

Gospel Lighthouse Church
11/30/25
Youth Sunday
Theme: “Reach, Inspire, Advance”

Text: Proverbs 22:6

Introduction: Proverbs 22:6 “Train children in the right way, and when old they will not stray.” (NRSV)

- The Hebrew word for “train” is *Chanak* which means to initiate, dedicate, and train up.
- In three other OT verses (Deut.20:5; I Kings 8:63; II Chron.7:5), the word is not translated “train up” but dedicate.
- The Hebrew word *chanak* means **to initiate, dedicate, and train**. In other Old Testament passages, it’s translated “**dedicate**”—to set something on its course.
- So Proverbs 22:6 is essentially saying: “**Initiate a child on the right path, and even in adulthood that path will continue to influence them**” or “what we teach kids when they’re young can shape who they become for the rest of their lives.” It is a principle of direction—*not a guarantee*, but a powerful truth: **what we start in them early can shape them for life.**

To **reach, inspire, and advance** our youth, we help them in exploring three life-shaping questions:

1. What is Truth?

- The world says, “just do what feels right or do what you want.” But God says, “follow My truth.”
- Scripture—John 17:17—Jesus clearly states that *God’s word is the standard of truth.*
- Q: What do you think is right—our feelings or God’s word?
- Your feelings can change every day, but God’s truth never changes.

Confession: “God’s truth never changes!”

2. Who Am I? —Identity.

- Social media and friends might tell you who to be, how to look, or what makes you matter. You’re in a world full of opinions. But your worth is not found in likes, followers, or what people think.
- Q: Who decides who you are—people or God?
- God does! You are His masterpiece, made with love and purpose.
- Scripture—Ephesians 2:10--“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...”

Confession: “I am who God says I am!”

3. What is My Purpose?

- With so many choices and voices, it is easy to wonder, “Why am I even here?”
- Q: Have you ever felt unsure about what God wants for you?
- You are not here by accident. God made you on purpose and for a reason!
- Scripture—Ephesians 2:10-- “...created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Confession: “God Made Me for a Purpose!

By grounding our youth in **truth, identity, and purpose**, we **reach** their hearts, **inspire** their faith, and **advance** their future—launching them on a path that will guide them for life.

JDF

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