

FIVE VISION TRUTHS

EVERY PASTOR SHOULD KNOW



Your Guide to Leading Your Church
with Vision

5 Vision Truths

That Just Might Be Inconvenient...



Introduction

In today's rapidly changing world, a lot of churches are struggling with direction – let alone growth. Many congregations are filled with well-meaning people who want to make a difference but find themselves stuck in the status quo of routine without a clear path forward.

This workbook uncovers five essential truths about church vision that can transform your ministry. My goal is that each truth will push you toward an understanding of how to discern your church's God-given vision, to cast that compelling vision to your leaders and your congregation, to overcome the most common obstacles, and to lead your church into a faithful, effective, and sustainable future.

Vision Truth #1

Vision Does Not Equal Mission"

Many churches confuse vision with mission. The mission of the church is a timeless directive given by Jesus: to make disciples. This mission answers the "why" of the church's existence. Vision, however, is a specific, localized picture of where the church is headed in the future. It answers the "where are we going?" and changes based on context and time. While the mission is unchanging, vision is dynamic and unique to each church.



Key Takeaways:

Mission is Universal: Every church shares the same mission of making disciples as directed by Jesus.

- *This isn't something to create; it's something to embrace as the core purpose.*

Vision is Contextual: Vision is a picture of what it looks like to fulfill the mission in a particular setting.

- *This means your church's vision will look different from others, shaped by your unique community and culture.*

Vision Inspires Movement: A compelling vision invites people to move forward with purpose.

- *Without a clear vision, the church risks stagnation, merely going through the motions without clear direction.*

Vision Truth #2

Most Churches Don't Have a Vision

Without a clear vision, churches often drift aimlessly. Proverbs 29:18 warns, "Without vision, the people perish." Many churches have no defined destination and are slowly dying as a result. When asked, most members and leaders can't articulate where their church is headed. A lack of vision means a lack of direction, and without direction, growth becomes impossible.



Without vision, I'm
a lost puppy!

Key Takeaways:

Vision Brings Direction: A church without vision is like a ship without a rudder.

- *Without knowing where you're going, you'll never know when you get there.*

Vision Must Be Shared: If only a few know the vision, it might as well not exist.

- *Vision needs to be clear and communicated frequently to inspire collective movement.*

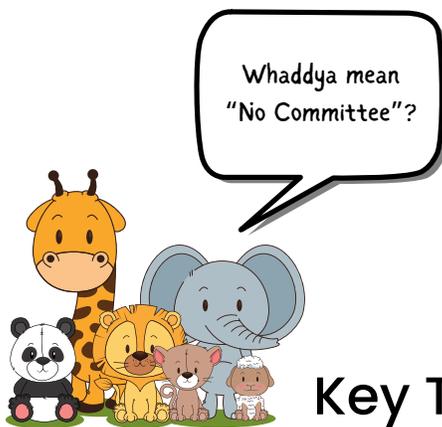
Vision is the Pastor's Responsibility: It's up to the church leaders to seek, define, and communicate the vision.

- *The Pastor (and bought-in leaders) must guide the congregation toward a common goal, rallying them around a shared future.*

Vision Truth #3

God So Loved the World That He Didn't Send a Committee

In the Bible, God gives vision to individuals, not groups. Vision casting is not a democratic process but a divine direction given to leaders. When churches try to create vision by committee, they often end up with a watered-down version that lacks impact. True vision comes from leaders who have spent time in prayer, seeking God's direction for their church.



Key Takeaways:

Vision Comes to Individuals: God entrusts vision to leaders who then inspire others to follow.

- *Vision isn't a group decision; it's a leader's responsibility to hear from God and communicate it.*

Committees Dilute Vision: When vision is formed by committee, it often becomes a compromised idea.

- *Great vision requires boldness and clarity that committees typically avoid to maintain consensus.*

Leaders Must Lead: The pastor's role is to lead with the vision God has given, even if it's not initially popular.

