

DISCOVERING YOUR PASSION

Adventures Youth

AN EBOOK ABOUT REALIZING YOUR KINGDOM DREAM



PREFACE

a word to youth workers.

In 1968, Drs. George Land and Beth Jarman conducted a study, assessing creativity in 1,600 children.

At **5** years old,

→ **98%** SCORED AT GENIUS LEVEL.

The same kids were tested when they were **10** years old.

→ **32%** SCORED AT GENIUS LEVEL.

The same group tested again when they were **15** years old.

→ **10%** SCORED AT GENIUS LEVEL.

They gave this same test to 280,000 adults (**25+** years old).

→ **2%** SCORED AT GENIUS LEVEL.

Samuel was a child when he heard God speak.

David was a teenager when he slayed Goliath.

Jesus was twelve years old when he amazed rabbis with his teaching.

God uses young and old to change the world, but young people started much of the world's revolutions, shifted paradigms and perspectives at a global level.

But you already knew that, didn't you?

In fact, you're probably in youth ministry because you're young at heart and you see the potential and possibilities in the next generations. You understand the urgency of helping them identify their gifts and talents, and eventually their callings and passions.

*Don't let your youth underestimate their dreams;
they're not too young to dream.*

Adventures in Missions began as a dream; Seth Barnes, the founder, has been dreaming since he was young. Keep reading to find out how he got his start.

We hope this resource empowers your youth to chase the dreams of God.

Feel free to draw upon this e-book for yourself, too...

because it's not too late for you to dream, either.

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INTRODUCTION

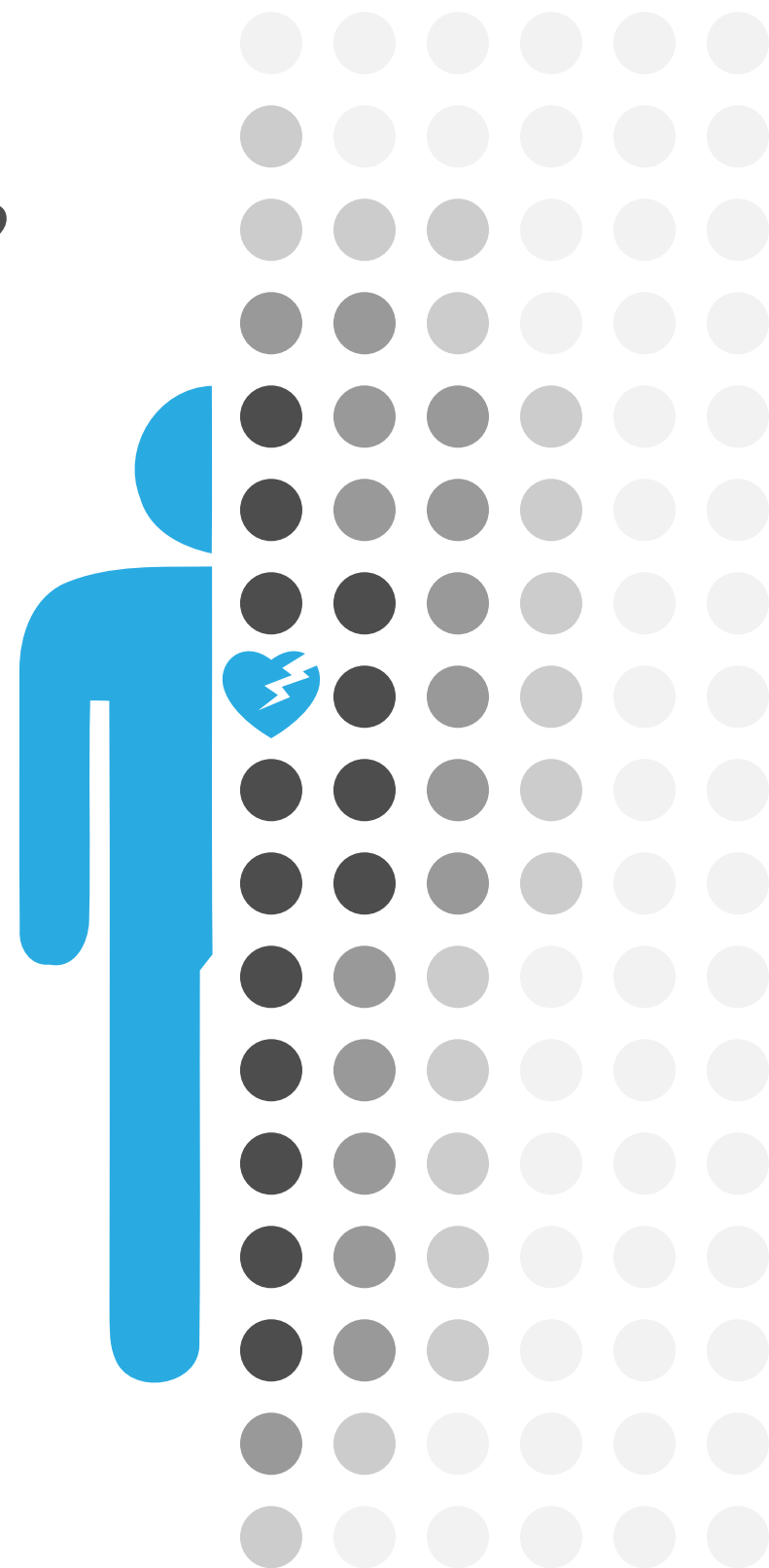


IT BEGINS WITH A
BURDEN

YOU WONDER WHERE MOVEMENTS COME FROM?

**THEY ORIGINATE IN DREAMS.
AND DREAMS ORIGINATE IN THE HEART.**

USUALLY, BROKEN ONES.



“When my dad went to Vietnam in 1968, **my heart broke.**

A nine year-old boy needs a dad.
Every week, we'd get a letter and a tape from him.
My mom, sister and I would sit down on the couch
and listen to him describe his life as a doctor there.

I dreamed of getting him back home.
I realized that it couldn't happen unless something drastic occurred.
So I conceived in my mind a special team that would infiltrate enemy lines
and get to the commanders of the Vietnamese army.

I knew they would need special equipment,
so I dreamed up ray guns using rubies that would focus their lasers.
(Because how else are you going to operate a laser, but with a ruby?)

I dreamed of secret vehicles that would carry them –
vehicles armed to the gills with the latest technology.

Driven by a broken heart, I dreamed, and then I drew it on paper.

And if I'd had the resources, I would have begun putting my dreams into action.
But of course when my dad returned home from Vietnam, my real dream came true.

But that was just the beginning.”

- Seth Barnes

I've had a lot of dreams since then,

AND I'VE LEARNED SOME IMPORTANT LESSONS ABOUT DREAMING.

