

# A Vision to Thrive

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A vision of why we exist, what is possible, and what will guide us.

## Prologue

*"Do not move the ancient landmark that your fathers have set."*

*Proverbs 22:28*

*"So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established." 1 Kings 2:12*

*"The challenge of leadership is to create change and facilitate growth." John Maxwell, The Five Levels of Leadership*

*"Write down this vision and clearly inscribe it on tablets, so that a herald may run with it." Habakkuk 2:2*

## Purpose, Foresight, and Signposts

*Purpose* is the reason we exist

*Foresight* is the real possibility of what could be

*Signposts* are guides that help us get there

Why do we exist?

What is possible?

What will guide us?

# A WORD ABOUT OUR FOUNDATION

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Everything is founded on the love of the Father.

*“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God... This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”*

*1 John 4:7, 9-12*

## ***Foresight...***

We imagine a community of people who spiritually thrive in their soul through a living, interactive friendship with Jesus. Together they grow to become like Christ, serve the city's common good, and help others discover friendship with Jesus.

# Signposts

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Criteria we use to examine our effectiveness.

## **Signpost 1:**

We must value a religionless Christianity.

*"Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." Matthew 11:28-30; see also Matthew 24:14*

*Christianity is the constant releasing of burdens.*

## Religion vs. Gospel

*"Religion says, "I obey, therefore I am accepted. The Gospel says, I am accepted, therefore I obey." Tim Keller*

*Religion is rules. Jesus is rest.*

## Church 212 Verse:

*"With him you were raised because you trusted in the mighty power that raised Christ from the dead." Colossians 2:12*

The world doesn't need hype it needs hope.

## **Plumb Line:**

Christ alone is the power to change lives.

## Signpost 2:

We must value a culture of soul care.

*"He restores my soul..." Psalm 23:3*

"Grace is opposed to earning but not effort." – Dallas Willard

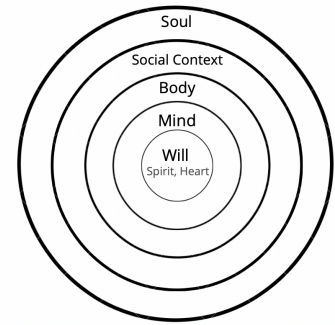
Take your rest and add rhythms.

*"May God give you more and more grace and peace **as you grow** in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord." 2 Peter 1:2 (enabling grace)*

"The purpose of the Spiritual Disciplines is the total transformation of the person. They aim at replacing the old destructive habits of thought with new life-giving habits." Richard Foster

Peaceful rest-filled rhythms

A "Rhythm of Life" is your personal plan on how you cultivate soul health, live in community, and follow Jesus.



## Plumb Line:

Healthy spirituality requires healthy habits.

## Signpost 3:

We must value a family of we care.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and with all of your strength, and Love your neighbor as your self" – Luke 10:27*

"90% of our problems would disappear if we cared for one another." – Larry Crabb

There are 59 "one another's" in the New Testament

## Plumb Line:

In a family every soul matters.

### **Signpost 4:**

We must value leadership growth.

*"Where there is no guidance, a people falls,  
but in an abundance of counselors there is safety." Proverbs 11:14*

*"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve." 1 Peter 5:2*

*"Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock...  
to care for the church of God..." Acts 20:28*

*"Leading an organization is as much about souls as it is systems." - Five Levels of Leadership*

#### **There are three things I do:**

- 1) Teach the Bible
- 2) Guide our culture
- 3) Develop the staff
  - A. Their own soul care
  - B. Their community leadership

Life group leaders and team leaders are essential to this value.

#### **Plumb Line:**

Leadership is key to caring well.

## **Signpost 5:**

We must value Bible-centered Teaching.

"They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read." Nehemiah 8:8,

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

"For the word of God is living and active... piercing to the division of soul and of spirit... discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

Reading the Bible is a divine experience.

### How we will teach:

Teaching rhythms will revolve around *seasons* and *series*.  
What is God saying in this season?

Variety of sermon series:

- Expository – books of the Bible, like James or Esther
- Topical – felt needs, like anxiety, relationships or apologetics.
- Doctrine – the virgin birth, spiritual gifts, the Trinity, etc.

