

Devotional: The Mission & Vision Of Jesus

1. We asked you last week to try to take a look at our building and ministries through the eyes of a first-time visitor. What thoughts did you have?

2. Let's continue our conversation from last week on what Jesus was passionate about, based on verses from the gospels.

3. Try to identify several larger categories or canopies under which we could place these verses. These larger categories might serve as components in the mission and vision statements that we compose.

Our 30-Second Testimony

Mine is 116 words. A mere 6 sentences.

I've always said that faith without art is dead because art was so pivotal in me coming to Jesus. I remember as a child my mother reading to me from a children's Bible that her mother read to her. Its pictures of Jesus life gripped my young imagination. At the age of 11 I gave my life to Christ after watching a Billy Graham movie. And after drifting for a few years in high school, it was another movie that I watched as a freshmen in college, "Ben-Hur" that brought me back once and for all. I love Jesus because he is a Beautiful Savior like the song says, the source of all beauty and creativity.

Take 5 minutes right now to work on yours.

Discussion On “The Unstuck Church” – Chapter 2

“We should continue to pray for revival in the church, but we need to realize there are churches that are experiencing it today. It’s actually happening. Rather than trying to explain (or complain) it away by naming everything these churches are doing wrong, maybe it’s time to learn from these churches.” ~ Tony Morgan

1. What are some characteristics of churches in the momentum growth season?

There’s an outward focus.

There’s a lot of buzz.

Creativity and innovation (and therefore change) are expected. These churches are risk - driven.

They are often driven by personality.

“Part of what distinguishes churches that take the next step into strategic growth is they multiply the voices and personalities that carry out the ministry strategy.”

They begin to give leadership away.

“In the launch phase, churches start to give ministry away. In momentum growth, churches start to give leadership away.”

2. What are some key next steps the church should take to move forward during the momentum growth phase?

Always build a new service before you build a new building.

“Adding services will challenge you to create new systems to simplify how people connect to the church, how you communicate priority information, how you scale ministry programming, and how you encourage more people to take steps in spiritual formation.”

“The people you are trying to reach will always be consumers before they become committed followers of Christ.”

You Need to Define Your Vision: Create a Picture of the Future That Both Rallies and Repels People



What's the difference between a Mission Statement and A Vision Statement?

A Mission statement is:

From the book:

"The mission statement should express to your congregation, your staff, your volunteers, and your community what your church is all about. The vision statement, on the other hand, describes where you picture the church to be heading in the future."

"That simple mission statement is the foundation for everything else. Here's the great thing about having a very clear mission statement that defines why the church exists: it makes it clear whether people should join your mission or not. "

"Hopefully many, many people will be captivated by your mission statement and want to join you and add their gifts and abilities, their time, their prayer support, their money, and so on."

"Your statement should say, "This is who we are. Do you want to join us on this big mission?" When you land on a clear statement, it will become the rallying cry that encourages people to take the next step in engaging in what you do."

"Typically, in twelve words or less, I help the church develop a mantra that answers the why question. Why do we exist? For The Unstuck Group, as an example, that statement is pretty simple: "We help churches get unstuck." That's why we do what we do."

A Vision statement is:

From the book:

"In addition to mission buy-in, though, everyone needs to clearly know where they are going. That's the vision. The vision has to be specific and measurable. It will probably be reflected in several statements that paint a clear picture of where God is taking your church in the future. If you have a solid vision, it will both rally and repel people."

“Be wary of three things.

- **Don’t confuse your values with your vision.**
- **Don’t confuse your strategy with your vision.**
- **Don’t confuse your doctrine with your vision.”**

“A solid vision helps an organization in many ways. If done right, it achieves the following four goals:

- **Clarifies the direction of the organization.**
- **Pursues a preferred future.**
- **Inspires people to engage.**
- **Makes it easier to define what the organization won’t do.”.**

“I like to develop the vision for three to five years out. I also like to make the vision specific and measurable. Sometimes it includes actual numerical targets. Other times it names a specific initiative that the church hopes to complete. As long as it’s realistically possible with a move of God, bigger vision is always better.”

Skip the Core Values and Develop Team Values: The Culture of Your Church Will Be a Reflection of the Values of Your Team

What’s the difference between a Strategy and your Core Values?



Your Strategy is:

From the book:

“The strategy statement clarifies how the mission and vision will be accomplished. now. I take the big picture and help them break it into bite-sized chunks to prioritize what needs to happen in the next six to twelve months. I want everyone to understand that this is what I’m supposed to be focused on today.”

Your Core Values statement is:

From the book:

“The values reflect the underlying principles that shape the culture of the church. If developed properly, they should really set the church apart from every other church in the region. They should drive the actions and decisions of every person on the team.”

Give Leadership Away: If You Have to Call All the Shots, You Are Not a Leader

“This sounds easy, but it’s going to require a significant change in your leadership. You will need to be intentional about giving leadership away. Many pastors of growing churches are unwilling to do this. One of the primary reasons is because there’s security in being needed. A good example of this is a leader’s addiction to solving problems.”

Don’t Neglect the Health of Your Soul: God Will Not Bless Your Ministry If You Don’t Honor the Sabbath

“We need to be taking intentional next steps to protect our marriages, our families, our leadership, our ministries, and most important, the health of our souls... ‘It’s scary to realize that the path to external success and internal emptiness can be the same road.’”

Your Assignment for Next Week:

- Review chapters 1 & 2 of “The Unstuck Church”.
- Continue your research of churches around the country, and write out their Vision and Mission Statements. Aim to do at least 10 searches. Write out the name of the church, its location, and its statements. (Some may only have a mission statement.)
- Look up as many of the following verses about the early church as you are able. Having studied what vision and mission drove Jesus, now we want to see if the first disciples followed his example.

What The Early Church Was Passionate About

We have looked at the activities and ideas that motivated Jesus in his life and ministry. Now we'll explore how his first disciples did in imitating his example. As before, summarize what the passage is about. Take note of key words and actions that stand out. We'll work on this in our devotional time next week.

Acts 2:41-47

Acts 4:32-35

Acts 5:41-42

Acts 6:1-4, 7

Acts 8:1-4

Acts 10:9-16, 34-35

Acts 11:19-21

Acts 13:1-3

Acts 16:13-14

Acts 20:7, 20-25

Romans 1:16

Romans 12:1, 3-8

Romans 15:1-7

1 Corinthians 3:7-11, 16

1 Corinthians 9:16, 19-23

1 Corinthians 12:12-21; 26-27

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Galatians 3:26-29

Galatians 5:13-15

Ephesians 1:22-23

Ephesians 2:11-13, 19-22

Ephesians 3:10,14-21

Ephesians 4:11-16

Ephesians 5:25-27

Ephesians 6:10-13

Philippians 2:11-14

Colossians 3:15-17

2 Timothy 2:1-4

Titus 2:11-14

Hebrews 10:23-24

James 1:27

1 Peter 2:9-10

1 John 4:7-12