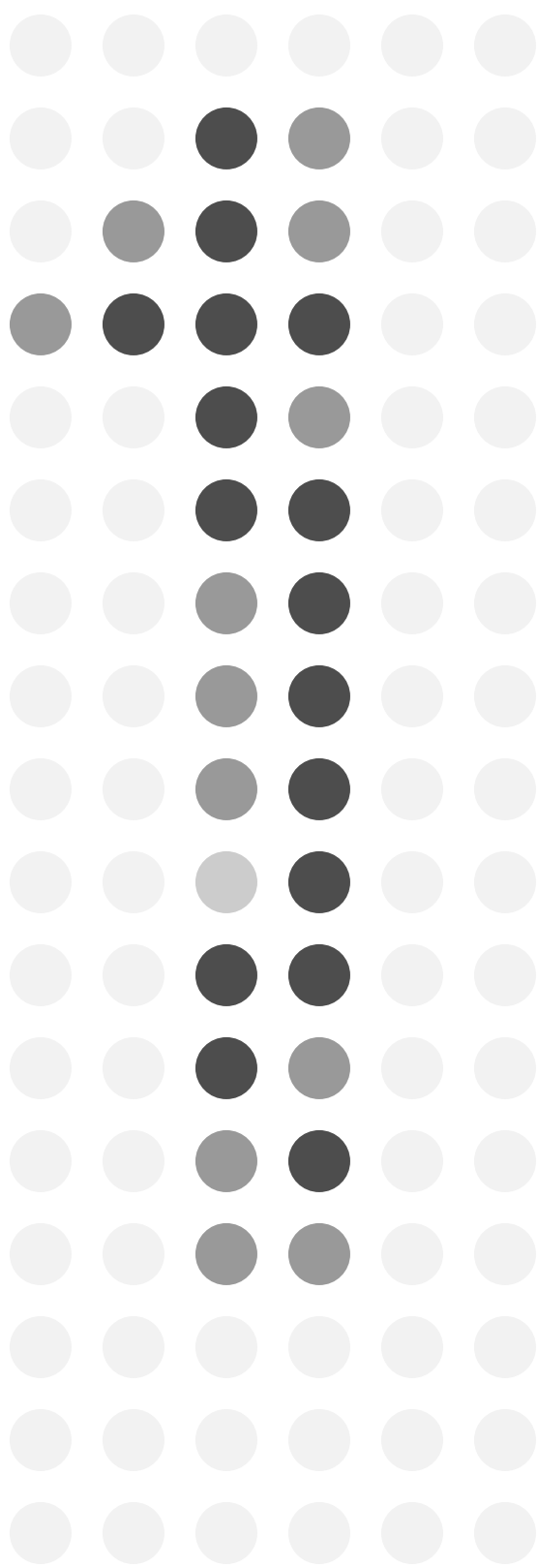
This is a short ebook about that process,

OF MOVING FROM BURDEN TO DREAM.

PICKING IT UP IS AN ACT OF COURAGE.

THANK YOU
for beginning.

LESSON



**DREAMING IS
NATURAL**

When we were kids, we daydreamed, imagining alternate worlds.
We were knights and princesses, astronauts and race car drivers.
We were the heroes of our own stories.

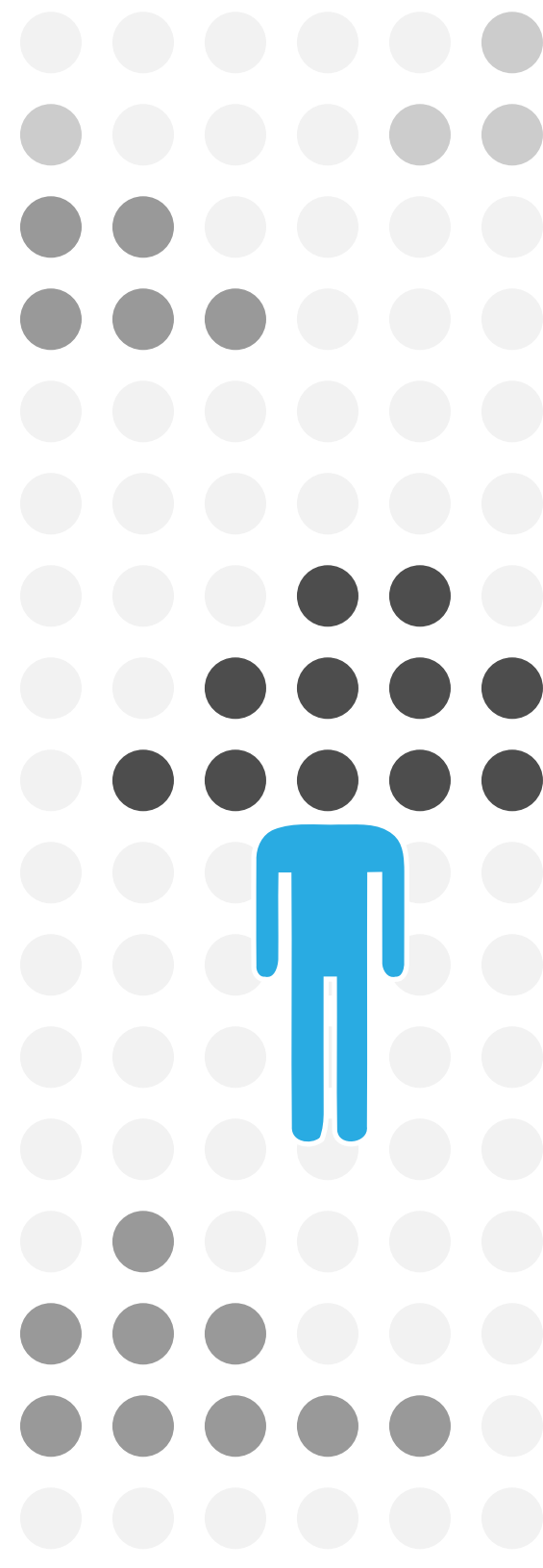
As adults, we still dream, albeit differently.

We imagine ourselves getting rich or solving the world's problems.
We dream of falling in love or living in a tropical paradise.
We dream of a better life.

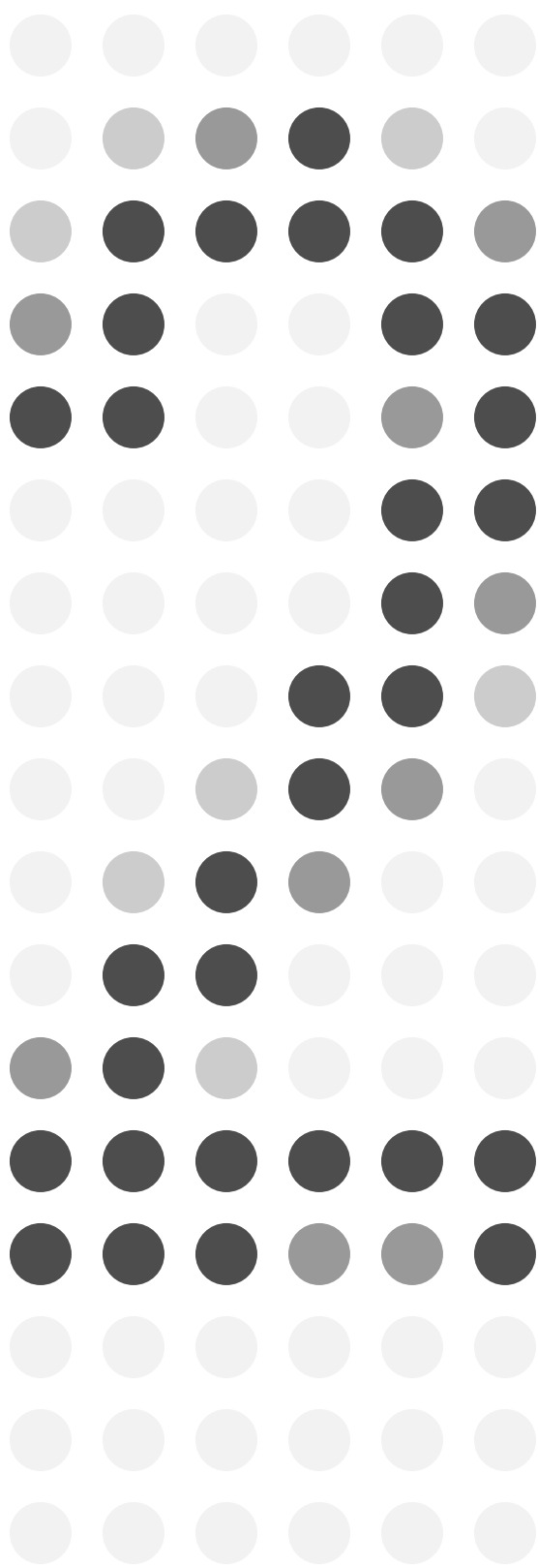
If someone dreams too much, we say that they have their **HEAD IN THE CLOUDS.**
"They're too impractical," we might think, dismissively.
But that's not true at all.

