

BEYOND

Vision – Message 1

Warm-up

Can you think of something that is a reality in your life now only because God gave you a *vision* for it in the past? Is there anything that God has given you a vision for now that you believe will be realized in the future?

Bottom Line

Vision is a clear, mental picture of a preferable future. It allows us to see who we are supposed to *be*, what we're supposed to *do*, and what we're supposed to *build for God*.

Word and Application

Welcome to the first message in the five-week series entitled, *Beyond*. The name of this series is significant. Not only is it based on **Ephesians 3:20**, but it also describes the **spiritual journey** of our church.

Read Ephesians 3:20.

Often we get comfortable in our surroundings and forget that God has more for us. God has more in store for our church family. Part of it is a future that is *beyond* our highest hopes and dreams.

- In the vision that God has for our church--Little Creek Campus, Gulf Coast Campus, West Esplanade Campus, and St. Charles Campus--which aspect are you most excited about and why?
- How can we better impact our community for Christ?

Read Habakkuk 2:2-3.

This verse is God's encouragement and response to the cry of the Israelites when they were being abused by the Chaldeans. God encouraged them to continue to move forward, but in order to do so, they were told to write down their God-given vision and walk it out.

- Have you written down your God-given vision?
- Think of ways that we can keep God's vision always before us?

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF A VISION IS FROM YOU OR FROM GOD?

God's vision is always *bigger* than you.

According to **Ephesians 3:20**, *God is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think*. He is much bigger than us, so His vision and plan for our lives goes *beyond* our limited thinking and our own natural reasoning. There is more for you and for your family.

- What aspects of your God-given vision go *beyond* yourself, that you may have some fears that need to be put to rest? Brainstorm as a group how you can step out of your comfort zone and into God's full purpose for your life.

God's dream and vision is impossible to accomplish without His help.

If you can accomplish what God is calling you to do easily and it doesn't take faith and a God intervention, it's probably not from Him. What disciplines and habits are necessary in order for you to accomplish God's dream?

God's vision is compelling.

God's vision and dream will not let you go. It draws you, it captivates you, and it pulls you toward His goal for your life.

Read Acts 10:19, 20.

What was Peter *doing with* the vision God gave him?

Read Acts 10:34, 35.

Did the vision go *beyond* Peter's limited thinking?

THE *BEYOND* JOURNEY

Beyond is both a five-week message series and a 26-month stewardship journey. Together, as we embark on the *Beyond* journey, it is important to do three things:

1. **Be involved.**
Engage in the process and encourage others to do the same. Share your influence.
2. **Be informed.**
Stay up-to-date and engaged in the project.
3. **Be in prayer.**
Start asking God now what He wants to do through you. Pray for the projects.

Life Challenge

- Did you receive your *Beyond* prayer devotional? If not, it is available online at the *Beyond* website at ChurchoftheKing.com/beyond. The devotional is daily and begins Monday, October 15th. It was created to help you seek God on how He wants you to be involved with the *Beyond* campaign.
- If you do not have a vision for your life or specific areas of your life, spend time in God's presence. Ask Him to reveal a vision for your life, family, career, spiritual journey, and other areas. Be sure to write it down.

Prayer

Father, we are thankful that You give us vision for our lives and our church. Thank You for the miraculous things You continue to do to impact our region for Your kingdom. Pray for the specific needs of your small group.