

Peoples Church Small Group Questions

Date: February 19, 2017

Speaker: Pastor Dale Oquist

Message: Vision Sunday

LOOKING BACK:

Today was a special message by Pastor Dale, addressing the “State of the Union” at Peoples Church, and God’s vision for our future. The question is not “Is God up to something?” Instead, the question should be, “What is God up to?” And, the next question is. “Can I see it?” Pastor Dale said, “If God is up to something in this city (or in or church), then He is up to something in you!” If we are members of Peoples Church, then we will love Fresno! The vision is not about us; God is reaching lives and building His church through us; the Great Commission is still our mandate. Regarding Peoples, 327 people were baptized in 2015, and 356 in 2016; Pastor wants to see at least 365 (at least one daily) in 2017. We also have given over two million dollars in missions in the past two years. Pastor Dale also sees expanded men’s, women’s, and children’s ministries at Peoples; we are supporting the new Peoples Church Southeast, which is bilingual; he sees more Peoples Church campuses in Fresno in the future; God is renewing our need to be a greater influence in our region; and we are going to be more deliberate about discipleship.

DIGGING DEEPER: Proverbs 29:18 and Isaiah 43:14-19.

Isaiah sees Israel in future captivity in Babylon; He reminds them of His past dealings with them in delivering them from Egypt; then He states He will do a new thing in freeing them from Babylon. God can be unpredictable, accomplishing His will in new ways, ways we are not expecting. Because of that, we may miss what God is doing, even when it is right in our face. We can be near-sighted, seeing only the temporal and not the eternal. We can be far-sighted, perhaps lost in the future and not available for what God is doing in the present. We may be color-blind, missing out on God’s diversity, or we can have tunnel vision, concerned only about our immediate needs and family. All these vision problems will distract us from seeing God moving.

BRING IT HOME:

Questions:

1. What is God’s vision for your personal life in 2017, regarding Godly relationships, Bible Study, personal devotions, financial issues like tithing, and sharing your faith?
2. What is God’s vision for your involvement in Peoples Church in 2017?
3. What are your distractions that prevent you from seeing or hearing God?
4. How are you going to address these distractions now?