:

Send People into Ministry for Christ

God wants you to be a minister of his grace.



Pop musician Bob Dylan sang, “You have to serve somebody.” But who? All who follow Christ have the privilege and responsibility of serving others in his name. That’s what ministry is about.

When describing how we should serve, the Bible uses a metaphor of the human body, which functions best when every part is doing what it was designed for. As you think about what you were designed for, remember that ministry takes place just about anywhere you can think of—in your own backyard or living room, within the congregation at Cherry Hills, in Denver’s inner city and all over the globe.

Read Mark 10:45 and I Peter 4:10. As you follow the example of Christ, what should characterize your service?

The Bible teaches that every believer is ...

_____ for ministry. Ephesians 2:10

_____ for ministry. II Timothy 1:9

_____ for ministry. I Peter 2:9

_____ for ministry. Romans 12:6-8

_____ for ministry. Matthew 28:18-20

_____ for ministry. Ephesians 4:11-12

_____ for ministry. I Corinthians 3:10-15

_____ for ministry. Colossians 3:23-24

Read Acts 1:8. Hypothetically, if Jesus were speaking similarly to his followers at Cherry Hills Community Church, to what geographic locations might he send us to be witnesses?

Are you involved in service at Cherry Hills or in another ministry setting? If yes, do you think you have found a good “fit” that is energizing and productive? If not, what has prevented you from finding a place to serve?

Express Yourself

Choose which of the following statements best expresses your view of ministry ...

- It is primarily the responsibility of the church staff.
- I probably should be ministering in some capacity, but I'm not sure how I would find the time.
- I am actively involved in ministry, which is my responsibility and privilege as a follower of Christ.

... or write your own statement:

Choose which of the following statements best expresses your place in ministry ...

- I am currently not serving in any area of ministry.
- I have tried serving God in several ways, but I have mostly felt frustrated or unfulfilled.
- I am currently serving God in an area in which I am energized and effective.

... or write your own statement:

Send

Next Steps

Bringing these pages to life.

Next Steps

In each section of this journal, you were asked to note the ways God may be prompting you to grow. Take a few minutes to review each of those pages (6, 9, 12, 15 and 18) and select one thing as the first step you believe God wants you to take in order to live more purposefully.

Ask a friend or family member to pray specifically for your growth in this area.

Revisit this journal from time to time as you sense God prompting you to grow in other areas. Use the space below if you'd like to record your steps.

Item

Date

As you take the next steps in your journey, be encouraged by these words:

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced a harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

—Philippians 1:9-11

