

Intro-

Welcome to Next Steps!

We're Danny & Jamie Schulz, lead pastors of Sun City. Thank you for joining us for Next Steps. We know it's a big decision you're making about whether this is your church family, and there are some things you are likely wanting to know before making that decision. Our heart is to give you some insight into who we are and who we are as a church, so that you can confidently put down roots in community and get involved at a deeper level.

We recognize that people coming into Next Steps have all kinds of backgrounds. Some might not have any church experience. Others might have been part of a different faith tradition or an entirely different religion.

What that tells us is that we don't have the same normal. Things one person might take for granted, another person has no idea about. So, we want to do our best to help everyone understand what our church community is about and how you can get involved.

[Danny testimony] - Points to Worship Culture

My story is entirely different. I grew up in a small church in the mountains. Everyone knew my name at church. If someone was new on a Sunday, everyone lined up to greet them. I gave my life to Jesus at a young age and I learned how to follow Him through the example of my close-knit community.

I remember watching my dad get up while it was still dark, read his Bible and pray before going to work. He would come home and tell me about the men he was telling about Jesus and we would pray for them together. I remember the celebration in my home every time one of those men joined him for a Bible study or finally surrendered their life to Jesus.

From the earliest moments of my life, I learned what it was like to be part of a family on mission. Now, that's become what we're passionate about at Sun City Church. We have a mission from God to bring Jesus to the world and we're doing it as a family.

It's been our life story...

We met at Bible college, served as youth and worship pastors for a season, and eventually moved to Spokane to start Sun City Church in 2015. On that first Sunday of opening the doors, 405 people showed up to church! It blew us away, and we realized God wanted to do something in this region. 30 of those 405 people gave their lives to Jesus.

We believe that kind of spiritual fruit- people coming to know and follow Jesus- is the result of planting ourselves in biblical community. When our roots go deep into good soil, abundant fruit follows.

Ps 92:13 NJKV - "Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God."

We want you to find a place to sink your roots...and the place where you will flourish.

We believe God has a spiritual journey for you:

4 Steps in the Spiritual Journey

Ephesians 1:17-18 NIV - "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may **know Him better**. I pray that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may **know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people.**"

- I wish you could see this:
- Know Him (God) - Know Him like a close friend.
 - Not a religious experience...but a real relationship
- Pray that the eyes of your heart would be enlightened
 - Looking through your heart eyes
 - Through your pain, past, people, problems
 - If you became a member, we have a plan to deal with these things!
- Once you settle your past, you can see your future
 - People are happiest when they know their calling
- The riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people
 - Meaning! Doing something with your life that will change the lives of others
 - You do it with spiritual family

Here's how we say it:

Know God, Find Freedom, Discover Purpose and Make a Difference

Let's go back through them and tell you how we do it:

Know God

"Some of these people have missed the most important thing in life—they don't know God..."

1 Timothy 6:21 TLB

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 7:21 NIV

How do we do this?

1. In our Church Services

- We build our church services to be understandable and relatable to people that don't Know God.
 - Think through language
 - Worship Welcome
 - Give Invitations for people to come to Christ every weekend
 - You never know when your friend will finally be ready!
- Luke 15 shows us the heart of God that leaves what is already found to go out and search for what is lost.

[Meaning of the Name Sun City Church]

- Now that we've multiplied to other places, our heart is still the same = we have a deep burden for lost people
- Core Value = Outward Focus
- "The church is the only organization that exists for those that are not yet a part of it" - William Temple

[Losing David at Disneyland]

The lost are his kids that are lost. He wants them. We're going to reach as many people as we can and help them truly come to Know God.

2. Through our “Know God Small Groups”

We’ve designed a curriculum all about Know God and learning to Hear the Voice of God and Do what He says. This group has been a transformative experience for people regardless of how long they’ve been going to church. We want to raise up a whole community of Jesus followers that know how to hear from God and then do what He says.

Find Freedom

*“[I pray]...that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened [focused and clear].”
Ephesians 1:17–18 NIV*

And after people come to Know God, we have to answer the question:

How does someone work through their issues?

