

Dreams to Change the World

If you don't know me I am Kelsey Scott. I am the next gen director here at Summit Church which means I oversee all of our ministries birth-12th grade. In case anyone was unsure, yes I am pregnant, we are expecting a little boy due at the end of December early January and yes Denali my daughter is so excited to be a big sister and keeps asking if it's Christmas time because that is when her 3 year old mind can understand he will be born.

Over the last few weeks Jeff has been preaching about the Dreams that God lays on our hearts. We have looked at borrowing Hope from God in our dreams, and borrowing Strength to truly think about the future. Then, we have to allow those dreams to truly take us into the future. So this week we are going to dive into the idea that our dreams can actually change the world.

Jeff has asked you, what are your big dreams in life? I hope you have pondered that throughout the week. Maybe you are already "living the dream". If it's the God dream, then you go! But wait, there could be more. What is something that you have always dreamt about but let life get in the way? Do you believe that your dreams have the power to change the world when you give them to God?

I have had the pleasure to be on the teaching team here at Summit church and I get to step in when Jeff is out of town and whenever I have the chance to preach I am beyond excited to share how amazing our Next Gen kids are. I look at them and I know that their dreams will change the world. And in turn will mine? Can I change the world for these kids? Today, I want to invite you into the space to give your dreams to God and open your heart and mind to why he gave you those dreams.

Join me in an opening word of prayer. Pray that God will speak to everyone, pray each person hears what God needs them to hear.

Jeff has been telling us about a dream car that he had when he was younger and the dream that he built around that. I figured I should share a dream of mine. When I was in Kindergarten my kindergarten teacher told my mom that if she was on the Titanic, and it was going down, she would want to be with me because I would have a plan and would lead the charge to safety. So yes, I have always been bossy...sorry, I mean a leader...and I have always had a plan.

I knew in kindergarten that I wanted to be a teacher. I chased the dream of becoming an elementary teacher all the way through college and into my first teaching job. However, what I didn't see at the time was that God had laid "teacher" on my heart in a different way. You can ask my friends and family, my WHY of becoming a teacher was to change the world one child at a time and I always said that I would do that by being Jesus in a public school and showing Jesus to them. Which I did get to do for 3 years post college before coming here full time! Now I get to change the world one child at a time through the power and relationship of Jesus!!

I know that my experience as a public school teacher was preparing me to do what I do now because a year or so after coming on full time here I received a message from one of my previous students who told me he had just given his life to Jesus! He was so excited to share with me! Now, this was a kid who had a tough life. He had every reason to walk away from God but everyday I walked into that classroom I knew it was my job to meet him where he was at, even if I couldn't point blank tell him Jesus loved him unconditionally. Somedays that meant letting him hide under my desk, eating snacks from my snack bin, or just being a little more difficult. He knew that in my

classroom he was welcome as he was. I was able to be Jesus in his life without losing my job and then he knew sharing with me would be celebrated, because church, that is what we celebrate. Making a difference one child at a time!

Proverbs 16:1-3

We can make our own plans, but the Lord gives the right answer. People may be pure in their own eyes, but the Lord examines their motives. Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.

Okay lets be real, have you made a plan and then laughed(or cried) when God had the final say? When I became the youth director here it was kind of a duh moment. Of course that is what God has been preparing me for. When I think about the impact and reach that God has given me it is a little overwhelming. When I sit and reflect on my WHY for most of my life being to change the world one child at a time I sit and see that the kids who I have "impacted" have made just the same impact on me too. This summer we had a middle school mission trip, we ran Vacation Bible school, we took a group of high schoolers to camp, and some of our high schoolers went to Kenya on a mission trip. If you ever wonder what kind of impact **you** have sitting here today take a moment to see how you have impacted these kids' lives through giving, volunteering, and prayer.

Play a video recap of the summer events

Wow. How awesome are our students?! Have you ever wondered how to help reshape our world through dreams? Well **that** is how. You pour into our young people as role models and supporters. They are walking through what can be a dark and scary world. Why would we not want to be a light in their life?

Commercial Break - So, if any of you want to help with Nursery, Kids or Youth ministry, please come and see me 😊 This is the invitation you have been waiting for!

So where do dreams come from? Do they magically appear...No!

Psalm 121:1-2

I look up to the mountains- does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth!

I know, I know, many of you feel the presence of God when you're in the mountains. However, it's the big God, not the big mountain, that moves you.

Sometimes it is so easy to get lost in the world around us and forget that **God** is where our help comes from. That help can appear in the form of dreams but then we also have to sit and take the time to understand what they mean.

When we look at people in the bible who have experienced God through dreams the dreams were often something bigger than what they saw.

Joseph, who we read about in Genesis 37, dreamt of his family bowing down to him, which showed that God had a plan for him to one day have a position of authority.

Nebuchadnezzar, who we read about in Daniel 2, dreamt of a huge statue made of different materials that was destroyed by a stone, which revealed the rise and fall of earthly kingdoms and showed that God's kingdom would ultimately stand forever.

Pilate's wife, who we read about in Matthew 27, dreamt about Jesus and warned Pilate not to have anything to do with Him,

showing that even she recognized there was something significant and innocent about Jesus.

All of these people and many more were being spoken to by God through their actual sleeping dreams. However, we know that dreams can also be day dreams or ideas. If you didn't know, I am a huge Disney fan. I love the magic of it all but there is a song in Cinderella about dreams. It says

"In dreams you will lose your heartaches,
Whatever you wish for, you keep
Have faith in your dreams and someday
Your rainbow will come smiling through"

So what are your dreams? Have you given them to God to see what **HE** is trying to reveal? Well trust me, I know that can feel totally overwhelming but,

Proverbs 4:6-7

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Do you truly believe that God's peace exceeds anything that we can understand? Including our dreams? Can you give those dreams to God? How might that bring a change in the world around you? No dream is too big or too small!

Those dreams in your heart are a work in you that God has started. Our memory verse this week is Philippians 1:6.

Philippians 1:6

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Please don't be discouraged by the "change the world" talk. Often the simplest things have ripples that change the world. Here are some quotes you may have heard before, but take them to heart...

"A young person was walking on the beach throwing stranded starfish back into the ocean. When an observer tells them their effort cannot possibly change the big picture because there are too many to save, the child picks up another one, throws it into the water, and says, "It made a difference to that one!"

"The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it." - Michelangelo

"All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." - Walt Disney

Lastly, this one is in my Life's Memories scrapbook that my mom made

"And like a single drop of rain, that on still waters fall, my life and love will ripples make, and touch the lives of all." -Cathryn Stanley

So what dream do you have that God will use to change the world? Let's pray to hear God move in our hearts, minds, and souls.