

Kelly

NEEDHAM

PODCASTER, AUTHOR, MOM



Kelly Needham is a servant of Jesus Christ, a student of the Bible and COO of her home, where she lives with her husband, Jimmy, and their five children. She is the author of [*Friendish: Reclaiming Real Friendship in a Culture of Confusion*](#) (Thomas Nelson, 2019) and has been a contributing author to many other books, including [*Faithful*](#) (David C. Cook, 2021) and [*Beautifully Distinct*](#) (Good Book Company, 2020). She has served on staff at multiple churches, serving in youth, college and women's ministry. Kelly currently co-leads a women's teaching program, training women to accurately handle the word of truth and co-hosts a podcast, [*Clearly with Jimmy and Kelly Needham*](#). Whether writing or speaking, Kelly's aim is to convince as many people as possible that nothing compares to knowing Jesus.

AVAILABILITY

- Available weekends and nights
- Avail via phone, Skype, Zoom
- Avail to travel, if necessary
- Central time zone (Dallas, TX)

ONLINE

Click the icons below to find Kelly online.



EXPERTISE

- Evangelism
- Ministry
- Preaching

CREDENTIALS

- Mom of five, including two boys adopted from India
- Has served on staff at multiple churches in roles from children's ministry to leadership in college, women's, student, care & counseling ministries
- Author of multiple books with major U.S. publishers
- Toured for a decade, running operations for her husband, Jimmy Needham, a successful Christian songwriter and recording artist
- Graduate of Texas A&M

LISTEN

[Click to listen](#) as Jimmy and Kelly Needham help demystify the Bible and give listeners the tools to get out of the fog and see God for themselves. Each week, one or both of them dive into the parts of the Bible that scare people off and the areas of our spiritual lives we've been avoiding.



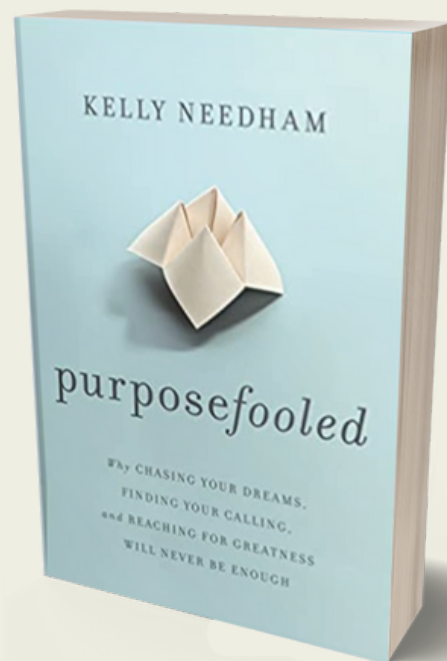
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ABOUT THE BOOK



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additional info](#)

PURPOSEFOOLED: WHY CHASING YOUR DREAMS, FINDING YOUR CALLING AND REACHING FOR GREATNESS WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH (THOMAS NELSON, 8/1/23)

Author and Bible teacher Kelly Needham reveals how we've been fooled into chasing meaning and purpose in all the wrong places, identifies the source of our hunger for the extraordinary and shows us the steps we can take today to build a purpose-filled reality without turning our lives upside-down.

AUDIENCE

- Men and women in their 20s and 30s
- Moms in the thick of a mundane daily routine
- Anyone at any age that is suffering from a lack of purpose or meaning in their life
- Those that have suffered the loss of a loved one and feel rudderless
- Mid-life crisis: Those whose careers may have been derailed or for whom life has just not gone according to plan
- Anyone who is burned out or exhausted from 'the hustle'

UNIQUENESS, RELEVANCE

- Kelly's perspective is unique because she's lived for years in both the mundane and the spotlight. She deeply understands both lives.
- Kelly doesn't demonize **the longings we all have** to be seen, do great things, make an impact and achieve something unique.
- The book affirms that our longings aren't fulfilled in what we do, but in *who we know*.
- The message in this book is liberating in that it will not provide some sort of ten-step plan to become their best self or learn a new skill or heap even more onto their already overwhelming list of things to do (or not do and eventually feel guilty about). It will instead reveal to readers that **they can find a deeply meaningful life without changing a thing**.
- Constantly striving for meaning in external achievements can lead to **burnout** as people push themselves to meet unrealistic expectations, sacrificing their well-being and **mental health** in the process.
- When meaning and purpose are sought primarily in external achievements, people may experience a perpetual sense of **restlessness** and **discontentment**, never finding true satisfaction and leading to hopelessness and emptiness.
- Relying solely on external markers of success can lead to an unstable **sense of identity**. If these markers are no longer present or change, individuals may struggle to define themselves and find a lasting sense of purpose and meaning.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- What would you say to the person whose life hasn't turned out how they dreamed? What about the young person just starting out with a big dream in their heart?
- Your subtitle says "chasing your dreams, finding your calling and reaching for greatness will never be enough." Is it wrong to chase your dreams? To try and discover your calling? How do you know when you've found it?
- How would you say we've been fooled when it comes to understanding our purpose?
- What role does social media play in our confusion re: our purpose?
- Do we each have a single, unique purpose in life? Isn't it important to figure out what that is?
- Is it right to want to be used by God like the people we read about in the Bible? And aren't the things He'd use us for big things?
- Why do we want the extraordinary? Should we just become content with the mundane parts of our lives? Is that the key to a purposeful life? Expecting less?
- Are there dangers to chasing your dreams or reaching for greatness?

