



### PARTICIPANT GUIDE

#### OBJECTIVES

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Guide the church to discern God's vision in its own context and reality (analysis).
- Define God's vision in its own context and reality (knowledge).
- Communicate God's vision in its own context and reality (application).

#### TIME FOR SHARING & PRAYER

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

– Hebrews 11: 8-10 (NIV)

1. When Abraham left his home, did he know beforehand where he was going? Support or explain your answer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. As a foreigner, what allowed Abraham to feel comfortable in inhabiting the promised land?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does the text mean by "looking forward to a city with eternal foundations?" Did Abraham physically see this city or did he have a vision of its appearance?

## Session 1: Biblical Foundation

### 1. WHAT IS VISION?

*Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint;  
but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.*

– Proverbs 29:18 (NIV)

A vision is a clear mental picture of a preferred future.

It is NOT a pithy slogan or motto on a T-shirt or mug or a paragraph that is fitting for every other church in the community.

A vision is a congregation's answer to the question, "What is that preferred future God is leading us into?"

### 2. HOW CAN IT BE DEFINED?

"A vision looks into the future and sees what God wants to do through you to carry out His redemptive purposes."

1. Vision is the God-given ability to SEE those things that are not but could become REALITY.
  
2. The church's vision determines its direction and all its ministries. The process starts when you feel DISSATISFIED with the way things are. There must be some discomfort with the status quo. You see a better FUTURE, an attainable ideal toward which to work.
  
3. Having vision is also a matter of FAITH because you must deal with things that you can't see concretely. Without faith there can be no vision. And if there is no vision, then there is no mission.
  
4. A vision is a CHALLENGING and CLEAR picture of the future of the ministry.

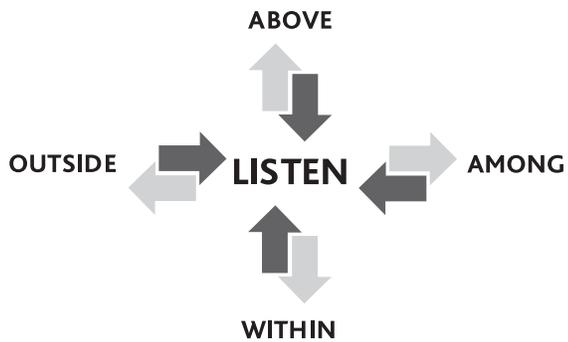
### VISION IN THE BIBLE

Read Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-18

Read 2 Samuel 7:5, 8, 12-16

What was Jesus' vision?

### 3. HOW IS THE VISION DISCERNED?



Read Acts 26:19

Read Acts 16:6-10

Read Hebrews 10:24-25

### 4. HOW IS THE VISION COMMUNICATED?

1. Clarity
2. Kindness
3. Sensitivity
4. Coherence
5. Optimism
6. Conviction

## Session 2: Tools

### HOW TO WRITE A VISION STATEMENT

#### A. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VISION

1. **WRITE** out the vision. Use short, simple phrases that are easy to remember so you can memorize it and communicate it effectively.
  - List 5-7 words or short phrases to describe where your church is located.
  - Lists 5-7 words or short phrases that describe your church as it is.
  - List 5-7 words or short phrases that describe what your church could be.
  - What do the three ideas above suggest about a potential vision for the church? Do not worry about wordsmithing at this point.
  - Attempt to create a short phrase that captures the heart of this potential vision.
  
2. **THINK BIG!** The driving force is a vision that is clear, biblical, achievable, and challenging.
  
3. Be **CREATIVE**. Feel free to think in new or different ways.
  - Consider developing a word picture, such as a mirror, tree, strong tower, etc. to illustrate the vision
  
4. **ASSESS** the vision:
  - Is it clear?
  - Is it challenging?
  - Is it forward-looking?
  - Is it possible?
  
5. Share the vision with **CLARITY** and **CONVICTION**. A common vision, centered on the person of Jesus Christ, will be the unifying factor for the team.
  - Create an environment in which others can identify with the same vision.
  - Set up a team to work toward the reality of the chosen vision.
  - Create a vision broad enough to allow for experimentation and to deal with failure.
  - Look for new and fresh ways to keep the vision in everyone's sight.

**Remember** | A leader must share the vision with others to ensure confirmation by the greater faith community.

1. In groups or pairs, write a vision statement for your congregation, keeping in mind: what does God want the church to be like in 5 years?