The reality is, dreaming is an important part of living.
And we need more of it.

More dreamers.
More visionaries.
More pioneers bold enough to imagine another world,
with the audacity to create it.



LESSON



**DREAMING IS
DIVINE**

God is a dreamer.

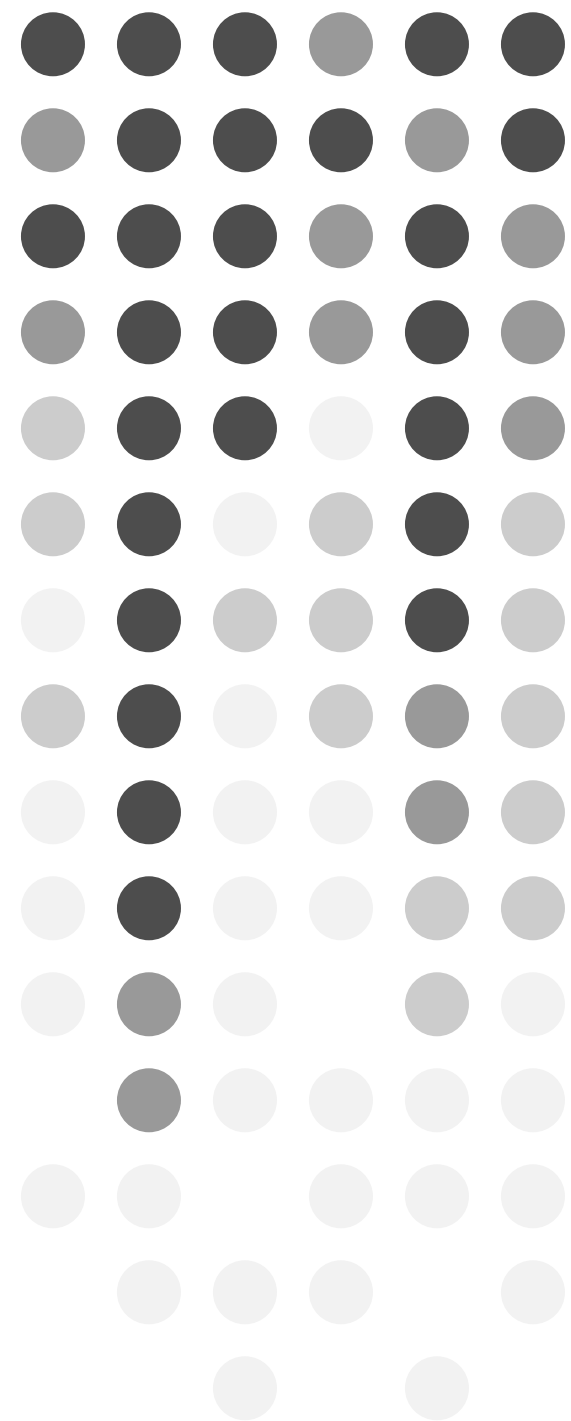
He imagined all of creation before it existed.
Then he spoke it into being.

His plan for redemption is one great and beautiful dream.
And he shares this dream with us in pieces,
like broken fragments of glass fitting together to create a mosaic.
And then he's generous enough to let us call them "our" dreams.

Jesus asks us to pray *"your kingdom come,"*
for the reality of God's reign to arrive in its fullness here and now.
This is God's dream.

We must be daring enough to believe that this reality is possible.
To imagine it. To ask for it.
To begin living it out here and now.

The world is not spiraling down into decay.
It's getting brighter.



This is what it means to dream:

**TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE,
FIRST IN OUR IMAGINATIONS AND THEN WITH OUR ACTIONS.**

With a dream, we have hope and can bring it to others.

It is an invitation to participate in divinely-inspired,
hope-filled visions of the future --

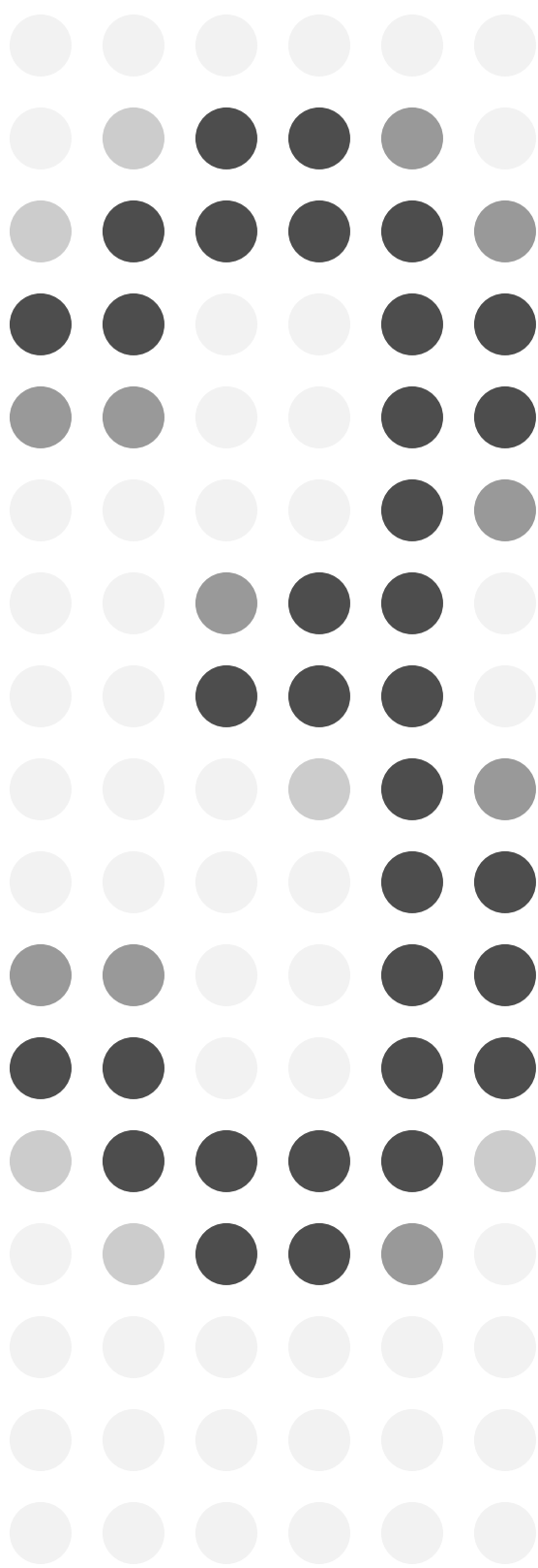
To actively take part in something much bigger than ourselves.

We engage our faith practically when we start ushering these dreams into existence.

When we begin to take real steps towards healing the world,
we are awakened to new levels of dependence, intimacy and nearness to God.

But we cannot do any of this
if we have not given ourselves permission to dream.

LESSON



**DREAMS ARE
NECESSARY**

Sometimes, a person may go months or years without having a dream.
They may know that they have a dream, but they defer it.
Delay it.
Put it on the shelf.
Procrastinate.

This is not a good way to live.

We need dreams.

WE NEED DREAMS LIKE WE NEED AIR TO LIVE.

