



## **Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World – Fall Class 2026**

### **Getting Ahead class information**

Class information is as follows:

- The Fall 2026 class of Getting Ahead will begin August 25, 2026 with graduation on December 15, 2026.
- Classes meet on Tuesday nights for 16 weeks at Post Oak Fellowship church, 2100 N. Woods Street in Sherman. We begin with dinner (provided for participants and children by volunteer groups in the community) at 5:30 – 6:00 pm followed by class time from 6:00 to 8:30 pm.
- Investigators receive a \$25 gift certificate stipend provided at the completion of each weekly session. This both makes attendance possible and recognizes the value of the information and insight investigators bring to the community through Getting Ahead.
- Childcare is provided during each weekly session. We will have a class for teenagers as well.

### **About Getting Ahead**

*Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World* is for people who are living in poverty or unstable situations. It's about building economic stability for ourselves and a better future for our communities.

In *Getting Ahead* we study poverty and near poverty through the lens of economic class to better understand how our society and the economy work. In groups of 8-12 people, we investigate the impact that poverty and low wages have on us and what it takes to move from a just-getting-by world to a getting-ahead world. The idea of "getting ahead" means action and movement – getting ahead of where we are now, toward a future that we really want.

In *Getting Ahead*, you will be the expert regarding your life, with information that others need, and a problem solver in your own life, as well as in the community. No one is going to tell you what to do or think. No one is going to "assess" you, evaluate you, or hand you a plan.

*Getting Ahead* is about your future story. Whether you know it or not, we're all creating our future stories right now. Getting Ahead is one tool you can use to help create your future story.

*Getting Ahead* is going to be hard work. No one will be lecturing or teaching in typical ways, which means the learning has to be done by you and the group. In Getting Ahead you will be

an investigator, someone who digs for the facts and doesn't settle for the obvious answer. Investigators look for the truth.

**About our current program in Grayson County**

*Getting Ahead* program is sponsored and facilitated by MasterKey Ministries of Grayson County in partnership with Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG). The 16-week program culminates in a graduation celebration for investigators who complete the course.

For more information about Getting Ahead, contact Virginia Brooks, 214-923-5859, [virginia@brooksandassociatespr.com](mailto:virginia@brooksandassociatespr.com). Follow us on Facebook at MasterKey Ministries of Grayson County.



***Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-by World -- A faith-based program***

**Fall 2025 Class Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you Hispanic or Latino? (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin): \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Please select the racial category or categories with which you most closely identify by placing an X by the appropriate category: American Indian or Alaska Native \_\_\_\_\_; Asian \_\_\_\_\_; Black or African American \_\_\_\_\_; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander \_\_\_\_\_; White \_\_\_\_\_.

**Household Information:** Please list all people living in your household.

Name: _____	Age: _____	M/F: _____
Name: _____	Age: _____	M/F: _____
Name: _____	Age: _____	M/F: _____
Name: _____	Age: _____	M/F: _____

**Educational Background and Goals:**

What is the highest grade you completed in school? *Circle one*

**Grade** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

**GED**

**College** 1 2 3 4

Are you currently in school? Y or N

**How did you hear about Getting Ahead?**

- ☐ From a former Getting Ahead graduate
- ☐ From an agency, church, or organization (please name \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ From MasterKey web site
- ☐ From MasterKey Facebook page
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Class Schedule/Information**

When: Every Tuesday evening for 16 weeks beginning in August 19 with our graduation December 16, 2025. (We will not hold class November 25 for Thanksgiving)

Where: 2100 N. Woods Street, Sherman, Texas (Post Oak Fellowship church building)

Time: Classes begin with dinner (provided for participants and children) at 5:30 pm; class will run from 6-8:30 p.m.

Participants will receive a \$25 dollar Walmart gift card each week they attend.

Childcare and dinner are provided during each weekly session.

**Applicant Certification**

By signing below, I acknowledge, agree or attest to the following:

- The Program is faith based.
- I will make every effort to attend all classes.
- I am free from any drug or alcohol addiction.
- I am not listed on any sex-offender registry.
- I understand an application alone is not a guarantee of acceptance into the program.
- The information provided herein is the truth to the best of my knowledge.

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Signature of Applicant

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Date

Please return this completed application to Virginia Brook at [virginia@brooksandassociatespr.com](mailto:virginia@brooksandassociatespr.com). Call 214-923-5859 if you have questions. Follow us on Facebook at MasterKey Ministries of Grayson County.