WHAT'S INSIDE

- An exploration of four key longings of the human heart: to be seen, do great things, make an impact and achieve something unique.
- How modern technology affects our desires and dreams—and how to live free from those pressures and pitfalls
- How familiar Bible stories reveal that being a world-changer is more accessible and simpler than we think
- Why we need to reclaim our imaginations from culture and steward them with eternity in mind ... and how to do that
- What it looks like to live a deeply meaningful life today, instead of wearing ourselves out trying to reach the next big thing
- Navigating the mundane and finding not just contentment, but deep satisfaction right where you are

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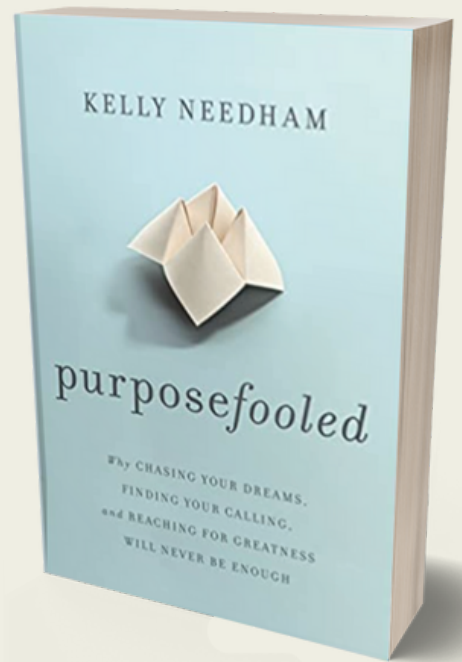
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KELLY
NEEDHAM
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Excerpt

RELEASING AUGUST 2023
PURPOSEFOOLED



Chasing after greatness has burdened us and pressurized every decision. Each encouragement to discover our true calling, each Instagram post with goal-setting tips, and each success we witness in others is a brick added to the backpack we're wearing, and it's getting heavier each day. If it's true that you can know a tree by its fruit (Luke 6:43), then the bigger-is-better tree isn't one we want in our gardens. We are not meant to live for the extraordinary. So what's the answer? Should we learn how to embrace the ordinary? Isn't that what all these books are telling us? Settle into our mundane lives and find joy in the everyday? Get rid of our outrageous goals and grow content with a simpler life?

That's the answer, right?

If we're so convinced that embracing the ordinary is the answer, why do we feel so allergic to it? If we know that the extraordinary is a fraud, why do we return to it like moths to the flame? Despite our belief that the everyday is important, we're still enslaved to the extraordinary, entirely under its influence and domination. We're a confused people, exhausted by the hurry and hustle of chasing our dreams yet terrified by the thought of a boring life. For every book I found commending the ordinary, there are just as many calling us away from it.

Do you feel this tension within yourself? A longing for someone to give you permission to just live a normal life and yet a desperate desire to do something great with your life? This tension lived in my heart for many years, a rubber band pulled taut between the opposing pillars of motherhood and ministry, merchandise and microphones. I wanted to give myself to the ordinary things God was calling me to but hesitated to let go of the unique things within my reach, fearful I would lose them forever. I just knew I was meant for something more than merchandise management, for something more than motherhood. But is it true? Are we meant for more than the ordinary?

Yes. Absolutely yes! We are not meant to live for the ordinary.

This is where the contrary cry of "ordinary can change the world" fails us. Because at its core, it's the same message with different clothes on. The heartbeat of that cry is still: Chase impact. Chase world change. Do big things, just do them in the small and unseen ways. Don't chase the limelight, chase hiddenness. But underneath, the same current is still churning in our hearts, motivating our actions. We still have a deep desire to build Babel, to leave something standing after our eighty or so years of living that will give us a purpose, leave a mark, and validate our existence.

Whether we're chasing the big or the small, the ordinary or extraordinary, we still find ourselves chasing the transcendent. And there's a reason for that! Wired into our very DNA is a deep ache for greatness.

There's a reason we resonate with the calls of "dream big" and "change the world." There's a reason we can't settle for the humdrum of dirty dishes and unending emails. We were made for something truly transcendent. We were created by God and for God, literally something (or rather Someone) otherworldly. The one who names the stars and designs the snowflakes has created us for himself. If you just can't get excited about your current nine-to-five or you feel bored to death by parenthood, this is the reason why! Your heart was made for something far more breathtaking than that.

The problem isn't that we long for something more. The problem is what we believe that "something more" is. And here is where the extraordinary and the ordinary fail us. Instead of pointing us to the One we were made for, they recommend changes in activities. The extraordinary tells us a meaningful life is found on the other side of dreaming big, discovering our callings, or following our passions. The ordinary tells us a meaningful life is found in our contentment with quiet, faithful living behind the scenes. But both miss the mark, which is why we always find ourselves vacillating between both camps.

There is one thing each side agrees on: we're absolutely meant for something more. But the answer isn't to go bigger, or smaller. We have to lift our eyes off the realm of our activities altogether. We are indeed meant for something more. But God forbid we settle for an ordinary or an extraordinary life. We were made for nothing less than the infinitely glorious, breathtakingly beautiful person of God himself. We weren't made for dreams but for the divine. We weren't made for a calling but for Christ. We weren't made for greatness but for God.

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ENDORSEMENTS

“Kelly is a brilliant guide to true purpose. She shows us that we are so much more than what we do. This book provides a path that avoids the prevalent pitfalls of burnout and exhaustion so many of us fall into. She leads us away from monotony and toward the abundant life that only Jesus can offer. You’re going to love this journey!”

—Jonathan Pokluda, pastor, host of the *Becoming Something* podcast, and bestselling author

“Through creative storytelling, Bible teaching, and practical encouragement, Kelly Needham addresses our purpose-obsessed culture with biblical wisdom. As someone who loves to dream big, *Purposefooled* challenged me to look beyond my dreams to the greater purpose of my life: knowing and following Jesus Christ.”

—Gretchen Saffles, bestselling author of *The Well-Watered Woman* and founder of Well-Watered Women

“While reading *Purposefooled*, there were multiple times I called Kelly to say through my tears what an important book this is. I am a recovering ‘doer’ myself and have benefited immeasurably from the words she has prayerfully penned. Read this book, let Jesus give you his light load yet again, and then buy at least ten copies for the people in your life. That’s what I’m doing.”

—Bethany Barnard, former CCM artist “Bethany Dillon,” mother of four, married to Shane Barnard (Shane & Shane)

“Kelly has written the book I have always wanted to write! She has so clearly put words around THE most empowering truth I have ever known. MY PURPOSE IS A PERSON. And so is yours!”

—Shane Barnard, cofounder of the Barnard Women’s Ministry of Four, the lesser half of Shane & Shane and co-creator of theworshipinitiative.com

“As Christians we have so easily baptized the world’s passionate pleas to find and pursue our purpose and to curate unique lives, and it’s led to much frustration and confusion. I, too, have distorted my desire to lead a life of significance for Christ into an idol of productivity and activity; I’ve been driven by verbs rather than The One Great Noun. That’s why I’m so grateful for *Purposefooled* and Kelly’s compelling explanation of our true value and purpose. In these pages, she offers hard-won wisdom and deep biblical insight. I believe that, as we embrace and implement these truths, we will experience a true paradigm shift that sets us free.”

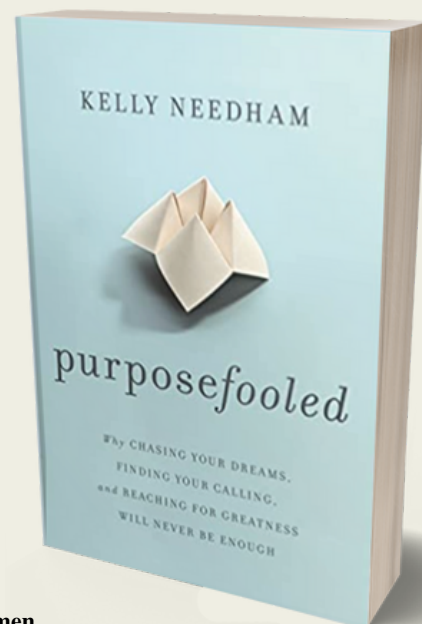
—Christine Hoover, author of *You Are Not Forgotten*, *Messy Beautiful Friendship* and *Seek First the Kingdom*

“As one who has for decades struggled with a search for significance and approval, I am grateful for the precious reminders in Kelly Needham’s *Purposefooled* that the point of my existence is not in my doing things for God but in my knowing him. If you too wrestle with identity, purpose, and meaning in life, read this book and be comforted in the good news.”

—Jared C. Wilson, assistant professor of Pastoral Ministry and Author in Residence at Midwestern Seminary / Author of *Love Me Anyway* and *Friendship with the Friend of Sinners*

“This book could not have come at a better time. In a world of influencer superstars and self-help books galore, we need someone to guide us toward truth. Not personal truth. The truth. Kelly does an incredible job of taking us to the ONE who can offer us true joy and purpose. No more striving. No more looking within. Grab a copy of *Purposefooled* and find lasting hope in a relationship with your Creator.”

—Kristen Clark and Bethany Beal, cofounders of Girl Defined Ministries and authors of *Girl Defined: God’s Radical Design for Beauty, Femininity, and Identity*



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