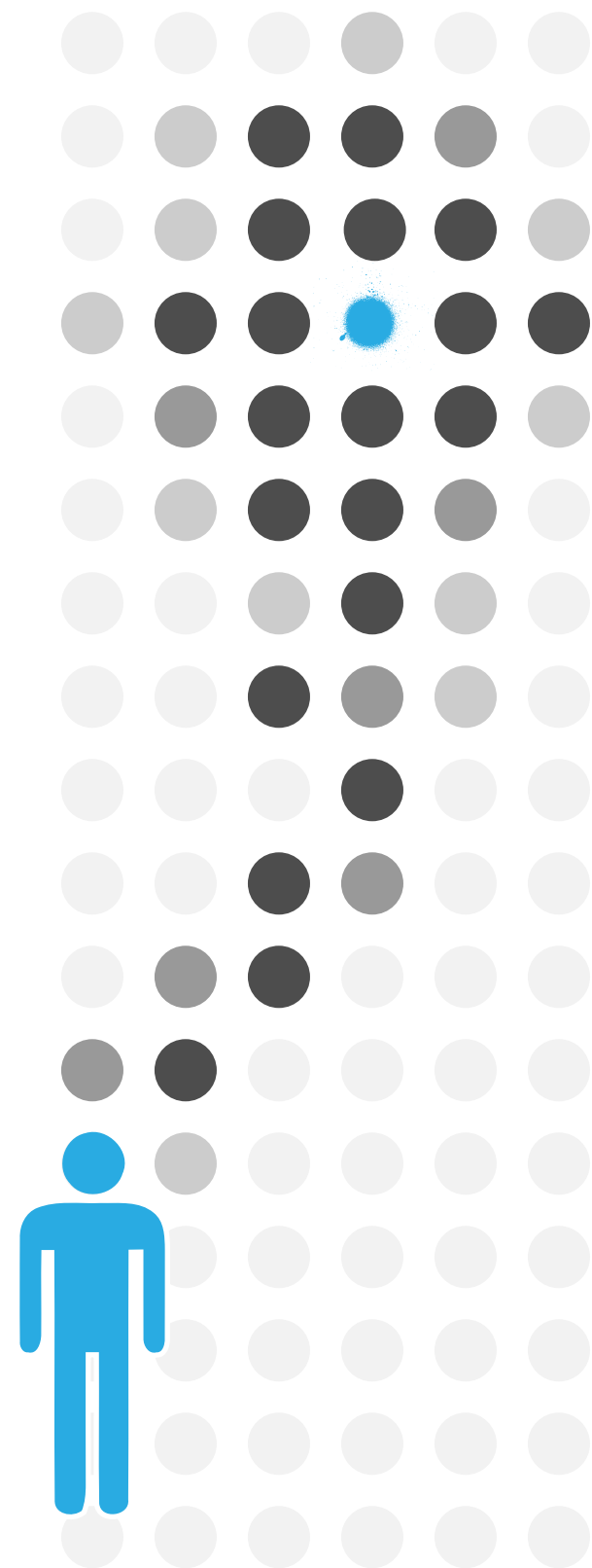
They keep us going.
They remind us that there is something good in this world worth fighting for.
And they fuel us on toward something greater than ourselves.

Remember the movie Slumdog Millionaire?

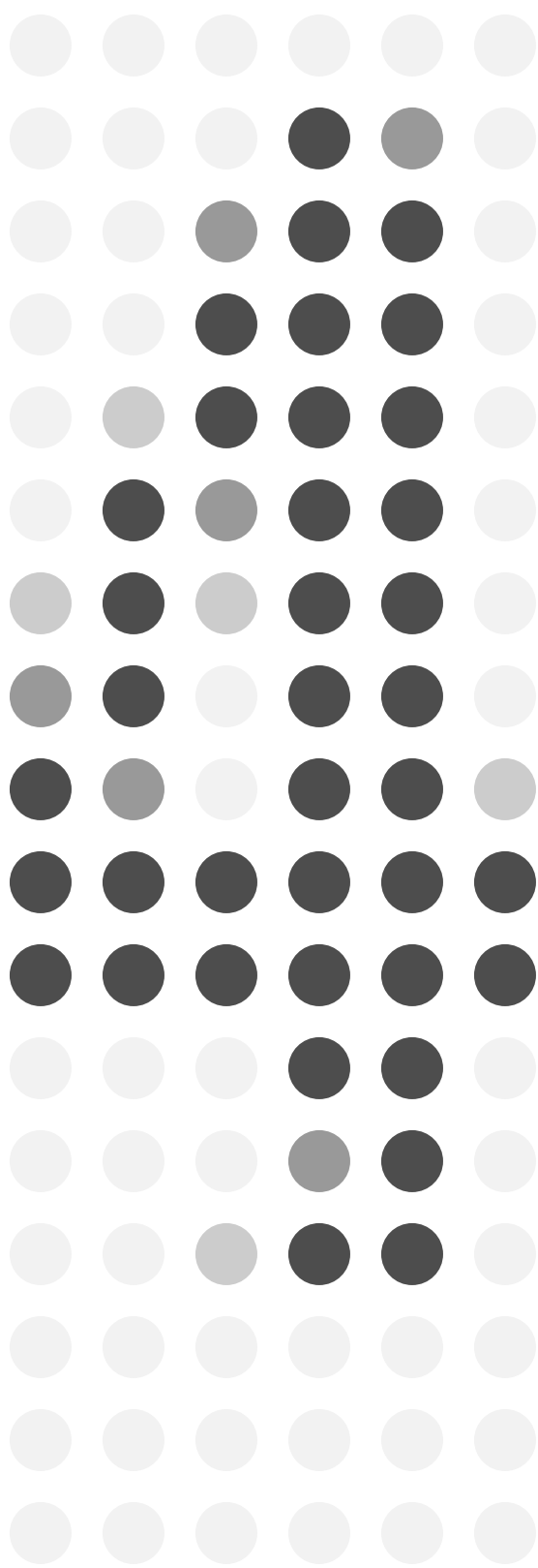
The protagonist in the film endured some of the most horrible circumstances in the world, and yet, he had a dream.

Through perseverance and conviction, he saw his dream in his mind's eye.
He had a vision and a will.
He overcame obstacles to achieve what he at first could only imagine.
He hoped and worked and struggled and fought and succeeded.

In a word, he dreamed. And everyone dreams differently.



LESSON



**DREAMS ARE
DIFFERENT**

There are daydreams.

There are sleeping dreams. (As there are nightmares.)

There are dreams in which we envision our ideal lives.

And then there are God-breathed dreams.

This is the most important category, the one worth exploring.

These are the heart-pounding dreams that keep you awake at night.

They're the burdens that you carry for years and don't understand why.

They're the true vocation that calls to you when you're stuck in a cubicle, doing what you think you're *supposed* to be doing.

These dreams are so seductive that we fear them.

They tantalize and taunt and intimidate.

They invoke such intense passion and desire in us that it seems impossible to bridle.

They require risk and sacrifice, and this scares us.

These dreams represent our true purpose, the reason we were created.

They are, as one person once put it,

"that thing in your life that you can't not do."

