

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Your Love Awakens Me, The Lord Is My Salvation, Blessed Assurance (My King Is Coming)

## WELCOME

Have you been asked “What do you want to be when you grow up” when you were young? What was your answer? Have you achieved it by now? Why or why not?

## WORD

### PROVERBS 29:18

*Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law.*

### EPHESIANS 2:8-10

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;<sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.<sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

### PHILIPPIANS 1:6

*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.*

We are on the second half of our MOTIVATE series and currently discussing V—VISION. Recognizing the importance of setting a vision is crucial in influencing others and creating an impact in their lives. This will be helpful not only for parents, or children, but also to those in discipleship relationships.

### 1. WHAT IS VISION?

**Vision gives direction.** In **Proverbs 29:18**, we are told that without vision, people can become **unrestrained**, and in some translations, “**perish**” is used. Vision so important, yet often neglected. What does “vision” mean? Vision and Mission are closely related. We, as followers of Jesus, must first understand what our mission is. Mission tells us what we are supposed to be doing (**Matthew 28:18-20**). Vision is a mental picture of what will happen if we pursue our mission (**Revelation 7:9**). **Vision also inspires us.** It helps us persevere in the pursuit that we have in life. **Helen Keller** once said, “**the only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.**” We know people who are driven by a vision they have set for themselves and see them succeed in what they do. Some people live without a vision for themselves. They live by the day and sometimes get stuck in a rut or go in circles doing things that don’t contribute to any pursuit or goal. But what is worse than having no vision? It is having the wrong kind of vision.

### 2. MAN-CENTERED VISION VS. GOD-CENTERED VISION

When your vision is all about yourself and you run after temporal things like riches, power, position, or pleasures of life, the end result is emptiness! The Bible gives us an example of a life driven by this kind of vision. In **Ecclesiastes 2:8-11**, we hear from the author about his achievements and yet even with

these, he leads to a conclusion that “**all is vanity... like striving after the wind**”. In **vv. 17-20**, he expresses his personal feelings after having ran after temporal things in this world. He still felt the emptiness and despair of his misplaced vision for life.

In contrast, we look at the life of the Apostle Paul. He exhibited this truth in his life: **the grander the vision, the greater the motivation and willingness to sacrifice.** In **Ephesians 2:8-10**, we see what fueled this man’s vision: the grace of God at work, salvation freely given, and the reminder that we are created for good works as God’s workmanship. There are three most important days in the life of a follower of Christ: 1) the day you were born, 2) the day you were born again in Christ, and 3) the day you find your purpose and understand why you were born again into God’s family. The Apostle Paul encountered Christ on the Road to Damascus and the direction of his life changed since then. In **Acts 26:16-20**, Paul narrates how he was called and appointed to be a **minister (servant)** and a **witness (martyr)**—that God will use him to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. It wasn’t an easy journey for Paul but because he understood God’s amazing vision, he was able to endure and continuously fulfill his calling. Paul clearly held on to the future picture of the eternal reign of Jesus Christ our Lord mentioned in **Philippians 2:10-11**. What Paul had was not just a temporary or self-exalting vision. **It was an eternal kind of vision**—something he had to work on with God to achieve success.

### 3. INTENTIONALITY IN PASSING ON THE VISION

In life, you don’t get what you just hope and dream for. You get what you do intentionally. It is **intentionality which turns**

## WORD (cont'd)

**hopes, dreams, and visions into reality.** No amount of dreaming or hoping will accomplish anything unless you are intentional. **INTENTIONALITY** is doing something you don't necessarily want to do to get the result you would really like to have. This involves discipline and the right understanding of the purpose of life. How do you pass on this vision to your children, disciples, and loved ones? **You have to begin with your own self.** You must be intentional in understanding God's vision for your life. Only then can you learn to pass vision to your loved ones, children, and disciples, and help them to develop God's vision for their lives. We have to be intentional in **instructing** them. You have to teach people they are special. Reinforce their uniqueness and God's intelligent design for them. Intentionally teach them how to find their purpose in life. Help them beat their insecurities with the knowledge that the Lord can be with them if they surrender their lives to Him.

**Vision impacts choices we make.** We've heard from many CCF Sunday messages about how choices have consequences. You are free to choose, but you are not free to choose the consequences of your decisions. Many people don't realize that. They may not be immediate, but sooner or later you will experience the consequences of those choices. Remember, what you do now will impact something in your future. We should therefore allow God's vision for our lives to impact our present choices, because they are

connected to our future. Intentionality also means to inspire and encourage.

In **Judges 6:12-16, Gideon**, prior to being a warrior or even leading a battle against the Midianites, was approached by the LORD's messenger and called him "**valiant warrior**". It was an inspiring statement backed up with the promise of God's presence and guidance. Even as Gideon doubted and questioned his calling, God assured him of his potential. God did not see Gideon for who he is—**He saw him for who he can become!**

We also see an example of inspiration from the Apostle Paul as he encouraged the believers in Philippi to continue on in their journey of faith. **Philippians 1:6** reminds us that God is on the move changing hearts, empowering people, and pursuing His great plan of redemption not just of our lives but for as many people to be reached by the gospel truth. Paul desired to be pleasing to God all the days of his life (**2 Corinthians 5:9**). In his last letter to Timothy (**2 Timothy 4:6-8**), Paul had set his vision to eternity and that sustained him until his martyrdom in Rome. As we are encouraged by Paul's life and vision, may we also be **Chief Encouraging Officers** for the people around us, leading them to the vision of hope and greatness in CHRIST JESUS our Lord!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)*

- 1. Self-Check.** What vision do you have for your own life? How about for your family and other relationships?
- 2. Setting It Right.** If you find yourself "chasing after the wind" when it comes to your own vision, do you have people in your life who can help and inspire you to discover God's vision for you? Who are they? Have you asked help from them?
- 3. Living It Out.** How are you going to pursue God's vision for you? What specific sacrifices are you willing to take to achieve it?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray to God to give the people you want to influence His vision for their lives. Help your family and friends discover God's vision for them. Start by sharing God's plan of salvation for them through Jesus Christ.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends