

TIM LEVERT

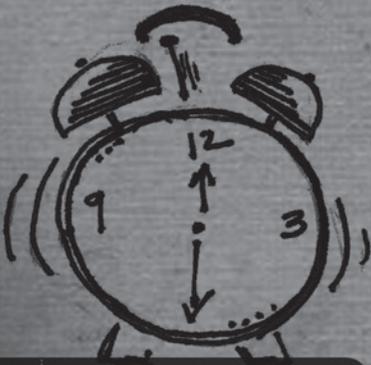
24/7



LIVING FOR GOD  
IN REAL LIFE

TIM LEVERT

24/7



LIVING FOR GOD  
IN REAL LIFE



simply for students

*“From the moment you wake up until late night, and everything in between—the locker at school, the cafeteria, the library, after-school activities—Tim gives down-to-earth guidance that will help you bring more of heaven into your life and those around you. Caution: This book will guide you to a life worth living.”*

— JR Woodward, National Director, V3 Church Planting Movement; Author, *Creating a Missional Culture*

*“Tim has always been just a really good writer. When he told me he was writing this book I just knew it would be best thing ever written on this topic. He’s such a sweet boy.”*

— Peggy (Tim’s mom)

*“Parents of teenagers regularly ask me for help choosing a devotional or book that their teenager can read to be encouraged spiritually. I’m exciting to finally have a book I can recommend that I really believe in. Youth ministers should buy this book by the case for their students. Great job, Tim!”*

— Jeremy Lee, Creator of ParentMinistry.net

*“I’m not surprised Timmy wrote a book. It probably has graphs and charts and diagrams in it. You know, I used to call him Cabbage Head; I guess he needed an oversized head to hold in his big, nerdy brain. Way to go, Cab!”*

— Shane (Tim’s older brother)

## DEDICATION //

This book is dedicated to my princesses, Elle, Zoe, and Ashton. May you always pursue the life of wonder and amazement that is only found in the kingdom of God.



## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS //**

First and always, I'm thankful to the God who loved me before anyone else and believes in me more than I believe in myself. I pray God continues to renovate my imagination as I cooperate with his Spirit to live and reveal his kingdom in my own life.

I can never thank my sweet wife enough. She puts up with all of the things I hide from everyone else and seems to love me and my eccentricities anyway. I love you, babe, and I love our life.

Many thanks to friends and colleagues with whom I've been blessed to have countless conversations over the last 20 years. This book is the product of many of them.

"I want a lifetime of holy moments. Every day  
I want to be in dangerous proximity to Jesus.  
I long for a life that explodes with meaning  
and is filled with adventure, wonder, risk, and  
danger. I long for a faith that is gloriously  
treacherous."

- Mike Yaconelli, *Dangerous Wonder*



24/7

*Living for God in Real Life*

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simplyyouthministry.com

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>A NOTE TO PARENTS, YOUTH LEADERS AND OTHER ADULTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 //</b> BEDHEAD, TOOTHPASTE, AND ALARM CLOCKS.....	<b>8</b>
<b>CHAPTER 2 //</b> POP-TARTS, CHEERIOS, AND SPILLED MILK .....	<b>21</b>
<b>CHAPTER 3 //</b> TARDY BELLS AND HOMEROOM .....	<b>31</b>
<b>CHAPTER 4 //</b> COMBINATION LOCKS AND CANDY WRAPPERS .....	<b>39</b>
<b>CHAPTER 5 //</b> MYSTERY MEAT AND MILK-IN-A-BOX .....	<b>48</b>
<b>CHAPTER 6 //</b> DUSTY BOOKS AND “QUIET PLEASE” .....	<b>61</b>
<b>CHAPTER 7 //</b> TEAM CHEERS, OVERTIME, AND ARPEGGIOS .....	<b>74</b>
<b>CHAPTER 8 //</b> STAYING UP LATE AND SLEEPING IN.....	<b>85</b>
<b>CHAPTER 9 //</b> SERMON NOTES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.....	<b>95</b>
<b>CHAPTER 10 //</b> FLIRTING, COURTING, AND GOING STEADY .....	<b>104</b>
<b>CHAPTER 11 //</b> WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?.....	<b>121</b>
<b>FINAL THOUGHTS .....</b>	<b>136</b>

IF WHAT YOU LIVED AND REVEALED THE KINGDOM OF GOD

24/7

WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD.

ACT JUSTLY. LOVE MERCY. SERVE PEOPLE. LOVE EVERYBODY. BE ENCOURAGING. SMILE AT GRUMPY PEOPLE. PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS. WAIT YOUR TURN.

FORGIVE. BE THANKFUL.