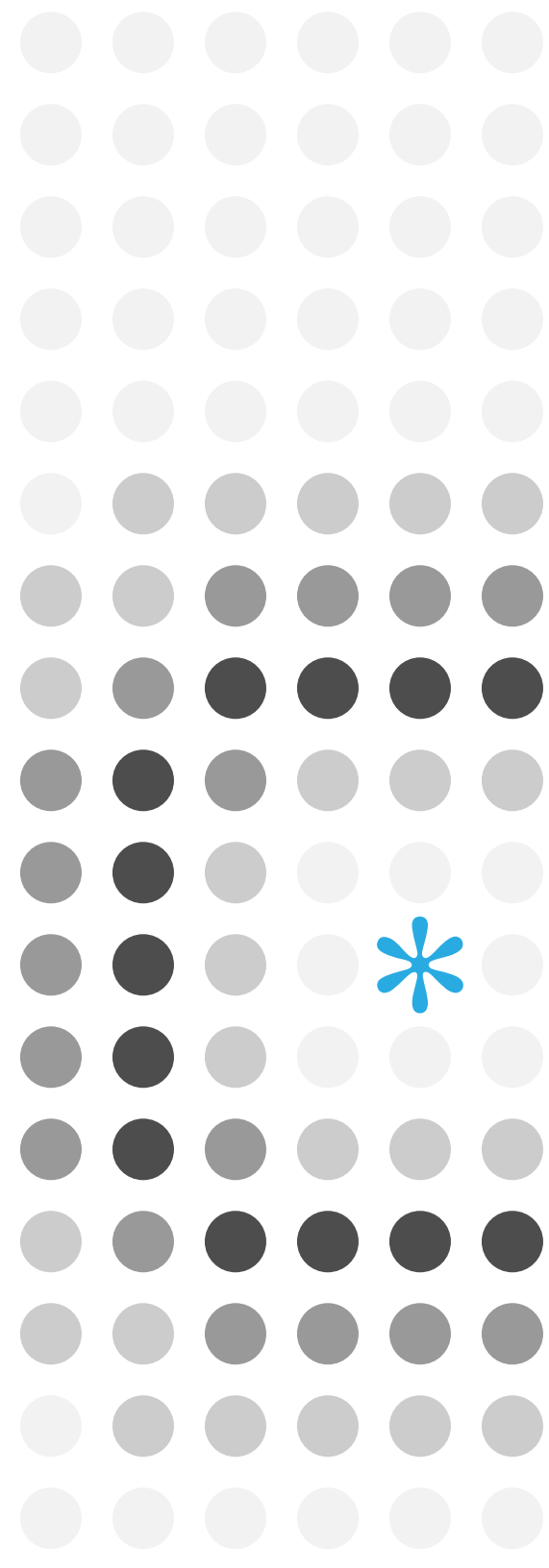
And even within this category, there are sub-categories of dreams.

Dreams of building orphanages and starting sports teams.

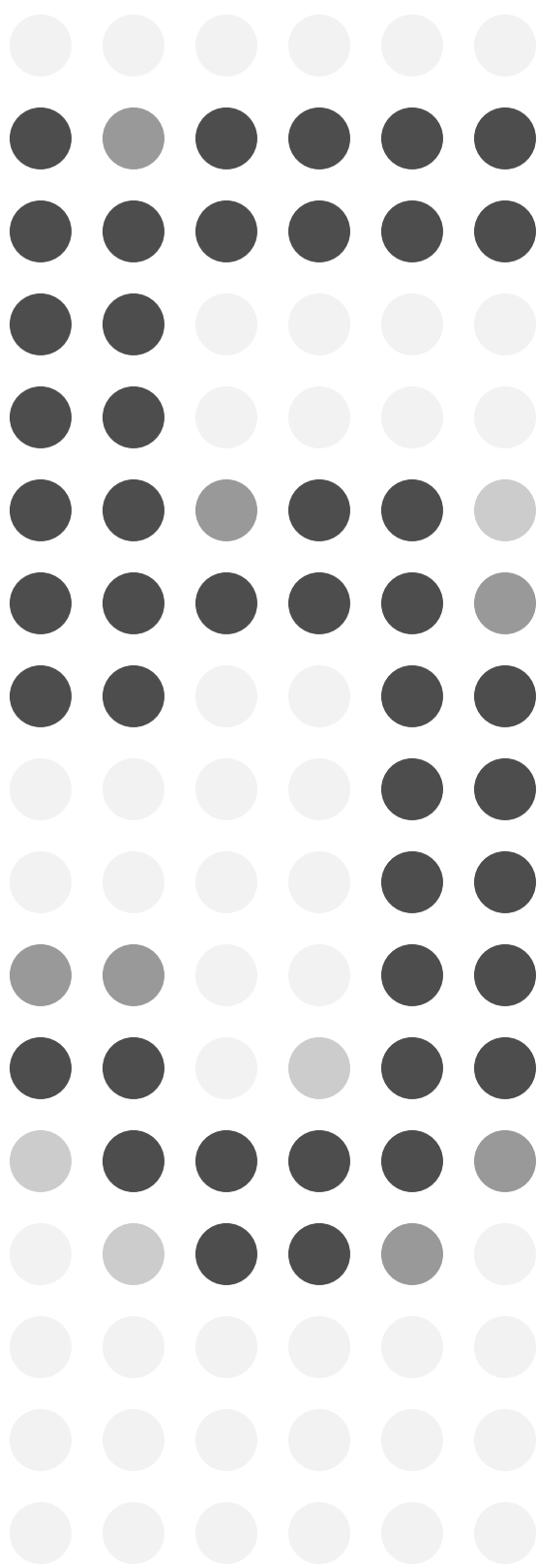
Dreams of moving to Africa or of launching a micro-enterprise business.

Dreams of imagining remarkable works of art and sharing them with the world.

So, if everyone has a dream, what's yours?



LESSON



DREAMING IS
SELFLESS

Most of us have dreams that are too small.

They center around our own needs and wants.
They focus on us. They feel hollow and frail.
And that's because they are.

We want a certain kind of car or house or spiritual experience or relationship.
We long for something trivial that seems important at the time.
We want a better job or to lose 20 pounds or more vacation time.
We all are like children, wanting the next best, shiniest toy on the shelf.

This is not dreaming.
This is playing.
It's coddling and pandering to our narcissism.

If we are going to do anything that makes a difference in this life,
we need to look beyond our own lives and discover God's dreams.

WE MUST BE WILLING TO GIVE AWAY OUR LIVES FOR THE SAKE OF HIS DREAM.

We must lose our lives to find it.

We have to remember:

THIS IS NOT ABOUT US.

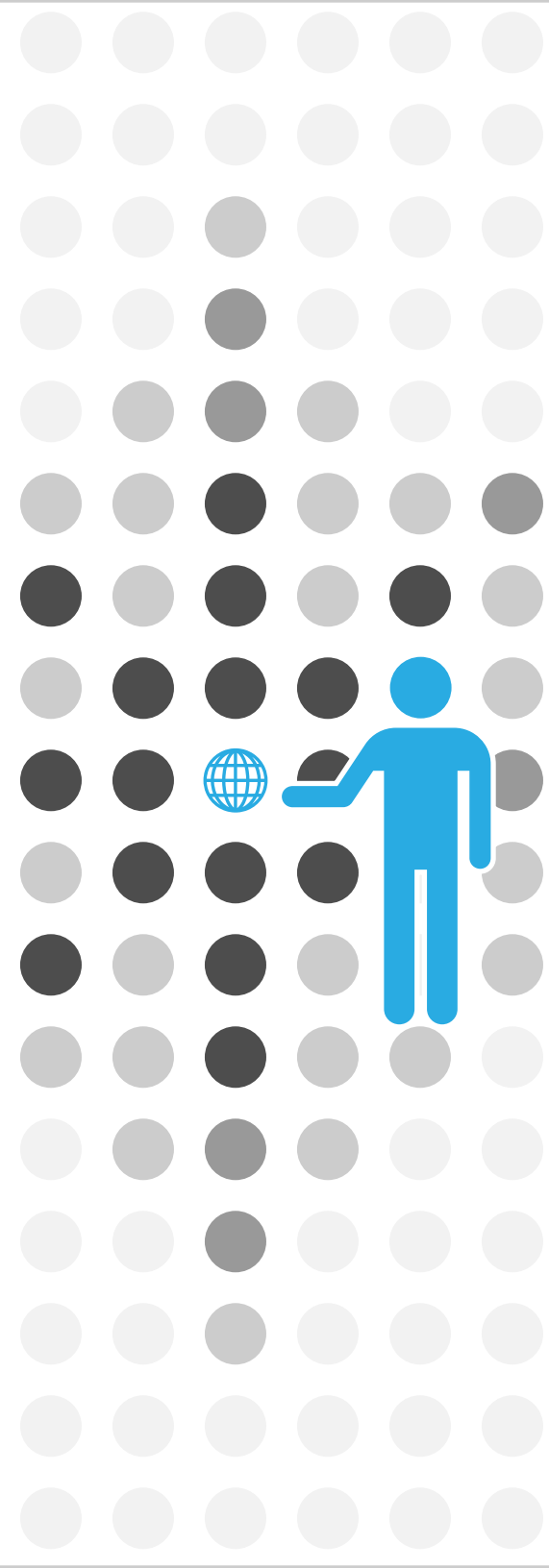
From time to time,
we need to give ourselves permission to look beyond our present reality;
to suspend rationality and think outside of the box,
even if for only a moment.

