



PREPARE MODULE #1

EXECUTIVE | EASTSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

COMPETENCY: Guiding and guarding our vision, values and beliefs.

OBJECTIVE: Develop a clear understanding of the scriptural foundation for our vision, values, and beliefs, while also learning about the power of focus and the important role key metrics play in guarding the vision.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Assignment 1 // Watch [SIMPLE CHURCH HUDDLE](#) and answer discussion questions.
- Assignment 2 // Read Acts 2. Review our vision, learn about how it was created, understand its scriptural foundation and discuss the dynamics that could cause us to veer off track.
- Assignment 3 // Review the structures and processes in place to help us stay on track.
- Assignment 4 // Review and discuss our beliefs regarding God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, sin, salvation, The Bible and the Church.

ASSIGNMENT 1

Watch [SIMPLE CHURCH HUDDLE](#) and answer discussion questions. While this video provides great context and information on how Simple Church principles impacted the development of Eastside's vision, we encourage you to think of it as a case study as there are plenty of lessons here that could help any leader taking on the challenge of establishing a new vision for their organization.

QUESTIONS:

1. *Can you share a story where you experienced an "S-Curve" dynamic (trajectory change) in an organization you've been a part of?*



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- 2. Do you accept the notion that the more programs a church supports (or the more initiatives an organization launches), the less effective they become? Why?*

- 3. Gene described the significant transformation Eastside went through from “a busy church, always serving” to a “Simple Church” model. What kind of resistance do you think leadership experienced? How would you overcome that resistance?*

ASSIGNMENT 2

READ: Acts 2

Review our vision, learn about how it was created, understand its scriptural foundation and discuss the dynamics that could cause us to veer off track. [About](#)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Identifying a vision that is aspirational, inspirational, big enough to stand the test of time and, in our case, God-given, requires a great process in order to deliver great content. What are some of the steps in the process Gene used that would have application in any organization?*



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2. *Gene began the process of vision development by asking a hand-picked team that included elders, staff and influential volunteers to pray "God, what do you want Eastside to look like by the year 2012?" Do you remember what Gene said about what they sensed God saying (in the Simple Church Huddle video)?*
 - a. *"Over and over again, God brought us back to the book of _____".*
 - b. *Felt God saying "I don't want you to create something _____, I want you to recapture something _____...I want you to recapture with ever-increasing clarity and passion and focus and intentionality, the dynamic of the first church."*

3. *Inspired by scripture and encouraged by Gene, there were hours of energetic discussion until leadership landed on the six words that still guide our church today:*
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. *Where do you see these practices in Acts 2?*



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ASSIGNMENT 3

Review the structures and processes in place to help us stay on track (included in Simple Church Huddle video.)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Once the vision was created, we needed to declare the expressions of each element of the vision. What were those expressions?*
 - a. Pursue God --> _____*
 - b. Build Community--> _____*
 - c. Unleash Compassion --> _____*

- 2. Identifying expressions for each element of the vision helped operationalize the vision and bring it to life for people. Perhaps the single most important step we took was to align on a set of metrics that ministries were accountable to leadership for and leadership was accountable to the elder board to achieve. What were the original six key metrics?*

- 3. What is the process Eastside uses to establish targets and drive results versus our key metrics?*



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4. *Do you have examples of different approaches to operationalizing the vision from other organizations you've been in?*

ASSIGNMENT 4

Review and discuss our beliefs regarding God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, sin, salvation, The Bible and the Church. [About](#)

Note: While publishing a set of beliefs might be unique to a church, a somewhat similar exercise in another organization would be identifying and publishing your organization's values.

QUESTIONS:

1. *Why is it important for Eastside to publish our beliefs?*
2. *Are there any potential downsides to publishing our beliefs?*
3. *Do you have any questions about our beliefs?*



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What are at least two LEADERSHIP TAKEAWAYS from this module? Be prepared to discuss with your group.

1.

2.