All God kids have issues...How do we get help with them?

*“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”
James 5:16 NIV*

We go to God for forgiveness...but go to God’s people for healing.

God designed us to have life change in the context of relationships.

- Not so much when we preach (although it hurts our feelings :) - preaching makes you *want* to change. **But in order to actually change, You need a process.**

We help people find freedom through **Small Groups**

You only really get honest about your stuff when you spend time with people and start to **trust** someone.

Free Market Groups

- The power isn’t so much about curriculum or activities
- It’s about the relationships!
- Freedom Groups, Pathway Groups

3. Discover Purpose

*"[I pray]...that you may know the hope to which He has called you."
Ephesians 1:17–18 NIV*

*"All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them
came to be."
Psalm 139:16 NIV*

*"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us."
Romans 12:6 NIV*

A recent survey showed that 87% of the church does not know why they were born (no idea what they are called to do!)

We believe that your design reveals your destiny. Instead of just moving through life by trial and error, there's a significant breakthrough when we figure out how God designed us. It's an indicator of what we're supposed to do with our lives.

We help you discover purpose through taking Next Steps.

You're in step 1 right now. And we're going to ask you to come back 1 more time. Next Week!

We've also got a small group devoted entirely to Discovering Your Purpose that is a deep dive into this area. And when you really get clear on your purpose...it sets you up to:

4. Make a Difference

This is WHY you were created. You were designed for significance.

Sun City has grown because people have embarked on a journey and found the purpose of God for their lives!

*"[I pray]...that you may grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life He has
for His followers [in His holy people]."
Ephesians 1:17–18 MSG*

*"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."
1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT*

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples...I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

John 15:8, 11 NIV

Bear fruit so you have joy!

Not so we can have more volunteers.

"God has given gifts to each of you from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

1 Peter 4:10 NLT

We help people use their gifts to Make a Difference on the Dream Team

Dream Team = our word for volunteer. We like Dream Team better... Its the people who make the dream of God come alive for our region.

We have a place for you!

You are needed and you can be known.

It's going good...but it would be better with you.

We've got lots of information that we can give you through our app and on our website about:

- Missions
- Prayer
- Students
- Kids Ministry
- Outreach

We didn't want this class to take forever so we put a lot of the information online for you.

But there are 2 Things that everyone wants to know:

- The Leadership
- The Money

We are:

1. Guided by Pastors

Jamie and I serve as the lead pastors of the church and we also want you to know that our church is guided by a team of pastors across all our locations and for our schools. This team makes day-in and day-out decisions to keep us all moving forward with God's plans for our church community.

2. Protected by Elders

The eldership is the governing body of our church. It's made up of members of our congregation who prayerfully govern the church together. This team oversees the vision, doctrine, and ministry philosophy of our church. They are responsible for overseeing the finances of Sun City and covering all church ministries.

3. Strengthened by Overseeing Elders

In addition to our local elders, we have 4 overseeing elders who serve as voices of care and accountability for Jamie and me. It's really important that you know that this team exists and that your pastors are accountable to those above them. If Jamie or I did something illegal, unethical, or immoral, these are the people who would work with the eldership fire us. They are the ones that make sure we're staying on track and healthy personally, spiritually, emotionally, and in our leadership. We absolutely love and honor these pastors. We wouldn't be who we are without them, and Sun City wouldn't be thriving as it is without their wise leadership in our lives. You can see their names and locations there in your notes.

Jamie

The next thing we want you to know is how we steward the church finances.

Throughout the Bible, the people of God honor Him by setting apart the first part of their finances to devote to His work. Giving the first 10% that God blesses us with is a spiritual practice called tithing. And any giving beyond that first 10% is considered an offering.

At Sun City, we encourage everyone who has made the decision to follow Christ to orient their finances around the practice of tithing. Sometimes that's a journey of learning how to budget and reorder our spending to make that a possibility. It's one of the reasons we have small groups that help people along that journey.