These exercises of creativity can lead to amazing, remarkable,
world-changing discoveries.

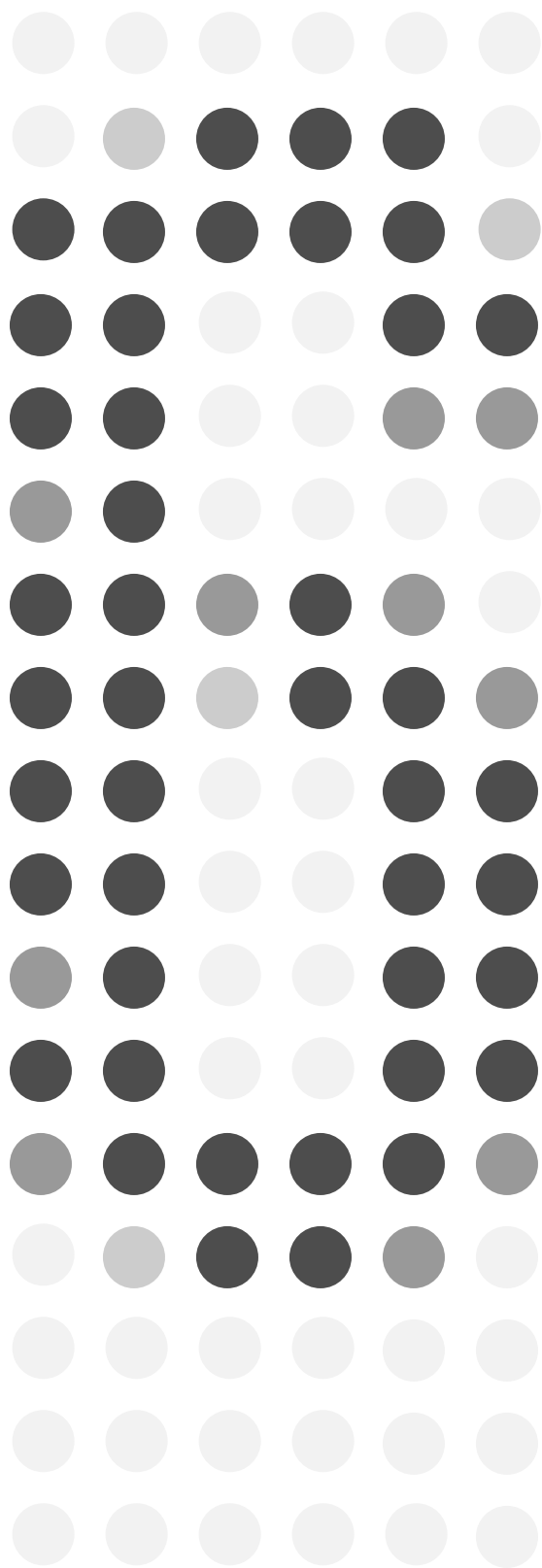
But it will never happen if we don't start.
If we foolishly believe that we don't need a dream.

A dream brings life and light to areas in the world that need it the most.
A dream makes the world a better place.
When you are given a dream, it is not for your own personal comfort or success.
It's given to you to be given away.

Not only do we need a dream,
the world needs our dreams.



LESSON



**DREAMS ARE
DAUNTING**

Have you ever heard the Supertramp song “Dreamer”?

The lyric taunts,

“Dreamer - you’re nothing but a dreamer.”

And we resonate with this, because who hasn’t felt taunted for their dreams?

Who hasn’t felt tortured by their aspirations?

Most of us are ambivalent about our own dreams.

Of course, I’m not talking about the dreams that we have while sleeping.

This is one kind of dream, and certainly, God can speak to us during this time.

But it’s our deep, waking dreams that have taken root and captivated me.

Those are what concern me, because of what they might require of us.

And that scares us.

When you feel that fear, when you hear the taunting voice of a dream,
it’s time to begin.

Questions of how and maybe even why will begin to emerge in your mind.

Those are important, but not more important than asking when.

AND THE ANSWER TO WHEN, IS “NOW.”

What’s most important --

beyond business plans and networking --

is that you begin.

The paradox of the dreaming process is that we are often given gifts and dreams that we may then be called to give up for a season. It feels like dying for some of us. But the truth is that this is the long road to achieving your dream.

So where do you start?

A good place to start is by serving someone else's dream. Serving your way into success is the best way to realize your dreams and stay humble.

It's the opposite of the narcissistic, self-serving route that our culture preaches. But it makes complete sense.

Instead of venturing out into uncharted territory for the first time, why not spend a year or two in an unofficial "internship" for your dream -- helping someone else so that you can see how it's done?

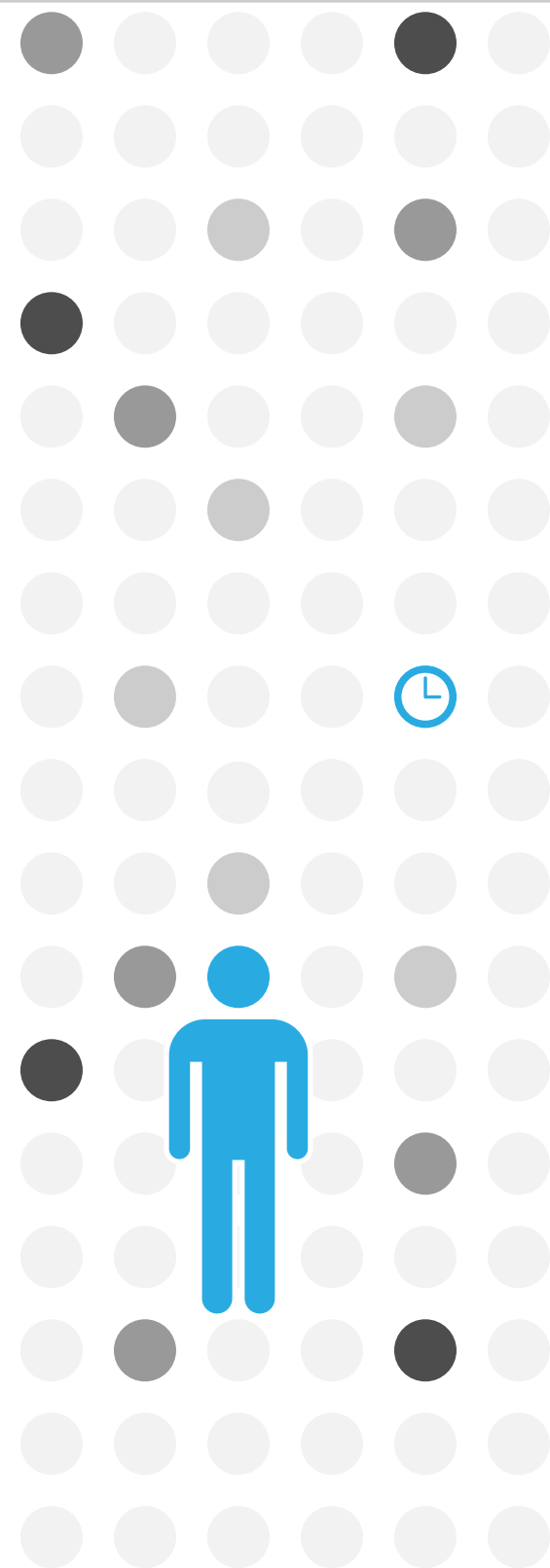
Of course, the temptation here is to hide behind someone else's vision, someone else's dream.