- *True leadership sometimes means moving forward even when not everyone is on board.*

Vision Truth #4

Not Everyone Will Get on Board

Even the most compelling vision will face resistance. Not everyone in the church will embrace change or the new direction. It's crucial to accept this reality rather than wasting energy trying to get everyone on the bus. Some will resist, some will try to derail the vision, and some will leave. Effective leadership focuses on those who are ready to move forward, not those who want to stay behind.



Key Takeaways:

Expect Resistance: Change is uncomfortable, and not everyone will want to go where the vision leads.

- *Accepting this early on helps you focus on leading those who are ready.*

Don't Force Compliance: Trying to make everyone happy can lead to stagnation.

- *The bus won't move if you spend all your time trying to get everyone on board.*

Focus on the Willing: Invest in those who align with the vision and are eager to move forward.

- *Your energy is better spent empowering the willing than convincing the resistant.*

Vision Truth #5

Vision Fails Because of Non-Persistence

Vision isn't a one-time declaration; it's a continuous journey. Many churches had a vision at one point but lost momentum because they failed to be persistent. Vision requires constant reinforcement, adjustment, and celebration to stay alive. If leaders aren't regularly casting the vision and reminding the congregation of the direction, the church will revert to the status quo.

Remember the Nehemiah
Principle: Vision is lost every
month!



Key Takeaways:

Vision Needs Recasting: Vision must be kept alive with regular reinforcement and celebration.

- *If it's not kept front and center, people will lose sight of it and return to old patterns.*

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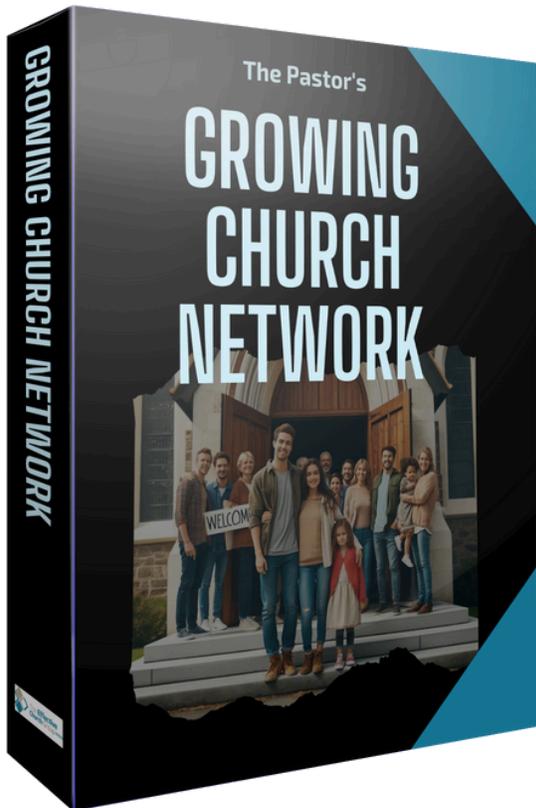
Persistence is Key: Resistance and setbacks will happen, but leaders must push through.

- *When challenges arise, leaders need to recast the vision and inspire continued action.*

Celebrate Wins: Highlighting progress keeps the vision alive and the congregation motivated.

- *Celebrating small victories helps maintain momentum and demonstrates that the vision is working.*

BRING VISION TO LIFE IN YOUR CHURCH



Training
Coaching
Accountability

Grow Your Church



A compelling vision is the foundation for a thriving church, but vision alone isn't enough. Turning that vision into reality requires effective strategies, guidance, and support. That's where the Growing Church Network comes in. The Network provides you with the coaching, training, and accountability needed to transform your church's vision into measurable and sustainable growth. Through focused strategies like increasing first-visitor counts, engaging returning guests, and building a strong discipleship process, the Growing Church Network will help you take the vision you've crafted and bring it to life.

Join a community of pastors committed to moving their churches forward, and watch as your congregation not only catches the vision but becomes an active part of making it a reality.

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