



What is Your Purpose Tomorrow?

By Kim Radison, SPHR

Every night at bedtime, my three year old son asks me what we are going to do tomorrow. I usually answer something like “go to Grandma’s,” “go shopping,” or “stay at home and play.” “But what are we *doing*?” is his replay. To him, just going somewhere is not answer enough. What will happen tomorrow? Will a new train track be built tomorrow for his toy train set? Will Elmo learn how to brush his teeth on Sesame Street?

Although many of us can relate these questions to a child’s excuse to prolong the bedtime process, I have realized that there is a nugget of wisdom in those questions he asks each night. He wants to know what the deeper meaning of the day will be. Going to Grandma’s will not accomplish anything in and of itself. Yet, most of us spend our lives focused on nebulous answers to bedtime questions. Tomorrow I have two meetings. I need to pick up the dry cleaning. Dinner has to be ready by six. We never get to the deeper meaning of the day.

Many of us only take the time to find the deeper meaning in our lives in chunks of time of a year or even a whole lifetime. What will I be when I grow up? What will be my legacy? What is my purpose? We may only review these ideas as part of a New Year’s Resolution or when a huge change has occurred in our life. When I view my life this way, the answer to each of these questions has changed many times for me, specifically over the last few months of my life as I have shifted career goals and learned that my husband and I are expecting our third child.

I can be disappointed to abandon the old answers to these deeper questions in life, or I can be happy to know that I am constantly living out my current answers in small ways every day. If I try to be the best wife, mother, and citizen that I can be on a daily basis, I am living out my purpose. It doesn’t matter how many children I have or what my title at work may be, I am living my purpose. And to keep me focused daily on this purpose, I have my son’s simple yet profound bedtime question.

Remember, as quoted by Babatunde Olatunji, *Today is a gift. That’s why we call it the present.* Tomorrow I am taking my gift and, while I build a new train track, I am going to live my purpose of being the best mom that I can be, on that day.