So, we believe in and practice tithing and bring offerings to God, BUT we also understand that it's easy for people to get hung up on finances. Maybe they've felt pressured to give in the past or seen poor stewardship in this area. They start thinking that God wants something FROM them instead of something FOR them, which is why we are very intentional about how we lead people into this understanding of kingdom finances.

We want a life-giving culture where everyone feels loved, encouraged, and helped.

On the management side, financial stewardship is very important to us. Here are just a few of the practices we've put in place to honor God with our finances-

1- We tithe and give as a church community.

Not only do Danny and I tithe as individual disciples of Christ, but we practice tithing as a church. More than 10% of every dollar that is given to Sun City goes to outreach, missions, and new church plants.

2- We budget on 90% of last year's budget

This creates margin so we are better prepared and helps create a no-pressure environment around finances. You should never feel pushed or manipulated about money, but rather invited into a God-honoring culture of generosity. You have probably already felt this in our services, and I need you to know that it's made possible by many people like you who know that honoring God through our finances makes a big difference in our community and around the world.

3 - We have a 3rd Party Accounting Firm oversee all of the accounting for the church.

They track expenses, cut checks, pay taxes, and run payroll. All of it is done to the highest standards of accountability and integrity so that we can all feel safe and secure as we give.

When people choose not to give to a church, it's not normally because they are greedy. It's normally because:

1. They are strapped and need help creating more margin in their budget
2. They are having trouble trusting the leadership with how the money is spent

We totally understand this. And it's important that you know that we believe that giving is worship unto God. We aren't just giving TO the church...we're giving THROUGH the church to God. Giving should be seen as worship to Him and therefore treated with the highest standards of integrity and accountability. We also intentionally walk with people to help them align their current financial situation with a trajectory of putting God first. If you'd like to know more about the resources available in this area, let your Next Steps host know.

We want the blessing of God to rest on our church community. Our story has been marked with supernatural provision and opportunities so far and we never want that to end. So we take honoring God through wise stewardship very seriously.

Danny

Alright, we're at the end of our time together! You're probably asking, "So, what's next?"

At this point, we are asking you to do 4 things:

1. Become a member

- a. This isn't about putting your name on a roster; it's about identifying with the vision of the church and recognizing the leading of the Spirit of God. This is a spiritual decision of choosing to put down roots and make this your church family. You don't have to sign the membership covenant today if you'd like to consider and pray over the decision. But if you know this is the decision you'd like to make, we encourage you to boldly step into it with faith that God is adding you to this church community.
2. Join a Small Group
 - a. This is the best way for you to get connected relationally and grow in your relationship with God. We have Pathway Groups that stay together through the small group semesters or you can just try one out for a semester and see how it goes.
 - b. It can be intimidating to join a small group to learn about God and journey together, but God designed us to know and be known. He called you to Himself individually, but He adds you to a family where you can learn about what it means to follow Jesus and grow in your relationship with Him.
3. Finish this Next Steps Track
 - a. We only need one more week from you and it's more of a lab than a lecture. We've got some assessments designed to help you discover your passions and abilities. But we also want you to meet more of our pastoral team and for them to have an opportunity to get to know you at a deeper level so they can help guide you to the right place to get connected in our community.
 - b. Next Steps 2 happens every week. You can come back to the same place next week and the team will help you continue on the journey.
4. Join the Dream Team
 - a. One of the best ways to get connected and move from the fringes to being involved in the community is to find a place to start making a difference. It's like going from showing up to dinner that everyone made for you to getting to the house early so you can help make the salad. Guests show up for dinner but family makes dinner happen.
 - a. The Next Steps Track isn't complete until you've landed on a team and have had 2 successful serving experiences. That's our goal for you, and we're inviting you on this important journey.

We do have a formal membership covenant that we'd ask you to consider and pray about signing. The reason for that has nothing to do with control. We just want to know who's all-in.

