

CASTING VISION

Ice Breaker _____

Game/activity _____

Read Proverbs 29:18 in your own Bible... “Without vision (revelation), the people cast off restraint...”

We live in a society where the importance of knowing where you belong in today’s world, how you fit in and where you want to go in life has never been so highly valued. One of the greatest causes of teenage depression is the inability to see the value in life – the feeling of going nowhere and frustration with life is often the result of not having a personal vision for your life (short term AND long term). Many people we know wander from one school to another, one course to another, or from one job to another because they simply do not know what to do with their lives. They have no idea of what they want to be remembered for and what they want to achieve. You are never too young to start thinking and dreaming, and to set specific goals for fulfilling them.

Tonight, we want the Holy Spirit to stir up fresh vision within our lives, for this year and perhaps discover what we want to accomplish ultimately in the long term.

Step One

Remember that everything we do is for the glory of God, and that ultimately the dreams, visions, desires and promises that He gives to us (through prophecies, personal revelations, etc.) are for us to ultimately point others back to Jesus Christ. Any vision or dream that exists for selfish reasons can ultimately lead to personal hurt and lack of fulfilment in life, which can also lead to frustration.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:20

Step Two

Often people don’t know what they want to accomplish with their lives. It’s not as hard as people think it is.

Read Ecclesiastes 11:9

This verse is particularly interesting, especially in helping someone understand how to resolve the balance between asking God what He wants you to accomplish in life, and your own personal desires / passions. God has placed certain desires / passions in your life for a reason – as mentioned in Step One.

Date you did this study _____

Leaders’ Notes

List your 3 strongest passions (footy, playing music, gaming, worshipping, breaking, etc.) this can also include what you are talented at or what your strengths are.

Step Three

Turning your passions into a vision / mission statement can be challenging. It often takes more than one night to process through it. Ultimately though, a God-given dream / vision is beyond your human capacity to accomplish – you KNOW it's from God when...

- i) what you are feeling in your heart is to glorify His name, and
- ii) when you know there is no way that you'd come up with the thought or strength

Bottom line... you need God!!!

- Q If there are no limitations in the world, what would you want to do with your life, for God? What would you want to be remembered for? (don't just think short term... think LONG term)

Now put all those thoughts through a sieve and let the following filters wash away your own thinking:

- Q Would you need to be a person of Godly character to do this? (Because ultimately, this is what God is looking for in all His children, do they look like Jesus on the inside in the way they live life?)
- Q Is there any human pride in your thoughts about this, or things you want to do so that you'll feel better about yourself, it's still pride, or just so that you'll be famous, it's still pride, or so you'll make money, can still come out of pride (though not always). Matthew 23:12.
- Q Will it build the Kingdom of God? Matthew 6:33

Whatever answer you've given, at least you've started to think big picture. Allowing God to shape your thoughts and life are so very important in setting a vision for your future.

God gives many people different targets to reach many stages of their lives. You are not limited to just one for the rest of your life, but ALL these visions and dreams He gives you are ultimately part of the same BIG PLAN He has for your life. Whenever you feel that your passions and your desires are starting to change, write down your vision. Read Habakkuk 2:2-3.

Step Four

Set SMART goals to work towards your short-term and long-term vision:

S = Specific M = Measurable A = Achievable R = Realistic T = Time Bound

Examples of SMART goals:

- My thoughts at Step 3 were that I want to go on many missions trips one day and train youth leaders to reach youth in their culture.
- Some goals for 2010 could be, “I am going to read 2 books on youth ministry this year and take notes on the things I think are important.”
- “I want to be a youth leader one day so I can learn more, so I am going to do Lifetrax 1 & 2 this year and become a partner by the end of 2010”

Ultimately, we all have to remember that God alone is in control and that He has a complete plan and design for our lives. Our visions – our dreams and desires – are part of a grander PLAN to redeem humanity, and that we all INDIVIDUALLY have a part to play.

Read Jeremiah 29:11-13

Your vision for your life – and your emotions, desires, passions – all matter to God because He is interested in YOU and only in the BEST for you. But it’s up to YOU to follow through with His plans and stay faithful to the vision He reveals to you.

The best way to make sure that you will fulfil the plans God has for you is to stay close to Jesus. Love Him, serve Him and allow God to show you the way.

Read Psalm 37:23, Psalm 37:4, Isaiah 26:3

Keep working at your short term goals because it builds character and steadfastness, and can ultimately help you to achieve your long term vision. And remember, only through God’s help will you be able to achieve all that He’s called you to do, so stay faithful to Him!

Personal Application:

Make a commitment to the Lord and before each other that you will commit every day for the next week (and beyond) to the Lord, asking Him to keep you in His purposes. And in helping you to make wise decisions that will bless you and prosper you.

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