ACCEPT WHO LOOK, AND THINK DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU. DON'T BITE. CHASE AFTER JESUS

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL. BE SALT. BE LIGHT. GIVE MORE AND TAKE LESS. BE THE CHANGE YOUR FRIENDS NEED. SAY YES TO THE CALL.



share URGUM DEFEND THE WEAK SPEAK OUT. LOVE LIVE IN FREEDOM LARK LISTEN TRUST SHINE dance SING LAUGH DREAM BE THE REAL YOU! LIVE

LIVE TRUTH BELIEVE THERE IS MORE TO THIS LIFE THAN WHAT YOU SEE BY: TIM LEVERT FEARLESSLY

# INTRODUCTION //

Hi. I'm not sure why you picked up this book, but I'm really glad you did. **I believe this is the most important book you'll ever read.**

OK, that's probably a stretch. **But it could be the most important book you read this week!**

If you're open to dreaming a little, I believe God can use this book to help you see what your life *could* be like if you lived the way God wanted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. But it will take some imagination.



This book is about living and revealing the kingdom of God (we'll shorten this phrase to **LaRK** throughout the book) every moment of every day. The kingdom of God is a big deal. It's life the way God dreamed for us to live, filled with wonder, purpose, passion, joy, and his presence. Jesus is the perfect example of living and revealing God's kingdom—he did everything

exactly the way God wanted. And as Jesus' followers, we are invited to trust Jesus enough to live the way he lived—the way of God's kingdom.

# TBH

But very little of this stuff is easy. And I don't want to give you "fluffy" answers that dodge the "real life" stuff that you may be thinking.

**Anytime you see this little picture (TBH), I'm trying to cut through the fake and get down to what you really, honestly might be thinking.**

A lot of this stuff comes down to trust. Do you *trust* that God's way is best? It's not about obeying rules and staying out of trouble; it's about imagining what life could be like if we lived it God's way.

Because everything we do as followers of Jesus ought to be about living and revealing God's kingdom.

This book is all about helping you live and reveal God's kingdom in the "everyday" moments of life.

Many people in today's culture assume the worst about teenagers. You are expected to have lots of sex, do a lot of partying, and generally be really selfish. You are expected to fail, because you don't have the strength to do the right thing.

And I completely reject those ideas.

I believe that when God gets ahold of your heart and your imagination, amazing things happen. I believe you can learn to see the world as God see it, and live life the same way Jesus lived. When Jesus told his disciples that they would do even greater things than he did (John 14), he was looking at a group mostly made up of teenagers.

I don't believe you are the church of tomorrow; I believe you are the church of today. And the church needs you.

My prayer is that you will read this book with an open heart and an inspired imagination.

What would your life look like if you lived it the way Jesus did—the way God wants you to live—24/7?

I'd love to hear from you. About this book, about your life, about your own journey. Shoot me an email at [247book@gmail.com](mailto:247book@gmail.com), and let's keep the conversation going.



*Jesus, please clear my mind of the old ways I used to live, and renovate my imagination to see what life could be if I trusted you in all things. May your Spirit give me courage to say no to "I can't," and open my eyes to catch a vision of "what if?" Inspire me by your life, death, and resurrection to live a life that reveals God's kingdom 24/7. In your name, amen.*



**Meet Dennis.** Dennis is a normal guy. He's smart and good-looking, a decent athlete, funny, and sorta popular. He really wishes he was more popular, though, and he tries everything he can think of to climb the ranks of the popular students at his school. On most weekends, Dennis attends a local church with his family, but he's not really into it, because he's not sure how Jesus would affect his popularity. Dennis knows a lot about the Bible, but he's not sure what he really believes—he's too worried about what his friends at school will think about him. Dennis is a good guy, but he's missing out on the life God dreams for him. And deep down, he knows it.



**Meet Dustin.** Dustin is a normal guy, too. In fact, he's a lot like Dennis. He's smart, good-looking, not a great athlete (but a legit musician), funny (funnier than Dennis), and almost as popular as Dennis. And like Dennis, Dustin wishes he were more popular, too. But recently something changed. A few months ago, Dustin went to visit his family in another state. While there, he went to his cousin's youth group, and Dustin committed his life to Jesus. Dustin doesn't know a lot about the Bible, but he's growing. And he keeps asking God to help him see things differently. And strangely enough, God seems to be answering him.

Last thing. **Try to read this book with a pencil handy.** There are lots of places for you to interact with things, and I believe the more you're willing to play along, the more you'll get out of this book. Even if you think some of this stuff is cheesy, give it a shot anyway! You might be surprised at what God does in your life when you live and reveal his kingdom.

## THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

WRITE YOUR NAME:

---

WRITE THE NAME YOU WISH YOUR PARENTS WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU:

---

GIVE YOURSELF A SUPERHERO POWER AND NAME HERE:

---

WRITE YOUR NAME IN YOUR FAVORITE FONT:

---

SING ON THE X:

X

---

## A NOTE //

### TO PARENTS, YOUTH LEADERS, AND OTHER ADULTS WHO CARE ABOUT TEENAGERS:

Being the parent of an adolescent is a constant challenge, and helping them grow in their trust in God can feel impossible.

This book is all about living and revealing the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is a big deal. It represents God's plan for his creation—living life the way God dreamed for us, filled with wonder, purpose, passion, joy, and God!

