

PILGRIM HOME GROUPS

The smaller groups in our church community are inside our homes where we go deeper, build friendships, and walk out the Christian life with each other.

HOME CHURCH/SMALL GROUP/CLASS GUIDE

1. "Breaking the Ice" question: (group facilitator)
2. Check-ins: What's been happening in your week(s) since last meeting? Introduce yourself if new/new people in group, check in with each other
3. Care: Needs in the group; name needs and have sentence prayers (short sentences/open ended, not long-winded) at end of the gathering time
4. Compassion: What compassion work is the group planning? Are you inviting your neighbors to join?
5. Group Announcements (church-wide and group-only)
6. Dig in: Any reflections, discernments, disagreements from last week's teaching (or since you last met)? Look at the Bible passage(s) again and read some of them out loud in the group (and other verses that may have been mentioned). What jumps out at you? Discuss some of the questions as a group.
7. End and Homework: Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.

DISCUSSION:

1. Why do you think vision is important for improving things?
2. Can you think of examples of risky ventures that paid off well and risky ventures that did poorly, personally and churchwise?
3. Do you have a vision statement for your life (this season of life)?
4. Read Numbers 13:17-14:12 and then Jeremiah 29:4-7
 - + What jumps out at you?
 - + What does this mean for us?
5. Read the vision statement outloud and look up the passages listed.
6. Is there a word or part of the current vision statement that speaks to you or to someone you know, what it is and why?
7. In the current vision statement at Pilgrim there are some key actions. List those actions and what we're doing or might do to see the vision become a reality.
8. As a group, end with this prayer from Nelson/Appel: "Dear God, today I choose to place my faith in the possibilities, not to complain. Help me to continue this choice. Empower me to activate my belief that you're not done with us yet and that you have a preferred pace for us that flows with milk and honey. The giants we can tame, with your help. Go with us. Take our hands as we pursue your promise. Amen."

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

INTENTIONAL AND ALIGNED

ON PURPOSE

MISSION, VISION, VALUES

NO. 2 What do we see?

Setting the Scene

Review: Why These Matter?

- + You have a mission and vision - it's just whether you know it and if it's the best use of your life (family, friends, time and treasure).
- + "Shadow visions"
- + Sabotage and disunity
- + Unity and Diversity

The Joshua Report, Numbers 13:25-30, 14:7-9

What is "Mission, Vision, Values"?

- + Mission is purpose
Generic Biblical fundamentals: great commission, discipleship, evangelism, worship, care, etc.
- + Vision is purpose more localized and aspirational - we are not totally there yet.
What we believe is important, what we will die trying to do, our "baby"
- + Values inform how we do the vision, inform the strategies and goals

Nelson/Appel

"A vision is a mental picture of a preferred future"

"We nearly always turn down change because of the cost-for-return ratio does not seem right. But what we fail to measure, because it is often immeasurable, is the high cost of not making the change. When we say no to sensible but faith-stretching improvement in life and ministry, we never fully understand how expensive they are (136)."

TOP SEVEN REASONS WHY VISIONS WORK

- + Heart
- + A good desire
- + A way out of discomfort
- + Hope
- + Unity
- + God's direction
- + Power

Measures: Intensity, clarity, size

Some questions about vision?

- + How urgent?
- + How important?

Wayne Codeiro speaks of four life trajectories or courses for our lives.

1. A Life of Reaction.
2. A Life of Conformity.
3. A Life of Independence.
4. A Life of Intentionality.

OUR VISION

+ Process: all-church retreat, vision team, board.

+ Unpacking the statement:

We exist to love our city and to invite our neighbours to flourish by rooting our lives in the outrageous love and life of Jesus.

Text: Jeremiah 29:7, 1 John 4:7-8, Ephesians 3:17, Col 1:17, Col. 1:28-29, John 13:34-35, John 3:16-17

- + "We will..." "We aspire to..." "We envision a church that..."
- + Language choice of common English

- + "Love our city
- + Direct tie-in to the Mission

+ Our city Acts 1.8

+ Our attitude: Exiles

-Jeremiah 29:7 (4-7) 7 Promote the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because your future depends on its welfare.

-"Promote..."

-"I sent you..."

-"Pray for it"

-"Your life depends on it"

+ "Invite our neighbours"
Matthew 22.8-9

+ "Flourish"
Jeremiah 29.7

+ "Rooting our lives in love and life of Jesus"
Eph 3.17, Col. 1.17,28-29

TAKE OUTS

+ Vision focuses the mission and is forward looking

+ You should consider what is your personal vision for life?

+ Vision for our church will guide us and provide the target we are aiming for
We use it to focus goals and strategies in meetings, we pray through it, we measure ourselves by it: Love, Invite, Flourish, Root.