

Life Group Guide

“What’s Your Vision For Your Life?”

March 12-18, 2017

Prep:

Please make sure to review the material in the guide so you are prepared for the conversation in your Life Group.

Welcome:

Take a few minutes to reconnect with your group.

Video:

Show the video. It is about 3 minutes long. It will set up the conversation on Vision.

Scripture:

Habakkuk 2 – Full Chapter (NLT)

1 I will climb up to my watchtower
and stand at my guardpost.
There I will wait to see what the Lord says
and how he will answer my complaint.
The Lord’s Second Reply

2 Then the Lord said to me,
“Write my answer plainly on tablets,
so that a runner can carry the correct message to others.

3 This vision is for a future time.
It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled.
If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently,
for it will surely take place.
It will not be delayed.

4 “Look at the proud!
They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked.
But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.

5 Wealth is treacherous,
and the arrogant are never at rest.
They open their mouths as wide as the grave,
and like death, they are never satisfied.
In their greed they have gathered up many nations
and swallowed many peoples.

6 “But soon their captives will taunt them.
They will mock them, saying,
‘What sorrow awaits you thieves!
Now you will get what you deserve!
You’ve become rich by extortion,

but how much longer can this go on?’

7 Suddenly, your debtors will take action.
They will turn on you and take all you have,
while you stand trembling and helpless.

8 Because you have plundered many nations,
now all the survivors will plunder you.
You committed murder throughout the countryside
and filled the towns with violence.

9 “What sorrow awaits you who build big houses
with money gained dishonestly!
You believe your wealth will buy security,
putting your family’s nest beyond the reach of danger.

10 But by the murders you committed,
you have shamed your name and forfeited your lives.

11 The very stones in the walls cry out against you,
and the beams in the ceilings echo the complaint.

12 “What sorrow awaits you who build cities
with money gained through murder and corruption!

13 Has not the Lord of Heaven’s Armies promised
that the wealth of nations will turn to ashes?
They work so hard,
but all in vain!

14 For as the waters fill the sea,
the earth will be filled with an awareness
of the glory of the Lord.

15 “What sorrow awaits you who make your neighbors drunk!
You force your cup on them
so you can gloat over their shameful nakedness.

16 But soon it will be your turn to be disgraced.
Come, drink and be exposed![e]
Drink from the cup of the Lord’s judgment,
and all your glory will be turned to shame.

17 You cut down the forests of Lebanon.
Now you will be cut down.
You destroyed the wild animals,
so now their terror will be yours.
You committed murder throughout the countryside
and filled the towns with violence.

18 “What good is an idol carved by man,
or a cast image that deceives you?
How foolish to trust in your own creation—
a god that can’t even talk!

19 What sorrow awaits you who say to wooden idols,
‘Wake up and save us!’
To speechless stone images you say,
‘Rise up and teach us!’

Can an idol tell you what to do?
They may be overlaid with gold and silver,
but they are lifeless inside.
20 But the Lord is in his holy Temple.
Let all the earth be silent before him.”

Reflection/Vision Statement Time

- We recommend taking about 4-5 minutes for people to reflect after the passage. But before you do, say something like:
 - “I encourage you to first take a couple minutes to reflect on this passage and the video, come up with any questions, connections, or what the passage says to you tonight.
 - Second, I want to encourage everyone to try either writing out a vision statement or writing out your core values for your life.
 - Also tell your group: “It can be challenging to write your personal vision statement – and we are only going to take 5 minutes and this typically takes much longer, but it can get us started to think about it. Then we can share what we have or if we are struggling we can talk about that.”
 - Here are a couple of example vision statements to get you brain thinking what this might look like:
 - *“My personal vision is to use myself as an example to impact positive attitudes and share my can do and never die attitude with whoever comes crosses my path in life.”*
 - *I want to put God first and lead others to experience Him. I will do this through my job at Wegmans by emulating Christ and sharing His love. I will do this at home by consistently and patiently serving my wife. I will accomplish this with my friends by initiating a balance of deep and fun conversations, always being sensitive to the Spirit and what He would have me do.*
 - *Or – Pastor Steve’s 5 Core Values that Jonathan referenced: Purpose, Courage, Family, Giving, Fun.*

Questions for Discussion:

(Choose your favorites ahead of time that you think will benefit your group the most)

Question: What did you write down for your vision statement or some of your core values? Was this easy or hard for you?

- Have you ever done this before tonight? If so, has it been beneficial for you?

Question: What vision of your future do you spend most of your time thinking about?

Or ... Do you have a vision of your future? If yes, what does it look like? If not, why not?

- Note: This could be in individual areas of your life – your career, spouse, kids, etc.

Question: One of the themes of this passage is that people who walk away from God's vision end up not feeling fulfilled. What are the things that tempt you to walk away from God's vision for your life?

Question: According to this passage, what are the consequences that occur when you get off the vision that God has called you to do?

Observation/Question: Verse 3 tells of how long we sometimes have to wait to see God's faithfulness come through. How have you felt your patience tried as you waited for what God has promised you? How did you grow from that experience? Was it worth it?

Observation/Question: In Verses 4-5, it talks about seeking instant gratification and their lack of purpose with things that don't satisfy. What do you do when you feel like the vision God has given you is not satisfying to you?

Question: Have you ever seen a vision realized? How did you experience it and where did you go from there?

Question: What is your main takeaway from tonight and this passage?