

A woman with long brown hair and glasses is shown in profile, looking out a window. She is wearing a dark blue blazer over a dark blue button-down shirt. She is holding a white coffee cup with a lid. The background is a bright window with dark structural beams.

# VISION & MISSION



## DISCUSSION NOTES:

Our small group series for the month of June will focus our attention on our Vision and Mission statements. There won't be any videos for this month and each session is formatted for you to work together as a group, either reading the material aloud, or silently, and then discussing the questions as they come up.

**Our Vision** is to create a church in which people feel at home and, inspired by the Holy Spirit and their love for God, align their lives to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and thus prepare themselves for His return and eternal life.

**Our Mission** is reaching out to all people in order to teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit. Providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.









## SESSION 2: OUR MISSION

With a vision, one must have a mission to go along with it. The mission is **how** you reach the vision. A vision statement can be hopeful and inspiring, but you also need a plan or guidelines to reach that vision. In order to journey towards the vision, you need the plan that is provided in a mission statement. Not only is the mission a plan of action, but it also provides answers to the needs that the vision identifies.

1. Discuss how a vision and mission are different.
2. Write a personal mission statement for the next year of your life. Make sure it will help you reach the personal vision statement you created.

With defined solutions, a mission focuses everyone's effort on unified goals. The mission gives a path to the vision; it is very clearly defined as to what needs to happen to reach the vision. The mission is something that we can work at together.

3. What might happen if our church (or any organization) didn't have a mission statement?

We can look to the New Apostolic Church mission statement to see what plan of action it provides in order for us to reach the vision of the church: *Our Mission is reaching out to all people in order to teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit. Providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.*

4. Write each phrase of the mission statement in your own words.
5. Both the New Apostolic Church's vision and mission statements mention the phrase "gospel of Jesus Christ." If we are to align our lives to it and teach all people about it, we must know what "it" is. How would you describe the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Each part of the mission is important to reaching our vision. That is why, in all that we do, our actions need to align to the mission so that we stay focused on the vision. Church isn't about our desires or our preferences; it's about bringing together a community of those that believe in Christ and becoming His disciples.



## SESSION 3: LIVING AND LEADING TO OUR MISSION AND VISION

Mission and vision statements provide focus. Whether in the congregation or in your own life, these statements should always set the target in all that we do.

1. What areas of your life do you feel need focus? What areas of the congregation do you feel need focus?

### **In your congregation**

When working with other members in the congregation and making decisions on what activities the congregation or a specific group should get involved in, run the ideas through a vision and mission filter. Filtering ideas through the vision and mission means that when you or someone else presents an idea, identify how it will help move the group closer to and accomplish the church's mission.

Jesus did the very same during His time on earth. When He began to share with His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer, be killed, and rise from the dead, Peter rebuked Him and told Him that it didn't have to be that way. Peter was suggesting an alternative, but Jesus had a clear vision and mission. He put aside Peter's idea and continued moving towards the goal (Matthew 16:21-23).

2. Look back on the personal mission and vision statements that you wrote. What ideas or activities would help us accomplish them? What would be examples of something that might not fit?
3. Now take a moment to stop and read the mission and vision statements of our church. Discuss the same two questions.

Leaders in the congregations are tasked with making numerous decisions across a wide range of topics, all the while leading to the vision and mission of the church. By filtering all activities and events, they will be able to ensure that everything that we experience as members serves a purpose.

### **In your life**

In 1 Corinthians 10:31, Paul wrote, *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.* The Bible mentions, time and again, people doing what they did to bring glory to God.

We are called to do the very same in everything that we do, no matter what the activity is. How we act, speak, and treat all people we encounter each day should bring glory to God.

4. Stop and think about the day you had today. Where did you glorify God or strengthen your relationship with Him? What situations could you have handled differently? What would help you approach tomorrow with this goal?

Small group is a great example of how you can personally live and lead towards the mission and vision.

5. Read through each sentence of the mission and vision. What parts does small group strive to fulfill?

It's a place where people can **feel at home** and **align their lives to the gospel**. Small groups help us to **reach out to all people** (by inviting a friend!), **provide soul care** (pastoral support for one another), **cultivate a warm fellowship**, and allow people to **experience the love of God**. Imagine – we are working on six elements of our vision and mission statements just in our small group!

6. What more can you do in your small group to create the environment described above?
7. Read through each phrase of the mission/vision again and brainstorm ideas of how you can apply those phrases to your daily life. *For example, how can you personally provide soul care to someone?*

Living and leading to the vision and mission is not always easy and takes a lot of intentionality on everyone's part, but we can be confident that it is a sure path to follow that will help us better love our neighbor, care for everyone in our congregation, and bring us closer to Jesus Christ.

8. As a group, choose a few activities or ministries that someone in your group participates in (i.e. food pantry, Sunday School, singing, etc.) and go through the mission and vision statements to see how those activities fit in. What goals do they help accomplish? How could that be improved?
9. Think back to the two phrases you picked that really stood out to you in the vision and mission. What could you do to contribute to them?