As followers of Jesus, we are invited to trust him enough to live the way he lived—the way of God's kingdom. We love, we serve, we give, we forgive, we laugh, we grieve, we live well. Sometimes it's really difficult, but it's always worth it. Because as we live the kingdom of God, others will see it, and maybe they will want find their place in God's kingdom, too.

Everything we do as followers of Jesus can be about living and revealing God's kingdom. This book is all about helping teenagers live and reveal God's kingdom in the “everyday” moments of life, 24/7.

You may read that and think, “That *sounds* great, Tim, but it's awfully idealistic to expect that *everything* teenagers do will be about God's kingdom.”

I agree—it is totally idealistic. But I believe young people often meet the expectations placed on them.

Culture expects students to fail: reckless sexuality, substance use/abuse, selfishness, and so on. I believe we can encourage and expect teenagers to live and reveal God's kingdom.

It's OK to push teenagers to be missional  
—they can do it.

Being missional is the understanding that God created the church—his called-out people—to continue his mission to redeem and restore all things. Living missionally means we engage the world the same way God does—by carrying the mission of God into every sphere of life.

Parents, one more thing: I believe the best way you can help your teenager grow as a follower of Jesus is to follow Jesus yourself. If you're hoping they'll "do as you say, not as you do," you're setting them up to struggle. Please allow me to encourage you to invest (or reinvest) yourself in your own relationship with Jesus and make a renewed commitment to live and reveal God's kingdom.

I'd love to hear from you. About this book, about your teenager, about your own journey. Shoot me an email at [247book@gmail.com](mailto:247book@gmail.com), and let's keep the conversation going.

# CHAPTER 1 //

## BEDHEAD, TOOTHPASTE, AND ALARM CLOCKS



The buzzing in your ears grows louder and louder and louder. You try to ignore it, but it's not stopping.

Then you realize it's your alarm clock.

Is it really morning already? Didn't you just fall asleep? Why do morning people get to decide when school starts, anyway? Ugh.



You may not have a written list of “things to do to get ready” before school, but you probably do the same things every day. They're habits you've done so often that they're almost automatic in your life—you do them without even thinking.

If you haven't already, I'd encourage you to add a few spiritual “things to do” to your list, too—things that you do every day to get ready to see God's kingdom around you and be ready to respond. (If that sentence is confusing, take a minute and read the introduction.)



## SPEND UNINTERRUPTED TIME WITH JESUS



Lots of us have a person or two in our lives that we text or call as soon as we wake up. Maybe it's your parent, your BFF, your sweetie, or your younger sibling that you "accidentally" wake up every morning as you're getting dressed.

What would it look like if you added Jesus to that list? Would it surprise you to know that he wants to be on that list? Did you know that Jesus loves us so much that he never stops thinking about us—even when we're sleeping!?

*"How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!" (Psalm 139:17-18).*

**GOD** wants to spend time with you.

God **WANTS** to spend time with you.

God wants to spend **TIME** with you.

God wants to spend time with **YOU**.

God wants to hear every word you say,  
every time you want to say it.

You never talk too much for God. God never gets tired of hearing from you.

In Matthew 7:7, Jesus told his followers, “*Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.*”

**TBH**

***I struggle with this whole idea. How do you spend time with Jesus when you can't see him or hear him?***

This is one of the best questions about Jesus. And I don't have a great answer, because we can't see him. But he is always with us.

*“And be sure of this: I [Jesus] am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).*

Part of our relationship with Jesus is trusting that he is with us, even when it doesn't feel like it.

## **TALK WITH JESUS**

When we decide to spend time with Jesus, what do we talk about?

***About his goodness.*** God has done some pretty amazing things for us. Take some time to thank Jesus for them—not because God is insecure and needs us to give him props but because it reminds us of the good things he's done. Write down one of your favorite “God stories” on the next page.

If you're like a lot of teenagers we know, you want to passionately follow Jesus, lead a faith-filled life, and trust God more. In other words, you want to live and reveal God's kingdom in the ordinary, everyday moments of life.

But what does that actually look like—and how can you do it?

Tim Levert, who's been a youth pastor for a long time, has written *24/7* as an "instruction guide" on living as a committed follower of Jesus. It's organized around a typical day in your life, and each chapter offers solid thoughts on living God's kingdom and revealing God's kingdom.

*24/7* will give you specific, practical suggestions, and then challenge you to think about what else you can do—next steps in living out your faith.

As you journey through this book, you'll be inspired and invited to trust and follow Jesus' words and example in your life!



**TIM LEVERT** has been in youth ministry since 1992, though he looks much younger. He's been involved in large churches, small churches, denominational churches, non-denominational churches, and most everything in between. He earned a Ph.D. in adolescent spiritual formation, but please don't call him "doctor"—he prefers to be called "Grandmaster T." Tim somehow convinced Tasha to marry him, and together they have three beautiful daughters and a dog named Gumbo. Tim is currently the pastor to students at the Vineyard Church of New Orleans, where he has a shrimp poboy and beignets at least once a week. If you're ever in New Orleans, he would love to help you pass a good time.



**simply youth ministry**  
helping youth workers with what matters most

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