



Sermon Notes

Term – Autumn 2018

Series – Launching the Year

Gathering & Date – 10 & 5, 16 September

Title – Vision recast ...

Preacher – Paul

Reading – Acts 1:1-11

Main message of this talk in one sentence – A reminder of the way we answer the Vision questions ‘Why, How and What?’

Main points –

WHY are we here?

We believe the Church exists to change the world – one person, one city, one nation at a time.

Question – how do you respond to this overarching vision?

HOW will we do this?

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| ❖ CONNECT | Meeting God Finding Family |
| ❖ GROW | Restoring Identity Releasing Purpose |
| ❖ INFLUENCE | Empowering People Transforming Culture |

Question – in what ways can these 3 key words and couplets help us evaluate our own spiritual life, the health of our small communities and the wider church?

WHAT is our part?

- ❖ a heart for the individual
- ❖ a heart for the city
- ❖ a heart for the nations

Question – talk with one another about the individuals God has placed on your heart: they may be people for whom you pray to come to faith or those you serve practically. Begin to share those prayers with one another.

Question – does the idea of ‘City’ or ‘Nations’ excite you? If so, talk about it with your group. And please don’t worry if it doesn’t!! Start with your heart for the individual and let God lead you where he will.

WHERE does this happen?

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ❖ Gatherings | on Sundays and Wednesdays |
| ❖ Small Communities | throughout the week |
| ❖ Frontlines | wherever we spend most of our time |

Question – where is your frontline? It’s the place you spend most time. Pray for one another to be ‘the person God has made you in the place he calls you.’

How can I help turn our vision into reality?

- ❖ **Pray**
- ❖ **Join a small community**
- ❖ **Connect, Grow, Influence**
- ❖ **Give ... Time, Talents, Money**

For reflection – have a look at the back of the term card. How and where is God asking you to pray with other members of the church family? Don't forget Daniel's Windows, our invitation to choose one of 3 times in the day (7 am, 12 noon & 7 pm) to spend however long you can spare (5 minutes up), knowing that as you pray, you'll be joining with other members of the church family.

It's easy to look at CC on a Sunday and imagine we have all we need in terms of people and financial support. In fact, a number of our ministries would welcome anyone who senses God's call to join them – our Children's Teams (contact Ruthy), our Youth Ministry (contact Elliot & Sophie), our Seniors Ministry (contact Nelly) and our Thursday Toddlers Groups (contact Ruthy or Jackie) are growing and often stretched. Do ask the Lord how you could help ...

Question – is it time to review your financial support for the church to enable us to expand and do even more in our community and to serve others? We believe that financial giving is more a matter of the heart than of money. Jesus clearly sees it as a barometer of our inner life, and we acknowledge it as part of our worship and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We invite every church member to ask the Lord to guide them in this.