

VISION

Connect Break the ice and get people talking

- When you were young, what experiences did you dream about having in your life?
 - How do you typically motivate yourself to get through difficult experiences? Can you give an example from your life?
 - How do you think being a follower of Jesus should impact the vision you have for your own life?
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Truth Understand and discuss the scripture's meaning

READ: Hebrews 12:1-2

DISCUSS: What do you think the “joy set before” Jesus refers to?

A vision is a picture of a preferred future. Whether or not we realize it, we all have a vision for our lives, and it shapes our choices and determines our direction. Being a disciple of Jesus, however, fundamentally changes the way we think about developing a vision for our lives. Jesus had a vision – a giant, world-transforming vision – and this vision must become the vision of his followers.

THE VISION FOR WHICH JESUS DIED

READ: Isaiah 27:6 and Revelation 21:22-27

DISCUSS: What stands out to you from these two passages?

We get a full picture of the joy for which Jesus died in these passages – a renewed world, where the rule of God brings about healing and human flourishing, and all causes of evil are expelled. Isaiah uses the metaphor of a world filled with fruit. It’s a huge vision, an all-encompassing panorama, mind-bendingly beautiful. This vision was joyous enough, that for Jesus it was worth coming into the world and enduring the cross.

THE VISION MUST BECOME OUR VISION

READ: Acts 1:7-8

DISCUSS: How does the word “witness” help you understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus?

For a disciple, life isn’t a choose-your-own-adventure story. It’s a know-your-adventure-within-his-adventure story. The author of Hebrews told his readers to look to the way Jesus endured in order to “run with endurance *the race that is set before us.*” We have a race to run that God is using to bring about his vision of a renewed world. As individuals and as a church, we must make this vision clear and every one of us must own it.

OUR VISION WITHIN HIS VISION

READ: The Aletheia Vision Statement below

- New disciples of Jesus being made of every race, class, color, creed, and generation.
- Men and women established in the Word of God, being shaped by a biblical worldview, raising great families, filled with the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- A culture of equipping and empowering others to make disciples, eager to give power to the next generation of godly leaders.
- New churches planted in every major city and town in New England, impacting the campus and the community.
- Campus ministry flourishing on every campus in New England.
- Spirit-saturated diversity that embodies true biblical justice and reconciliation and looks like a preview of Heaven.
- Disciples of Jesus who love the glory of God more than any thing in this world, ready to go and fulfill God's call anywhere, at any time, no matter the cost.
- A culture shifting around us toward the culture of the Kingdom of God through the work of making disciples who bring the truth, grace, and changing power of the gospel.

Change Apply the passage to our thoughts, feelings, and actions

- In what ways does the vision for which Jesus died change the way you think about being a disciple of Jesus?
- Do you feel like you own the Aletheia vision statement? Why or why not?
- In what ways are you being intentional about being a witness for Jesus? Are there steps you could take to be more intentional about it?

Prayer Respond to the passage in prayer

- Jesus told us to pray for God's kingdom to come and his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Pray for the realities described in Isaiah 27:6 and Revelation 21:22-27 to pervade in greater measure here and now.
- Pray for boldness to be a witness for Jesus.

DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?