

## **This is Us: God-Inspired Vision**

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### **Opening Discussion**

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

### **College Church's Mission**

To Lead every generation into a growing relationship with Jesus so that all may experience God's goodness and grace.

### **Core Value #1:**

**We are a blended family:** We are a diverse family with unique backgrounds and stories that God has brought together. We want everyone to experience the belonging that comes with being a part of the family of God.

### **Core Value #2**

**We Cultivate Christlikeness:** We choose to surrender our lives to be continually shaped by Christ so that we might become more and more like Him. We believe He first changes our hearts, which then changes our behavior.

### **Core Value #3**

**We Give and We Go:** We give and go in sacrificial ways to impact our community and world. We are generous because God has been generous with us.

### **Core Value #4**

**We Pursue a God-inspired Vision:** We dream big and align with God's purpose so His will is accomplished on earth as it is in heaven.

## **Thought #1: We align with God's purpose**

### **Acts 9:11**

*"The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again."*

While Saul's transformation is often the focal point of this story, let's take a moment to consider Ananias. Ananias was a faithful disciple living in Damascus. Despite the risks involved, he obediently responded to God's call to go and minister to Saul.

What can we learn from Ananias's willingness to obey God's command, even when it seemed counterintuitive or dangerous? How can we apply Ananias's example of faith and obedience to our own lives?

As we look deeper at this story, we see the intentional working of God's divine plan. While Saul was undergoing a radical transformation, God was simultaneously preparing Ananias to play a crucial role in Saul's journey of faith. Their paths intersected, and through obedience on BOTH of their parts, God's purposes were fulfilled.

Reflecting on the story of Saul and Ananias, how have you experienced God's timing and divine appointments in your own life? Share a time God led you to step into a situation or circumstance where you felt "out of your comfort zone." In what ways can we lean into a greater awareness and sensitivity to God's leading? To be open to being instruments of His purposes,

even when it may seem uncomfortable or challenging?

Revisit this quote from ***Experiencing God*** by Henry Blackaby.

*“You cannot stay where you are and go with God. You cannot continue doing things your way and accomplish God's purpose in His ways. Your thinking cannot come close to God's thoughts. For you to do the will of God, you must adjust your life to Him, His purposes, and His ways.”*

How does this challenge our comfort zones and routines? Have you experienced moments where God called you to step out of your comfort zone to align with His will? What are some examples from your life or from scripture where individuals had to surrender their plans and align with God's purposes? What were the outcomes?

How does the story of Saul and Ananias challenge us to trust in God's direction and timing, even when His instructions seem unconventional or difficult to understand? As believers, how can we cultivate a posture of readiness and obedience to God's leading in our lives? What practical steps can we take to discern God's voice and respond obediently to His call, even when it requires stepping out of our comfort zones?

## **Thought #2: We Dream Big**

### **Genesis 18:11-14**

*“Abraham and Sarah were both very old by this time, and Sarah was long past the age of having children. So, she laughed silently to herself and said, “How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so old?” Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, ‘Can an old woman like me have a baby?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord? I*

*will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”*

Reflecting on Sarah's reaction to the news of her impending pregnancy, why do you think she laughed silently to herself? What emotions and doubts might have been running through her mind at that moment? In what ways do you relate to this reaction from Sarah?

Discuss the significance of Sarah's statement, "How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so old?" How does this reveal Sarah's perspective on her own limitations and the impossibility of the situation?

Reflecting on God's question, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" how does this challenge our perceptions of God's power and ability to work miracles in our lives? How do we sometimes limit God's power by our own doubts and limitations?

In what areas of your life do you find it challenging to trust in God's ability to overcome obstacles and fulfill His promises? How can Sarah's story serve as a reminder to trust in God's faithfulness and sovereignty, even in the face of seemingly impossible situations?

## **Thought #3: So, His Will is Accomplished on Earth as it is in Heaven**

### **Matthew 6:9-10**

*“Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Reflecting on the phrase, "May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," what implications does this have for our

