



In case you haven't heard me say it before, I am excited about what God is going to do at Journey Church this fall! This is the final week of our current Growth Groups. Beginning this coming Sunday, all Growth Groups will be meeting on Sunday immediately following the worship service through Connection Groups. We will be relaunching all our groups and beginning at least one new group. This is the perfect time for your group to recruit new people to be included in the community we are developing in the Journey Growth Groups.

This week, Eric began our new series, *Blueprints For Your Life*. This week's message was an overview to begin planning our lives for the future. Over the next several weeks, we will build on this week's message. Eric gave us some "homework" to help us consider who God has allowed us to become and to help us pinpoint a vision for our lives. Going through the exercises he gave us will help us evaluate what we learn in the coming weeks.

- **When faced with a task, do you tend to be a planner or someone who flies by the seat of their pants?**
- **Do you tend to approach your future the same way? For example, do you have a vision for where you would like to be in 5 or 10 years? Do you have some form of plan to get you there?**
- **Are you satisfied with the direction your life seems to be going? What kind of "measuring stick" do you have that helps you evaluate the direction and decisions of your life?**
- **One of the key verses Eric used to set us on the road to discover the blueprints for our life is *Proverbs 29:18*, which says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Have you taken the time to work through the "core values," "gifts and strengths," and "past experiences" exercises Eric gave us on Sunday? What have you discovered?**
- **The place where these three aspects of your life intersect is the "sweet spot" that God will focus as the Blueprint for your life. Journey Church's mission is *helping transform ordinary people into passionate Christ followers*. If we as a church are doing anything that isn't helping people become passionate Christ followers, we are not following the Blueprint for our church's life. **Based on what you have discovered in the exercises Eric gave us, can you develop a one-sentence personal mission statement for your life?****
- **What is one thing you can do this week to help get your life on track with your personal mission statement?**



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Growth Group Leaders:

This is the last week for our current Growth Groups. It is very tempting to be sad to part with the people we have gotten to know over the past year. However, this is the most exciting time our Growth Groups ministry has ever experienced. In all honesty, our Growth Groups have been primarily made up of people from our launch team and from the first few weeks of the life of the church. Although we have multiplied groups before, this is the first time the groups will reach beyond the original launch team. One of our groups will be made up entirely of people that have come since we launched, including the leaders, Jay and Jeremy. For the first time, we are spreading the vision of Authentic Community to people who came to us looking for a place to belong. Be sure to take some time in your group this week to celebrate what we have accomplished and to pray through the groups we will be developing in the coming weeks.

Be sure to remind everybody that there will not be Growth Groups in homes over the next three weeks, but that we will all gather at the church for lunch immediately following the worship service. You may want to take a few minutes to find out who is going to be at Connection Groups each week, and how many children will need food and childcare. Pass this information on to Susan Allinder so we can get everything organized as much as possible.

Also, PLEASE be sure to send me feedback on how your group went within 2 days after your group meets. God bless, and have a great week!
Andrew

This week, Eric began our new series, *Blueprints For Your Life*. This week's message was an overview to begin planning our lives for the future. Over the next several weeks, we will build on this week's message. Eric gave us some "homework" to help us consider who God has allowed us to become and to help us pinpoint a vision for our lives. Going through the exercises he gave us will help us evaluate what we learn in the coming weeks.

The first few questions are ice-breaker questions to help everybody understand a little more about the various personalities represented in the room. Reality is, God has wired some of us to be planners, and others to be more spontaneous. Our goal in this discussion is to help people realize that they can operate within the personality God gave them, but that having a "big picture" to aim for will help them make wise decisions along the way. For the planner, this will mean having a picture to plan their life around. For the spontaneous person, this will mean having a measuring stick to evaluate their momentary decisions. Either way, a "big picture" will help keep us on the path that God has for us as Christ-followers.

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- **Do you tend to approach your future the same way? For example, do you have a vision for where you would like to be in 5 or 10 years? Do you have some form of plan to get you there?**

- **Are you satisfied with the direction your life seems to be going? What kind of “measuring stick” do you have that helps you evaluate the direction and decisions of your life?**

Use the answers to the previous questions to help you transition back in to what Eric talked about on Sunday. Hopefully several people in your group have already begun to go through the exercises Eric gave us to help you have a fruitful discussion.

- One of the key verses Eric used to set us on the road to discover the blueprints for our life is *Proverbs 29:18*, which says, “*Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*” **Have you taken the time to work through the “core values,” “gifts and strengths,” and “past experiences” exercises Eric gave us on Sunday? What have you discovered?**

So often this verse is used to talk about a vision for a church, business, or government. This verse is very easily applied to these organizations. However, the truth is equally applicable to our individual lives. If we are not discovering God’s vision for our lives, we can wither and die. This week’s message and the exercises Eric gave us aim at discovering this vision.

- The place where these three aspects of your life intersect is the “sweet spot” that God will focus as the Blueprint for your life. Journey Church’s mission is *helping transform ordinary people into passionate Christ followers*. If we as a church are doing anything that isn’t helping people become passionate Christ followers, we are not following the Blueprint for our church’s life. **Based on what you have discovered in the exercises Eric gave us, can you develop a one-sentence personal mission statement for your life?**

This is an exercise for you to help your folks work through during the Growth Groups meeting this week. Help them develop some ideas, but encourage them to pray it through and refine it over the next several weeks as we continue through the “Blueprints” series.

Helpful tips, and I will use my own as an example:

Review the “Core Values” you came up with:

1. My primary core value is to Worship God in all of life, other core values must flow through this.
2. Other core values: Lead my family, Teach and lead others, Train people to make a difference, Do what I do with excellence, Be passionate about what I do.

Review your “Gifts and Strengths”

Top 3 gifts: Apostleship, Exhortation, Prophecy (any question as to why I talk so much?)

Review your “Past Experiences”

1. Positive – varied church background, education, great mentors/influence from people, strong missions influence, architecture.
2. Negative – limited friendships, Difficulty finding a place of ministry
3. Preparation – I am more open to other church ideas than most, and the limited closeness of relationships makes it easier to move from place to place. I believe God has used my past to free me for a life of helping church plants reach disconnected people around the world.

Personal Mission Statement: *God has called me to build His church by helping people be passionately in love with God and reflect that love in every aspect of life.*

- **What is one thing you can do this week to help get your life on track with your personal mission statement?**

This is our “So what?” question. If we go through these exercises and don’t come away with a practical way it will impact our lives, it really isn’t doing much. Encourage your folks to look at their Personal Mission Statement and evaluate their lives by it and find something that needs to be adjusted.