

Vision & Guiding Principles

Vision

Jesus came proclaiming that life in his Father's Kingdom was now available to everyone everywhere right here, right now. (*Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15*)

He said he came to bring life so that we may have it to the full. He said he was the life and those who first followed him called him the author of life and said that they had seen and touched "the life". (*John 10:10, John 14:6, Acts 3:15, 1 John 1:2*)

These first followers lived in this new life, in the power of His Spirit, devoting themselves to continual discovery about what it meant to live in the Kingdom of God while at the same time inviting everybody everywhere to join in on this new life now.

This then, is our vision. To be a church where;

**We invite everyone
to discover life¹
in God's kingdom² .**

A church where everything we do and are connected to is always helping people to discover the life Jesus talked about and is always inviting others to join in.

¹ Life: Peace, Love, Forgiveness, Hope, Healing, Joy, Freedom, Reconciliation, Purpose, Meaning, Restoration, Renewal, Rest, Beauty, Healthy Relationships, Grace

² God's Kingdom: "The range of God's effective will, where what God wants done is done." – Dallas Willard

"The redemptive reign of God." – Craig Van Gelder

To live in the Kingdom of God is to live under God's perfect and loving reign and rule, in the power of the Spirit, in every area of our lives. It is God's intended way of life, His intended way for us to relate to Him, to others, to creation and to ourselves. The accessibility and breaking in of God's Kingdom is the good news that Jesus came to bring.

Spiritual Formation

Life in God's kingdom is found as we actively pursue becoming more like Jesus. Not just learning more about Jesus, and not just doing things that Jesus did, but having as our first priority to become the kind of person who at our very core is like Jesus. Our primary goal then in helping people discover life in God's Kingdom will be to help everyone become more like Jesus. Our goal is transformed people who have discovered a new way of life, not just people who think or act differently.

Sunday Worship Experience

People go where the life is. At some point, people stopped going to church because there was more life to be found somewhere else on a Sunday morning. We will be a church where coming to church on a Sunday morning is energizing, beautiful, inspiring and life-giving. We will create a welcoming environment to the stranger where it is obvious where to go and how to get connected. Where a new comer would come to watch even if they weren't ready to worship. Where the entire service helps people to experience the presence, power and life of the resurrected Jesus.

Children and Youth

We will be a church that creates engaging environments where families are excited to return. We will partner with families for a greater combined influence and work toward the same end together, where children and youth are equipped to live an authentic faith in Jesus that connects them to a better story for their life, so that as they mature they are able to give testimony to their faith. We will be a resource and a refuge for parents and children.

Care

Life in the Kingdom is life together. We will place caring for each other as a high priority and expect the majority of care to happen organically as everyone is cared for by those they are in relationship with. The care ministry then will focus on those who are connected to our church community who are not being cared for by family or friends.

Local and Global Outreach (aka Missions)

A church where we don't have a social project or a community service that we provide. Instead, our focus will be to reach people, help them discover new life in God's Kingdom, help them to find transformation and power in the Spirit, and then encourage them to go out into the world, into their relationships, and into their jobs bringing new life and transforming the world around them. We will focus on becoming and creating servants, not programming serving into a schedule. In short, we won't be the church with the "soup kitchen". We will be the church that is creating the kinds of people who will go and work in the "soup kitchens" that already exist and who bring the life of Jesus with them.

While we won't expend our finite resources creating social projects, we will focus on partnering with a small number of local and global organizations that have a Kingdom mindset (ex. Justice, Life transformation) and are creating lasting and sustainable change in people and communities. We will form long term relationships with these organizations and they will be the primary places that we highlight and encourage our people to serve in.

Marketing/Branding

We believe God is already at work in the hearts and minds of people and is inviting everyone to discover life in His kingdom. In communicating this same message, we will not be afraid to develop a brand and think like advertisers. We will make use of every available creative and technological means to spread the invitation.

Connection

We will be a church where we go over the top in order to make the new comer feel welcome and have systems in place to get them connected to our community. We will always have a next step to invite people to take (ex. one time event, small group, short term class, volunteer/leadership position).

Guiding Principles

Simplicity

Simplicity creates clarity, clarity creates unity and unity is powerful. Simplicity is also inviting and beautiful. For these reasons we will strive for simplicity in everything we do.

Excellence

We will seek to use our gifts and resources to the best of our abilities, always measuring and evaluating what we do in a constant effort to improve.

Relational

Life in God's Kingdom is all about being in right relationship with God, ourselves, one another and creation. We will uphold the principle of relationships both in our personal lives and by seeking to be in relationship with local and global organizations that align with our vision.

Healthy Rhythms

Life in God's Kingdom has a proper balance between work and play, rest and activity, solitude and noise. In a culture where busyness and constant stimulation is ruining lives we will value a balanced and centered life where rest and the spiritual disciplines are emphasized.

Selfless

It is clear that Jesus went to great lengths to reach the lost, broken, hurting and in need. He broke tradition, social barriers and even humbled himself to become human and die as a criminal. With Jesus as our example we commit to the continual stretching of ourselves by holding reaching the lost as more important than maintaining tradition, pleasing ourselves or staying comfortable.

Relevance

If coming into church feels like stepping back in time then we have reinforced the message prevalent in our culture that God and church are things of the past. We will seek to be culturally up to date in all that we do so that we don't place an unnecessary stumbling block in the way of people finding new life in God's Kingdom. While the message will never change, we will not be afraid to change our methods in order to reach our culture by embracing new ideas and technologies.