The book of Hebrews talks about how, as Pastors, we actually stand accountable before God for the souls of those who call Sun City Church home and call us their pastors. And we take that really seriously! I know we're not accountable for everyone in Spokane...or anyone who ever visits. And it does change the way we pray, lead, and pastor when someone says, "I'm in...this is my church...you are my pastors."

We'd like to read through that covenant with you and then ask you to prayerfully decide whether that's you.

Sun City Church Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and being in agreement with the values and ideas presented in Step One of the Next Steps Track, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Sun City Church family. In doing so, I make the following commitment to God and my fellow church members:

1. I will protect the unity of my church by:

- Acting in love toward other members.
- Refusing to gossip.
- Following the leaders.

2. I will share the responsibility of my church by:

- Praying for its growth and health.
- Inviting the unchurched to attend.
- Warmly welcoming those who visit.

3. I will serve the ministry of my church by:

- Discovering my gifts and talents.
- Using my God-given gifts to make a difference in the lives of others. Developing a servant's heart.

4. I will support the testimony of my church by:

- Attending church and Small Groups faithfully.
- Living a Godly life.
- Giving regularly.

Maybe you're ready to make that decision today. If so, great! If not, we get it! It's an important decision.

You can let the Next Steps Team know how you are feeling by filling out the Response Card in front of you. It tells our team how to follow up with you and how we can help you along this journey.

Thanks for taking the time to learn more about Sun City today! We hope that this isn't just our story but it becomes part of your story as well. Danny and I have the incredible honor of being part of life after life transformed by the power of Jesus. We serve alongside the most amazing team, doing the work God has called us to, in order to see His kingdom expand on the earth.

We're praying for God's richest blessing to rest on you and your family as you lean into
hear where He's leading to put down roots and become an integral part of His
community.

[Pray and Hand it Back to your hosts]

Video 2

Hey, welcome back to Next Steps. Today is less of a class and more of a lab.

First, we'll take some profiles and assessments. It's going to be fun. But let's start with this thought:

All of us were created by God to make a difference in the life of another person.

God has a place for you in the church, where your unique abilities and passions impact others and help us become who we're meant to be as a church.

We believe that your life will never make sense until you find, develop, and fulfill that purpose.

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10 NIV

He had the thing for you to do first...then He created you. This is why your design is so important!

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me." Acts 20:24 NIV

Paul said, "I'm building my life around finishing the work that God has given to me."

"Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)...All of you together are the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27 (LB)

The analogy used in this verse is of a human body. One person is the hand. One person is the foot. One is the eye. But we all need each other for the body to function.

We don't ask everyone to do everything around here.

Example - outreach. 15% have the "outreach gene". Once a year, we do Serve Day and everyone participates in reaching out into our region in impactful ways. Every year, some people realize they were designed by God to do this more than once in awhile... they're built to help spread the good news of Jesus to those who haven't heard it yet.

We want people to find their sweet spot!

Here's what we believe

1. Every member is a minister

The pastor's job is to equip THE SAINTS for the work of the ministry. There is a lot going on around here. It's not the people the work of the paid staff to do all of it. Their job is to facilitate and equip the whole body to do it.

One of our favorite sayings with our staff is that we aren't the heroes...we're the Hero Makers! We are excited to put every member of Sun City Church into the game...not just cheering on the sidelines.

2. Every role is important

Not just on the platform. Lives are being impacted across campuses and throughout the week as people step into their God-given assignments on the team.

[story of the usher who talked with the person who couldn't stay in service]

Admin, Parking Team, Coffee, Kids...there is nothing that is unimportant.

3. Every member is a "10" in some area

You're not going to be great at everything, but you are really good at some things.

There's a thing that when you are doing it, you come alive! You love it, you're good at it, and it makes a big difference.

"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it." Psalm 139:13-14 NLT

David, the psalmist, knew it...but 87% of the church doesn't. Imagine if 87% of your body didn't know its function! Problems.

Your design reveals your destiny.

If you will discover how you are made...you'll start to see what you are supposed to do.

So that's what we're going to do right now.