And eventually, you'll have to move on, to step out into your own dream.

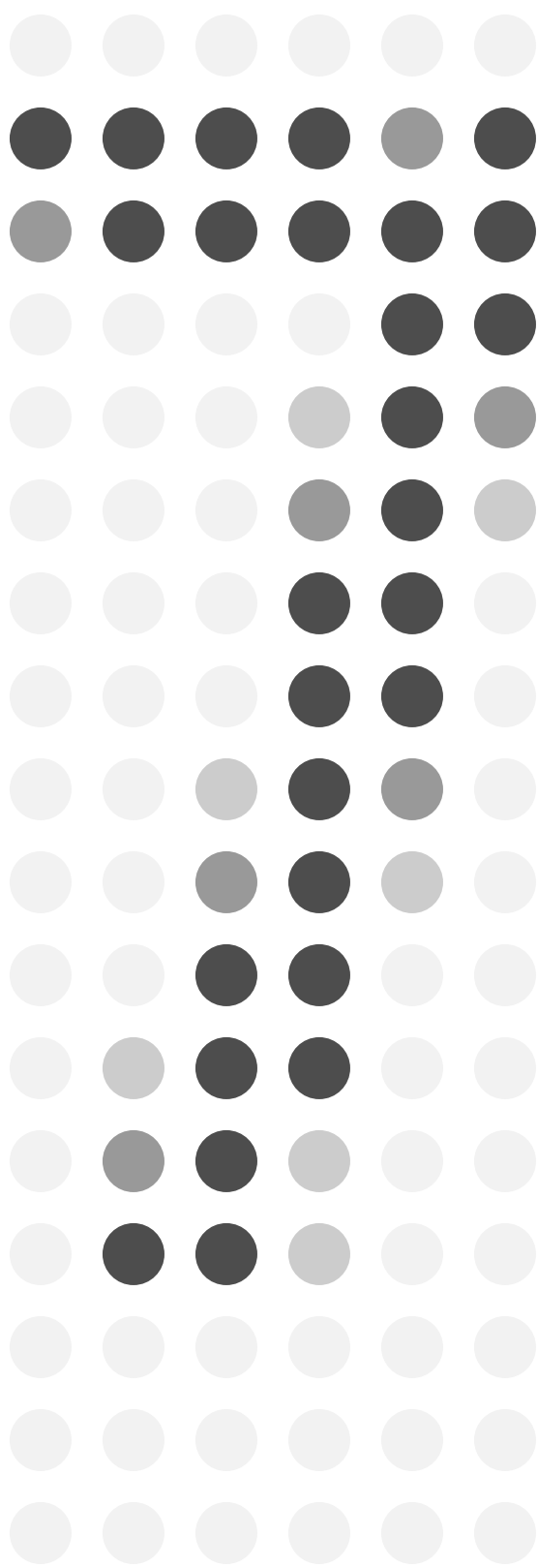
How do you know when?

When you can no longer keep it bottled up.
When the dream becomes so annoying that you can't ignore or defer it any longer.
When it stirs and turns and pulls deep within you.

At that point, **it's time.**



LESSON



**DREAMS ARE
REWARDING**

I have a dream of dying happy.
That may sound morbid, but it's what we all dream of doing.

We want to die happy.
To live a life of such meaning and purpose
that when we leave this world, we have a smile on our face,
knowing that we've experienced life to the fullest.

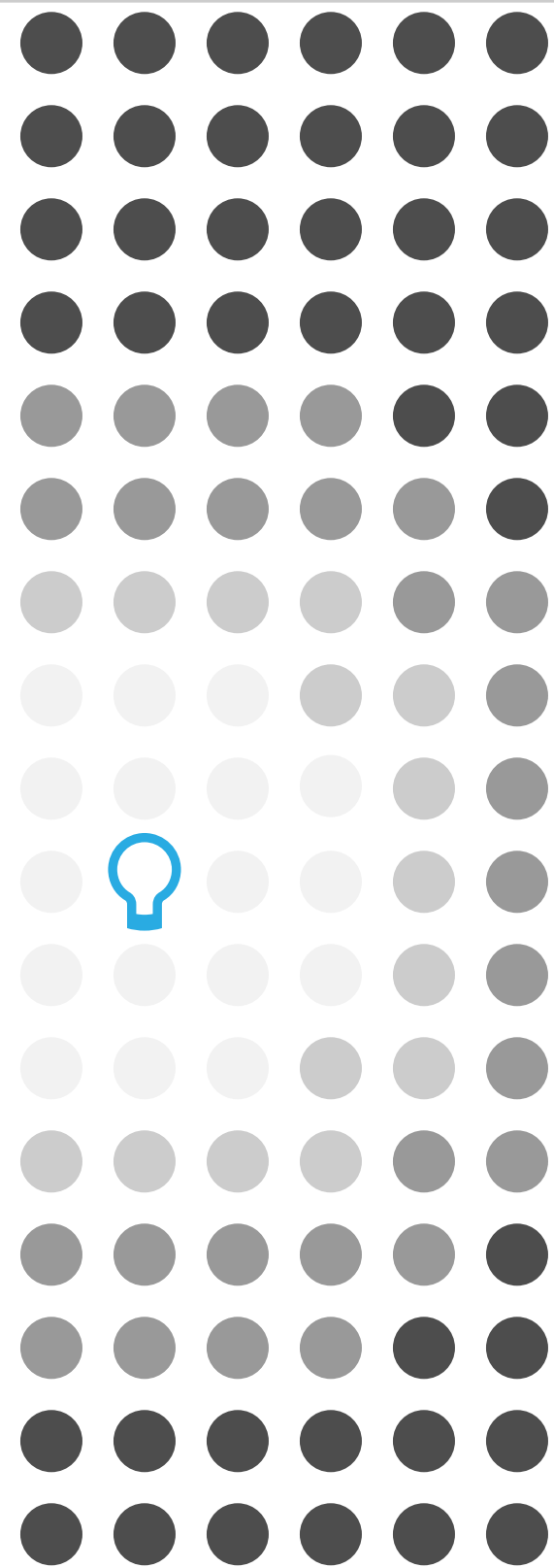
Yes, there will be hardship.
Yes, there will be heartache.
In this world, there will, indeed, be trouble.

But happiness has to do with more than circumstance.
It has to do with doing what you were made to do.

AND YOU WERE MADE TO DREAM.

If you've not answered that nagging call at night
or the fleeting thought of doing something dangerous with your life,
then you're probably not happy.

Because dreaming -- with all its inherent risks and cautions --
is the only way to really live.



A FEW MONTHS AGO, DR. RICHARD KOWALSKE DIED.

A successful chiropractor from Gainesville, GA,
Dr. Kowalske had a dream that required him to sell everything to pursue it.
Here's the story in his own words:

“As I was falling asleep on the night of August 15, 2002,
in my mind I was seeing the possibilities of a camp property,
and how it could be used so effectively in God's ministry for the youth of Bolivia,
which in time, could affect the whole country of Bolivia.

“How awesome it would be if I could use all the talents and skills God had given me
to be a part of that vision?

“During the night, God showed me what I needed to do to become a part of that vision.
I dreamed about the rich man described by Matthew in the Bible.

“In my dream, I saw Jesus looking at me.
He did not speak, but pointed to me as if asking, *‘Will you give all to follow me?’*

“Then, I saw the camp as it could be:
dormitories, filled with children from all over Bolivia;
sports fields; a modern kitchen; a chapel; nearby missionary housing;
and an auditorium for presentation of the evangelistic programs.

“On the morning of August 16, I woke up with a new plan and purpose.

I knew my life would never be the same.

Before we left Bolivia, we had made the commitment to sell everything and follow Jesus. “

Dr. Kowalske went on to build a Helping Hands Foreign Missions to support the ministry he established in Bolivia.

They built a permanent camp facility to reach the youth of Bolivia and established a medical outreach to help meet the physical needs of the people.

