



Dgroup Discussion Guide for November 1, 2015

## Vision and Mission

**SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 6:1-8**

During our Weekend Encounter event, we learned some life-changing truths:

1. God loves us unconditionally, and desires a paternal relationship with us. He accepts us for who we are, but in His love for us, He will not allow us to remain the way that we are.
2. Sin is so bad that it is deadly. It separates us from a holy God.
3. We experience salvation from our sin through Jesus' death on the cross.
4. The Christian life is only possible through the life of Jesus Christ and in us and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

What are we to do now that we know these truths? The next step is to understand our vision and a mission.

*Mission* - a statement of what we do that informs our vision

*Vision* - a picture of what will happen if we fulfill our mission; it lets us see the future before it comes into being

It's important for us as a church to have the same mission and vision, because through that, we are able to be unified in reaching the same goal. Here are three questions that will help us realize our mission and vision:

### **1. What is your view of God?**

God is holy. The prophet Isaiah has a vision where he sees the Lord sitting on a throne with Seraphim surrounding Him and crying, **"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole Earth is full of His glory"** (Isaiah 6:3). As He is the definition of holiness, *only He* is without sin. It is important for us to have the right view of who God is because our attitude determines our behavior.

### **2. What is God's view of you?**

As much as God is holy, we are sinful. It only takes *one* sin for us to be tainted, as mentioned in James 2:10: ***For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at one point, he has become guilty of all.*** This may seem like a high standard, but we have to remember that our God's standard is holiness. Our sinfulness makes it impossible for us to encounter God face-to-face. Isaiah says in Isaiah 6:5, ***Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.*** We, like Isaiah, are ruined because we are not holy; instead, we are lost.

By God's grace, however, He has sent a Savior for us. Luke 19:10 says, ***For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost.*** Through His son Jesus, God has given us all that is necessary for us to be saved. Ephesians 2:8-10 says, ***For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.***

### 3. What is God's mission for you?

There is an important sequence of events in Isaiah 6. After Isaiah had an encounter with God and realised that only God is Holy, he confessed his sinfulness in humility and was forgiven. Only then did he hear the voice of the Lord (Isaiah 6:8). Sin separates us from God, and only a personal relationship with Jesus can bring reconciliation.

We become Christians when we have Jesus Christ in our lives, but until we begin to obey Him we cannot call ourselves His disciples. While we all have different roles in the God's great plan for the salvation of man, as followers of Jesus Christ we have the same primary mission and vision, and it is outlined in Matthew 28:18-20: ***And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on Earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*** As we go about our daily routines, we must be mindful of this Great Commission.





Additionally, Jesus says in John 15:16, ***You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.*** When God commands us something, He provides what we need in order to fulfill His commands. There are three promises that we can be assured of:

1. As long as we stay connected to the source, we will bear fruit. John 15:5 says, ***I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for apart from Me, you can do nothing.***
2. God will work in our lives. As long as we continue to abide and obey, God will see things to fruition. Philippians 1:6 says that ***For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.***
3. God is also a rewarder. While we wait for our reward in heaven, we must make sure that we live lives on Earth that are pleasing to Him. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 says, ***Therefore, we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.***

We must embrace God's mission and vision for us, which is to be disciples and make disciples.

#### APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	Personal: Do you have a personal vision and mission? What is mission and vision based on? How do we see God? How do we see ourselves in God's view?
	Family: What are our vision and mission as a family? How are we actively and intentionally sharing God's gift of salvation to those around us? Are we discipling our own families?
	Discipleship: Our main mission as members of the body of Christ is to make disciples. How are we responding to that call?
	Church/ Ministry: What are we actively and intentionally doing in fulfillment of Matthew 28:18-20.

#### PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.