Sunday teaching is intended for *sermon-based life groups*.  
As part of soul care and we care.

(Specialty groups are allowed)

### Plumb Line:

The divine life flows from the Living Word.

### **Signpost 6:**

We must value Spirit-Filled Living.

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." Acts 2:17 (spiritual power and spiritual gifts)

"Where the spirit of the Lord is there is freedom... We all... are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:6-18... " (character formation)

Leader of the Azusa Street Revival said,

"The primary evidence of the Holy Spirit is divine love... If you get angry, or speak evil, or backbite, I care not how many tongues you may have, you have not the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Pentecost makes us love Jesus more and love our brothers more. It brings us all into one common family... when you sum it up, it's just more of God's love." - William Seymour

"God did not give us a **spirit** of fear, but of **power, love**, and a **sound mind**." 2 Tim 1:7

### **Plumb Line:**

The Spirit is evidenced three ways: character formation, spiritual power and love.

### **Signpost 7:**

We must value a passion for community care.

"A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12:7

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice... to set the oppressed free...? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter...?" Isaiah 58:6-7, Ps. 89:14, Matt 23:23,

Compassion + justice = peace | See Jeremiah 29:7

"Christianity is a movement, and by definitions movements move." J.D. Greear

### **Plumb Line:**

True love has the backbone of justice.



## **Signpost 8:**

We must value engagement in the Great Commission.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”  
Matthew 28:18-20; see also Acts 1:8, Matthew 24:14

“Over the long-term in a church, you can accomplish more with 300 engaged Christians than with 3000 disengaged attendees.” Carey Nieuwhof.”

### **On the cost of discipleship and non-discipleship:**

“The cost of discipleship is great, but the cost of non-discipleship is greater” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

“Non-discipleship costs abiding peace, a life penetrated throughout by love, faith that sees everything in the light of God’s overriding governance for good, hopefulness that stands firm in the most discouraging of circumstances, power to do what is right and withstand the forces of evil. In short, it costs exactly that abundance of life Jesus said he came to bring (John 10:10).”  
Dallas Willard, *Devotional Classics*

### **Plumb Line:**

Discipleship is the path to freedom.

## **Signpost 9:**

We must value a hybrid faith experience.

Hybrid simply means a physical and digital approach to church life.

"You can't download a relationship or friendship." Carey Nieuwhof

"Content alone won't build the future, connection will. The goal is connection, not consumption." Carey Nieuwhof

90% of our social connection happens online.

### Two types of people we engage:

- People of the faith
- People not of the faith

### 5 Levels of Spirituality

- Not interested
- Spiritually curious
- Believer
- Growing in Christ
- Helping others grow in Christ

People engage 15 times online before they visit in person.

*The internet is the new front doors, life groups are the back doors.*

No more growth track—next steps are organic to each person.

Whether you're a seeker or seasoned, you have a next step.

*"How are they to believe in Jesus if they've never heard of him? ... Saving faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Romans 10:14-17*

### Plumb Line:

The Gospel must connect where people are.

# Purpose

## Four Things We Do:

### 1. **Know Jesus** Through Interactive Friendship

We believe our relationship with Jesus is one of interactive friendship which yields the miraculous result of human transformation. Learning to live intimately with him is foundational to spiritual formation.

### 2. **Pursue Health** In a Rhythm of Life

We believe following Jesus is the journey of healthy spirituality for our souls and for the sake of others. A "Rhythm of Life" is a personal plan of how we create space in our lives to cultivate these "four things we do."

### 3. **Choose Community** In Life Groups

We choose community outside of the weekend service because this is how we live as Christ's church. Life groups are a safe place where the masks can come off, where we enjoy life-giving friendships, grow to become like Christ and follow him.

### 4. **Show Jesus** Through Prayer, Care, & Share

Alongside of joining available care opportunities, we encourage our groups and members to develop a prayer, care and share lifestyle. We pray for our friends and neighbors, show care for them, and share our faith.

## Purpose statement:

We help people spiritually thrive in friendship with Jesus.