God wants us to be \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Share the vision ideas you wrote and discuss which of them best communicate how your church should be.

Write a concise and clear vision statement: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What biblical support does your vision have? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Now fine-tune the vision statement so that it is clear and simple. What are some ideas for communicating it to the church and inviting it to adopt it as its own? \_\_\_\_\_

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Examples of vision statements of some local churches:

*"Each member of the Woodville Church grows as a disciple of Jesus Christ through expository preaching and the teaching of the Word of God, and with praise that glorifies God, reaching the community through acts of service"*

**- Woodville Church, Michigan (USA)**

*"A community that walks according to the principles of the Kingdom, loving God and loving people."*

**- Roca Firme Christian Church, Quito - Ecuador**

## Evaluating Your Vision Statement

The following tool uses a 1-10 scoring system, in which 1 represents complete disagreement or the lowest score, and 10 represents excellence or strong agreement.

CLEAR AND INSPIRING VISION STATEMENT											
1.	The church leadership gathers every year to plan and evaluate.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Our local church has a clear and defined vision statement.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	The leadership of our church knows where we will be in two years.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	The pastor and its leadership communicate clearly the vision of our church.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	I feel inspired by the vision of our church.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	I know the vision and the plans of our church.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7.	I feel motivated by the future of our church.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

## Session 3: Action Plan and Goals

Based on what you learned in this module, create an action plan with clear goals for you and your local church.

### For Pastors:

Have you identified a leader to mentor as a future church planter? Y or N

If yes, did you meet this month? Y or N

### For Review:

Did you turn in a Healthy Church Report this month? Y or N

Look at the 7 Take Your Church's Pulse (TYCP) questions for this module (Session 2) and review your overall measurements.

What are your areas of strength (scores greater than 7)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are areas for growth (scores equal to or fewer than 7)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Begin to develop an action plan. An action plan for implementing today's materials into your respective ministries is important and should be a habitual process for every step forward in your ministry. Based on what you learned in this module, create an action plan with clear goals for you and your local church.

An acronym that is helpful in planning is to develop **SMART** goals:

**S**pecific: It describes specifically what I plan to do.

**M**easurable: I will be able to tell whether it was done or not.

**A**ppropriate: Is it in line with God's will?

**R**ealistic: It considers my limitations and availability.

**T**ime-bound: It mentions an exact time period.

Example:

- By the end of the month, I will preach a sermon on integrated faith so that people will realize that God should be a part of every portion of life.
- By the end of the year, financial giving will increase by 5% from the previous year.
- In 6 months, 12 new believers will be saved.
- By next week, we will develop a plan for small groups that will start next fall.

## Coming Up: Stronger Churches Module 3

You will help your church identify, train, and mentor emerging leaders for the growth and reproduction of the church.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Healthy Church Report	MONTHLY GOAL	MONTHLY RESULT
<p><b>SHARED THE VISION</b> How many people inside and outside the church has the vision been shared with?</p>		
<p><b>How to Use Reports</b></p> <p><b>1. REPORTING</b> - Included in each module is a tabulation sheet with ten metrics for measuring entitled <i>Healthy Church Report</i>. As the participant progresses through the modular training a new measurement is revealed on the tabulation sheet for monthly reporting. Monthly reporting is a key part of the training. This provides accountability and focus on what matters most for the training participants. If the participants know ahead of time what will be asked of them at the next module, they are more likely to do those activities that lead to the results to be reviewed.</p> <p><b>2. PASTOR TRACK MENTORING</b> - Pastors are encouraged during the training to identify and mentor a future leader to be a church planter. Each month of the modular training the pastor is asked if a leader has been identified and if they have met for mentoring (see <a href="http://www.multiplicationnetwork.org/resources/ministry-toolbox/203-mentoring-workshop-2">www.multiplicationnetwork.org/resources/ministry-toolbox/203-mentoring-workshop-2</a> for mentor training material). At the end of the Stronger Churches modular training: Pastors are encouraged to turn in a church planter profile report (<a href="https://www.multiplicationnetwork.org/resources/ministry-toolbox/159-church-planter-profile">https://www.multiplicationnetwork.org/resources/ministry-toolbox/159-church-planter-profile</a>) and churches are encouraged to plant a church by sending the new leader for More Churches Modular training.</p>		