

Communicating Vision Participant Guide

The purpose of this module is:

To inspire pastor and people to see God's design for the local church

Objectives:

- **Discuss Christ's vision for His world.**
- **Identify myths and realities about vision.**
- **Evaluate the local church's accomplishments and plans.**

Lecture Part I

- ✓ Most of us know what we should do, but sometimes fail to act. What is missing? Why do we busy ourselves with things of lesser significance? Students of human behavior tell us the difference is _____!
- ✓ A large vision produces a large _____.
 - We are caught up in the trap of living as a Christian rather than _____ and following the design God has for our lives.
 - We may not partner with Him in the designing process. This is true particularly when we begin to set spiritual and behavior goals which are impossible in our own strength. Yet these dreams fill us with _____ as we think about the possibility of achieving what God plans for us—individually and as a church.
- ✓ Our vision takes us to a world of unlimited power...the power of the almighty God!
 - Capturing the vision of our Lord works a lot like our eyesight. The _____ we get to Him, the clearer the image becomes.



SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

Work with your church team to complete the following evaluation

TODAY

Give yourself a score from 0 to 10 in each of these categories. 0 means you and your church had nothing going in this area, and 10 means you were absolutely living to the highest desire of Christ in this area.

EXAMPLE:

Physical Plant 4

We're building, but some classes have to move every week. They don't have a sense of belonging.

	RATING
Physical Plant	_____
Location	_____
Acceptance in Your Community	_____
Congregational Size	_____
Professional Staff	_____
Volunteer Workers	_____
Financial Resources	_____
Spiritual Vitality	_____
Spiritual Maturity	_____
Awareness of Needs	_____

FOREVER (Five Years from Now)

Give yourself a score from 0 to 10 in each of these categories. 0 means you and your church had nothing going in this area, and 10 means you were absolutely living to the highest desire of Christ in this area.

	RATING
Physical Plant	_____
Location	_____
Acceptance in Your Community	_____
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Lecture-Part II

Vision Killers

_____ kills vision

“We have never done it that way before!”

_____ kills vision

Few Christians possess the spiritual maturity to release control of their lives and allow God to rule daily.

_____ kill vision

Look at your world realistically - THROUGH THE EYES OF CHRIST and don't try to take the stereotypical shortcut to truth.

_____ kills vision

Jesus was passionate about those who did not know God.

_____ kills vision

So get the rest you need on a regular basis.

Short-Term _____ kills vision

God's timing is different from ours. He is not pressured by time, but His timing is perfect.

Dream Big With God

MYTHS ABOUT VISION

Taken from “The Power of Vision” by George Barna, Regal Books, 1992.

1. Vision should be the result of a consensus among the church's key leaders regarding future activity by the church.

REALITY: Vision is not the result of consensus; it should _____ in consensus.

2. Vision and mission are synonymous.

REALITY: While vision relates to specific _____, mission relates to general approaches to action.

3. Some leaders are visionaries, some aren't.

REALITY: By definition, all leaders are visionaries. A godly leader is one who _____ from a base of God's vision for his or her ministry.

4. The purpose of vision is to estimate future realities, then to operate effectively within those parameters.

REALITY: The purpose of vision is to _____ the future. God has chosen you to exert control for Him over your environment!

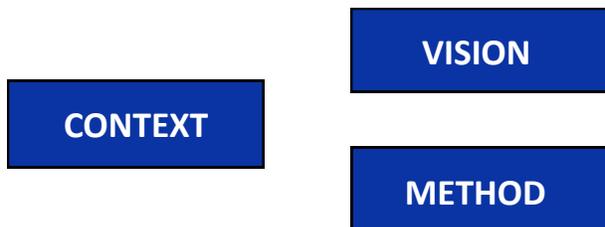
5. The goal of vision for church ministry is numerical growth.

REALITY: The absolute goal of vision for ministry is to _____ God and bring all people everywhere to glorify God.

6. As long as the senior pastor has a sense of vision, it doesn't matter whether the people really know or understand it. They will be swept along by the force of the vision, regardless.
REALITY: Vision has no force, power, or impact unless it _____ from the visionary to the visionless.
7. Because of the breadth and challenge that is reflected by God's vision for ministry, vision is likely to make the laity fearful, skeptical, and anxious.
REALITY: Vision, when properly _____, does not make people afraid nor doubtful.
8. If it is truly God's vision for ministry, capturing that vision will be a simple, quick process.
REALITY: God's vision is not _____ by time.
9. To develop vision, a pastor could identify several visionary business leaders and follow the same steps they have taken.
REALITY: Church leaders cannot blindly follow the path _____ by people who operate on the basis of a different world view.
10. Because vision is imparted by God to the pastor, other people have no role in the development of vision, only in its implementation.
REALITY: Other godly individuals are needed as a sounding board to _____ the vision at various points in its development.
11. Sometimes God's vision for the future of a struggling congregation simply calls for the church to stabilize by maintaining its current position rather than to pursue growth aggressively.
REALITY: Encouraging people to pledge themselves to _____ is an admission of defeat.
12. A church's vision needs to be re-created every couple of years.
REALITY: Vision usually _____ the visionary.
13. If a pastor simply loves the Lord and does the things described in the Bible as the qualities of a good leader—teaching, preaching, praying, modeling forgiveness and love, and so forth—the church will grow, vision or no vision.
REALITY: Effective leaders must be _____.

Whenever one of these elements changes, the other two MUST ALSO CHANGE! Ministry in some churches has changed little in the past 10 years. But what can you do to assure your vision and methods are directed by God to fit the context in which you serve?

If our vision is for transformed pilgrims in the community of believers, then both our method and our context are _____ not _____ in themselves. It is not enough to follow all the methods prescribed by our denomination. It is not enough to be aware of the needs of our community. We must become the physical and spiritual presence of our Lord in our city or town.



Action Planning/Reporting Form Communicating Vision

The homework assignment for this module (below) is:

- Complete the following questions about context, vision, and method.
- As a group, discuss your findings.

Context – WHERE ARE WE? (This is the information identified during the small group exercise.)

- ✓ What are the needs, the problems, the opportunities we face?
- ✓ Who are our students, our teachers, our professional staff, and what are their spiritual gifts and natural abilities?
- ✓ What resources of time, money, building, and location has God enabled us to have?

Vision – WHERE ARE WE GOING?

- ✓ If God blesses this church and we do the very things Christ came to do when He came to earth, how will we see our congregation, community, our ministry, and our world?
- ✓ If Jesus came to OUR TOWN, what would he be doing?
- ✓ Could His vision become our vision?

Method – HOW DO WE GET THERE?

- ✓ What should I teach?
- ✓ How should I teach?
- ✓ What can I do to proclaim salvation to people in my community?
- ✓ How would Christ seek and save my lost husband or child?
- ✓ Who will I report progress to and will I be honest about frustration and failure?
- ✓ How can our church become the real BODY OF CHRIST in our community?