On a recent mission trip, Dr. Kowalske contracted cerebral malaria.

It was too late to do anything about it when he checked into the local hospital.

While we grieve for his family,

I can't help but be inspired by his heroic life

and the price that he put on the dream God gave him.

We all need to live like that.

It was an actual dream that awakened the doctor,
and he did what so many of are scared to do.

HE SACRIFICED EVERYTHING
for the sake of a dream.

I have a hunch that he died happy.

This is the question we all must ask of ourselves,

“Can I die happy?”

If we're living the lives we've dreamed of,
then when death comes,
we can pass into the next life with a sense of completion.

With a healthy sense of pride.
Of pursuing with passion the dreams we've been given.

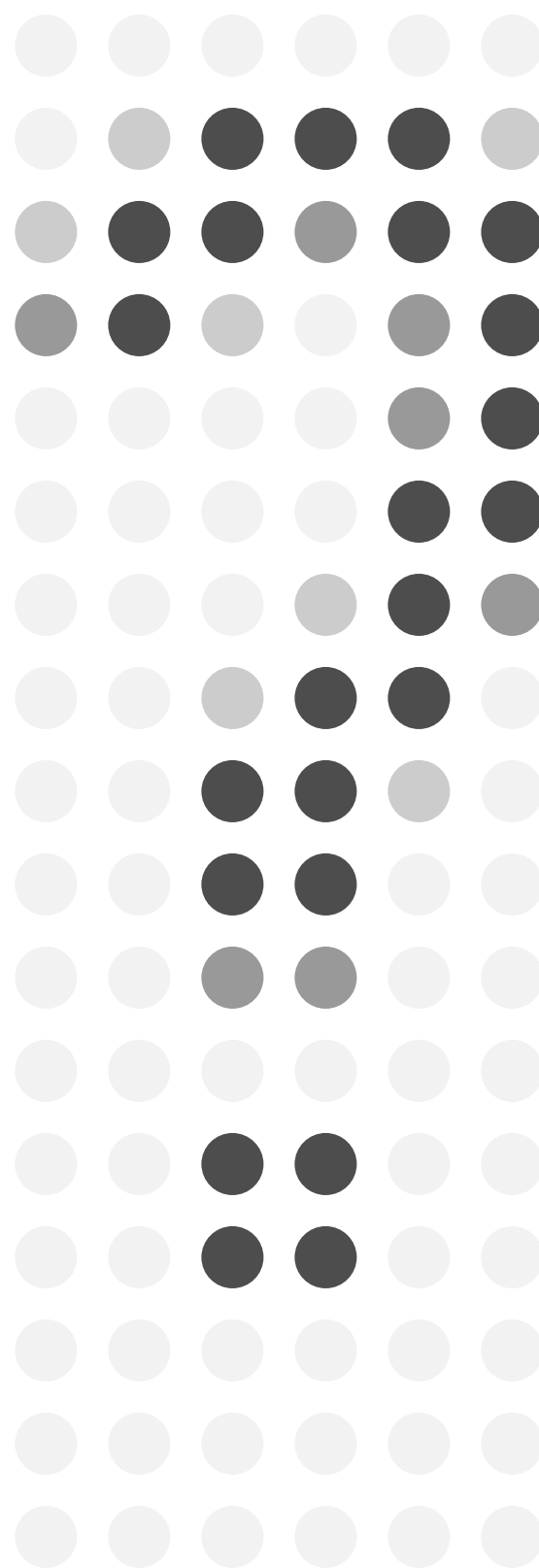
We can look back at our life and smile,
hearing these words ring true: *“Well done.”*

I hope this book makes you think differently about your dreams.
I hope it calls you to a place of greatness that you've never before considered possible.
I hope it makes you face a fear or two (or fifty).

I hope you begin.

I HOPE YOU DIE HAPPY.

WHERE TO START



Dying happy is important,
but hopefully that doesn't happen for a while.

In the meantime,

“How do I start to live happy?”

It's actually pretty simple:

You decide to start to live happy.

Now that's easier said than done, but ultimately it's your decision.

When it comes down to it, you've got a choice.

You choose to make a difference. You choose to answer the call.

You choose to go.

We can help.

ADVENTURES YOUTH and **KINGDOM DREAMS** exist to help you move.

The next few pages are about how.

ABOUT ADVENTURES YOUTH.

Youth workers and youth students alike want more than just an annual missions trip.

You want **adventure**:

(noun): a wild and exciting undertaking.

(verb): to take a risk with the hope of a favorable outcome.

You want **change**.

Change requires getting out of what's normal so something abnormal can happen.

We want lives so abnormal that they only make sense because of God.

ABOUT ADVENTURES YOUTH.

Youth workers and youth students alike want more than just an annual missions trip.

We want more, too.

So we've been listening to...

Youth workers, like you, who've said they want:

- more participation, so we lowered the cost of our trips by 10%.
- new, exciting ministry opportunities, so we've made new connections with ministries in 13 urban, rural, & international locations.
- students to remain engaged after the trip, so we're innovating ways for them to keep growing.

Teens, like yours, who are asking hard questions.

- They're on a pilgrimage that's shaping their identity.
- They need a place to become the person they hear about every week at church.

Let's introduce them to the world, where we'll discover how God's intersecting your dreams with the world's needs to bring hope and transformation. Let's listen and respond and see what kind of adventures our faith will take us on, and watch how a few days can change lives.

NEXT STEPS

FOR MORE DETAILS

VISIT [ADVENTURES.ORG/YOUTH](https://adventures.org/youth)

CONNECT 800.811.2461

ABOUT KINGDOM DREAMS.

Kingdom Dreams exists to facilitate the realization of God's dreams.

We are here to mobilize you to do what you were made to do.

We will encourage, challenge, network, and resource you,
helping you take the next step in your kingdom dream.

These dreams may touch any area of culture:

ministry
business
health
the arts
government
sports
politics
or education.

But we don't just support dreamers...

ABOUT KINGDOM DREAMS.

There are talented individuals with skills, knowledge and expertise looking to give back. Forerunners in the dreaming landscape who have seen firsthand the pain and struggle of chasing a dream, as well as the satisfaction and accomplishment of achieving it. They are looking to pass on their wisdom and experience to a new generation of dreamers.

We want to make that happen.

We want to connect these two groups – dreamers and coaches – to see God's dreams realized.

In short, our mission is to connect the body of Christ.

We are the bridge

spanning the gap between those with dreams
and those with the means to make them happen.

Anyone with a vision and a willing spirit can benefit from Kingdom Dreams, including you.

OUR GOAL IS SIMPLE: TO SEE DREAMS HAPPEN.

WE DO THIS AS WE:

- Clarify the dream of God someone is carrying.
- Outline the path to realizing the dream.
- Connect dreamers to those who can help them.
- Coach dreamers on their way.

NEXT STEPS

VISIT [KINGDOM-DREAMS.ORG](https://kingdom-dreams.org)

SIGN UP FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

CONNECT WITH A COACH AND A

DREAMING NETWORK

BEGIN THE PROCESS OF MAKING

YOUR DREAM COME TRUE

IN CONCLUSION,

There is an important calling on your life. (*yes, yours.*)
You have something to give the world that no one else can give.
God has placed a dream deep within your heart--
and it needs to be released.

This dream is bigger than you,
and you cannot do it by yourself.
But it can be done.

It's not going to be easy.
It could cost you more than you want to give.
You're going to want to quit.
But it's worth it.

You are going to need help.
You are going to need guidance.
You are going to need God. lots of God.
But he's big enough.

So, here's to the journey; the struggle and the success...

NOW GET BUSY DREAMING. THE WORLD IS WAITING.

**WE SEE PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD
COMING TOGETHER
TO RELEASE THE DREAMS OF GOD ON EARTH.**

let's change the
world together.

kingdom dreams