Your Next Steps host will lead you through a few assessments to help you understand where you might fit best on the team. (DISC, spiritual gifts)

Video 3

Welcome back - our goal for today is help you connect onto a team that best fits with who God designed you to be.

But we also know this - we may not get it right the first time. That's totally ok! So don't be nervous. Just stir up some boldness and try something that sounds interesting!

There are a bunch of places to get involved.

Now, different teams have different training processes : Ushers, Youth Ministry, Worship...they all look different.

What we want to do today is give you the first connection to that team. You might meet people that will become life long friends and spiritual family!

What you're doing is stepping onto the Dream Team. As you do, we want to give you where we call our Dream Team Cultures. You need this because you are becoming a representative of Sun City Church! As a team, these are the way in which we go about serving inside the church and beyond.

As we serve on the Dream Team we carry these cultures:

1. Love God

We're in a vibrant relationship with God. Our love for God is what people experience...not just our serving.

We serve... because we LOVE Jesus.

*Matthew 22:36-38 - "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.*

This is the thing we want you to bring while you are serving. We want you to bring a passionate love for Jesus.

Burnout comes from serving from a different motive.

If while I'm serving, I'm thinking *"Jesus I love you...Jesus I worship you...I remember how you died for me...I'm conscious of how you've forgiven me"*.

Before you know it I'm a happy team member.

If while I'm serving I'm thinking *"I hope my leaders are happy...I wonder if I'm doing good...I wonder if people like me...I'm probably the best greeter around this place..."*
Before you know it, you're a burned out team member.

The Greatest Gift you will ever bring to this church is your passionate love for God! This is what people experience from you!

*Acts 4:13 - When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and **they took note that these men had been with Jesus.***

What does this look like?

- A. Spend time with God individually and as a team
- B. Develop your character
- C. Develop your calling
 - a. Our commitment to you is help you grow!!
 - b. You'll see your gifting grow and you'll move into different places on the team over time

2. Love People

Matthew 22:39-40 - And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

If we get the 1st one right, it flows into this second one. If we love God, we will love what He loves. His lost sons and daughters coming home!

Mark 10:42-45 - Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Leadership = Serving

- We put others before ourselves

- We are team players
- We are authentic

3. Love the House

Psalm 26:8 NKJV - Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells.

I truly believe everyone deserves to love the church the attend!

When you love your church, you are contagious. People will love what you love. If you let things build up in your heart and you get annoyed and irritated...you won't be an effective laborer. So you gotta protect your love for the house.

Psalm 122:1 NKJV - I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Spent a lot of days mad...a lot of days sad...a lot of days bored. Not anymore. I love this place.

4. Choose Joy

*John 4:36 NLT - The fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. **What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!***

Happiness depends on my circumstance but JOY is a CHOICE.

Joy Makes it easy to work together

Joy Makes it easy to work long hours

Joy Makes everything fun

Don't you love people who light up the room??

[Setup and Teardown races in U-High]

Joy is contagious. It's like YES... I want to be there.

Philippians 2:14-15 ESV - Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world

Be enjoyable

Be positive

Can do person! YES! We can do it.

Be fun

5. Make it Great

We use this saying a lot around Sun City - "We sweat the small stuff". We find that paying attention to the details helps people receive what God is trying to say to them. It causes people to relax and receive.

[Imagine going to a dentist office...that is less than great - old magazine, not clear, checked out receptionist...]

- dang, what are they going to do in my mouth

Here's what it means to Make it Great:

God's going to get my best. People are going to get my best. I can't be perfect...but I can make this great.

Colossians 3:23-24 - 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

- Be on time
- Follow through
- Do things before you are asked
 - If you see some trash...it just became yours!
- Do more than is expected
 - Go the extra mile

Ok, we're about ready to move into what's next for today. It's going to be a lot of fun. We're going to connect you with a leader from our team to help guide you toward what's next. **Again, our goal today is to make sure you leave with a clear next step for how to join one of our ministry teams.**

Ask a lot of questions...but get involved in one of them! Get ready to go on a journey as God uses your life to impact the life of someone else.

[Pray]