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## Devotion

**John 14:1** “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. **2** In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. **4** And you know the way to the place where I am going.” **5** Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” **6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

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## Devotion continued

**John 14:8** Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” **9** Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. **11** Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. **12** Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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# Devotion Continued

- ◊ Why did Jesus need to ascend?
- ◊ Greater things

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## My Hopes

We pray

We meet

We discern a mission/vision in a form of a compelling story

We discern next steps (worship, missions, outreach, discipleship) that are low stakes (unless we discern a BHAG)



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## My Hopes Continued

*We discern a discipleship process*  
*We discern a leadership training process*  
*We thrive in God's purpose for us*



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## Session One



- What does a thriving/healthy church look like
- How do we get there
  - Mission
  - Vision
- Mission and vision as a story
- Pathway for discernment
  - Prayer
  - Questions

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## Session Two

- Mission and Vision
  - Values
- Defining Goals
- Church Structure
- Church Schedule
- Discipleship Pathway



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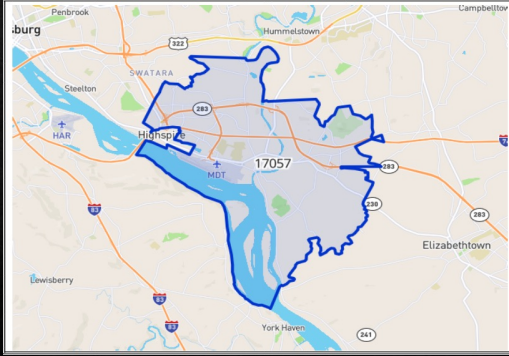
## Session Three

- Church Life Cycles
- SWOT Analysis



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# Session Four



Demographics

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# Session Five

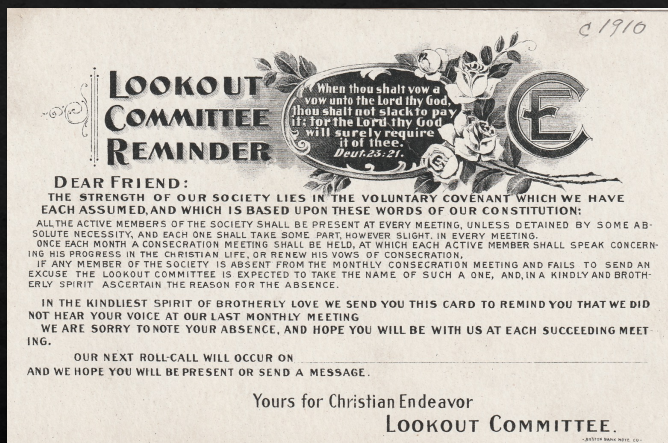
Reaching the next generation



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Session Six

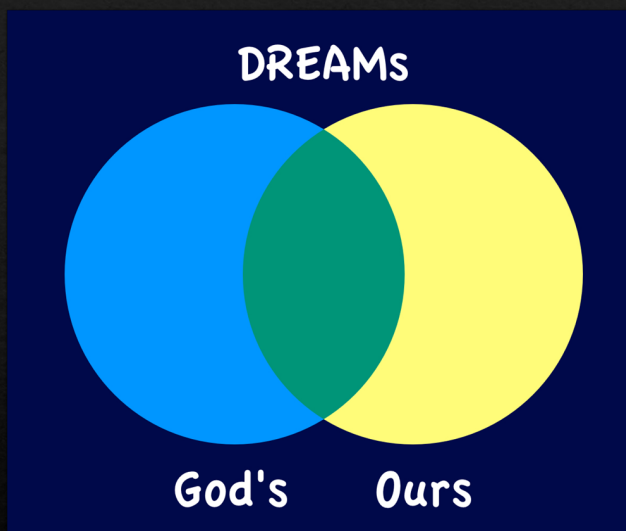
Our Story



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Session Seven

If we could do anything



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## Session Eight

An Outside View



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## Session Nine

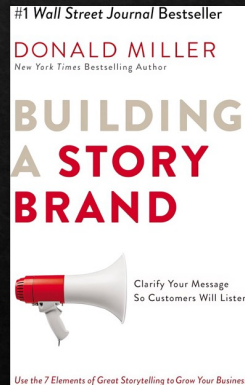
Mission and Vision Part I



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## Opening Thought



- ◆ StoryBrand Podcast
  - If you confused...you lose
  - Noise in the enemy
  - Creating a clear message is the best way to grow your business

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## Discernments from October

- ❖ For *me* the mission of the church is to encourage others by sharing the goodness of God that brings inner peace
- ❖ To meet all peoples where they are and share God's love to heal the brokenness in/of our world – Maryann Horner
- ❖ Leading people to Jesus to praise and serve God according to his purpose-Wendy
- ❖ The church being our center in a chaotic world...the church being a welcoming place in a chaotic world-Cathy
- ❖ Connecting people to Jesus
- ❖ Connecting people to God

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## Discernments from October continued

- ❖ Making Jesus real to our community
- ❖ Being Good News for Middletown by creating moments of gratitude, joy, and community
- ❖ Offering Jesus to Middletown one person at a time
- ❖ Experiencing the life changing love of Jesus in our time together and in our community

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## Discernments from October continued

- ❖ Sharing the life changing love of Jesus with Middletown
- ❖ Growing in love with God, our community, and the world together
- ❖ Laboring in faith, growing in love, offering hope to our community

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Time to discuss mission and vision

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Are we willing to meet again?

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## Closing Thought

**John 15:1** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. **2** He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes<sup>a</sup> to make it bear more fruit. **3** You have already been cleansed<sup>a</sup> by the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. **6** Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

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## Closing Thought continued

**8** My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become<sup>a</sup> my disciples. **9** As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

**John 15:12** “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

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## Closing Thought continued

- ◇ Connected to the vine
- ◇ Bearing Fruit
- ◇ Enveloped in love

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## Closing Prayer

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