

Navigating Change

March 23-24, 2019

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WARM-UP

If you could travel to any location on the earth, where would you go?

INTRODUCTION

- ⇒ Name one thing that you heard in this week's sermon that made you excited about the vision of Red Cedar Church.
- ⇒ What did Adam say that made you sit up and pay attention?

Read Proverbs 29:18 in several translations.

- ⇒ What happens when we have no God-given vision?
- ⇒ Where do you see yourself personally within the overall vision of the church?
- ⇒ How does your personal growth affect others in your group, or affect your church as we carry out God's vision together?

Mission is the ultimate purpose of an organization, it's reason for existence. It's why we do what we do. A church's should be tied to the Great Commission.

Vision is what the mission will look like when it is lived out in your church and your community. It is the desired change, or the end result.

- ⇒ Looking at the definitions above, what is similar and what is different about vision and mission?
- ⇒ Why do you think it is important to establish a mission before a vision?

BIBLE APPLICATION

- ⇒ What are some of the things that we use to avoid pursuing the passion and vision God has placed within each of us?

Read the following passages

James 1:22-25; James 2:14-17

James 4:17; James 5:16-18

- ⇒ How can we apply these verses to our lives to overcome our roadblocks to action?

In his book *Forgotten God*, Francis Chan said, "We focus on what God wants us to do and forget the kind of people he wants us to be."

- Discuss what you think this statement means and how it relates to understanding the vision God places on our heart individually and corporately.

Part of our vision for small groups is that we would experience the power of the Holy Spirit – our own version of an upper room experience as we sense God at work in our lives.

- ⇒ Discuss some of the growth signs that you have experienced as a group that have shown you that God is present.
- ⇒ How can your group help each other with their spiritual growth through accountability?

Read Acts 26:9-19

- What change did Paul's mission go through when he encountered Christ?
- Discuss how sometimes our vision might go through a change.
- Do you think a church mission can change? Why or why not?

NEXT STEPS / ACTION

One way of making sure we're ready for the next step as a church is to make sure we're functioning as a healthy group.

- ⇒ Review the RC Groups Covenant together.
- ⇒ Discuss how you think you're doing as a whole (not as individuals) on each of the principles. If you think change is needed to bring your group into a place of unity, create a plan of action together for how you will do this.

Read Luke 22:24-27

- Describe why our motivate matters when it comes to how we pursue our mission.
- How are you spiritually preparing for change and for unity as we walk through it together?
- What steps will you take to positively steer your own response to change?

PRAYER

Pray for direction for understanding your individual mission and vision in life. Ask God to show specific ways where your personal mission and vision connect with the mission and vision of the church.

- ⇒ **Leaders: note items marked with the arrows are key discussion questions if you're short on time.**



PERSONAL GROWTH & NEXT STEPS

At-home personal study

Do you have a sense of purpose for your life? Have you ever taken the time to write out a personal mission and vision statement?

Pray about it and ask God to show you what he has uniquely called you to and equipped you to carry out.

Then write out a simple mission and vision statement for yourself. (This is your personal sense of mission, not the Red Cedar mission).

Be prepared to share with your group next week what you write out. Pray for one another this week as you seek God's clear direction.

If you have a personal vision statement already but you're struggling with getting your heart, mind or soul focused on what God is calling you to do, study these verses for guidance:

- **Jeremiah 33: 3**
- **Psalms 138: 3**
- **Proverbs 3: 5-6**
- **James 4:2-3**

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

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NEXT STEPS TO FULL LIFE

We encourage you to step up with a commitment to being an active participant at Red Cedar Church if you haven't yet taken this step. It's time to get beyond going to church and to start being the church.

There are so many areas where your spiritual gifts can be used. That's why it is important to consider your gifts as well as your mission and vision and then see where those dovetail with the ministry in the local church.

We have a serving page on the Next Steps page our website, but if you don't see something that fits you uniquely, please stop at the Full Life desk and talk with one of our Next Steps coaches.