

Week 1 | God's One Vision

Series Introduction

This is a significant time in the life of our church. We have been praying and preparing for this time for years now. The Lord has been refining and refocusing our church for this moment. For God's moment. For God's Vision. For our church. One Church. One Vision. As you meet as a group this week, please make sure and stress the significance of this being God's Church and God's Vision. That we want to fulfill God's desires and dreams to be a united and unified body of believers that are on His mission in this world. One Church. One Vision. Pray that we would make God's vision a reality in 2020 & beyond.



How to Use This

• Use the questions in each section below as a springboard for discussion. Do not feel like you have to follow the study guide religiously or hit every question. These questions are designed to help spark discussion. Refer to them as needed.

BACKGROUND FOR THE LEADER:

John was one of the first friends and followers of Jesus. He was one of the 12 apostles that Jesus began His Church on earth with. As a result of John's close relationship and connection with Jesus, He was inspired by God to record one of 4 biographies, or gospel accounts, of the life of Jesus in the New Testament of our bibles. John takes a unique approach to his biographical account and gives us amazing and unique insights and understanding into what God was doing through the person and work of Jesus as the Messiah, or Savior of the world. He begins uniquely and even talks about Jesus uniquely in the gospel book of John. He referred to Jesus as "the Word of God." Jesus was in the beginning with God the Father, and Jesus is Himself God. All things were created by God through His Word, that is Jesus. John points to the Son's oneness with the Father that we see threaded throughout all of Scripture. [John 1:1-4](#) lays the foundation for the good news of the gospel: Jesus is the Son of God, and in Him is eternal life and He is the light of the world that darkness cannot overcome.

Connection

1. Where did you have your "beginning"? Where were you born? Who are your parents? Where'd you grow up? Where were your ancestors from? Does this give you, or your family, any unique perspectives on life, faith, family, or the world?
2. Where is a place you would not want to be in the dark without your cell phone or another flashlight to help you find your way? Why? What is it about darkness that makes this true for you?
3. For many people, life in 2020 has seemed to be a very "dark" (or a "hard to see straight") year in some ways. What would life be like if you didn't have the light of Jesus to help guide you through all that life throws at you? How has having the light of Jesus helped you navigate through this year?

Engage God's Word - Read [John 1:1-5](#) as a group

Discussion:

1. What do we learn about light and darkness in verse 5 of John chapter 1? How does this inform how we should live out the Christian life each week?

2. Have someone read [Matthew 5:14-17](#) - what does this passage teach about the church & light?
3. When light and darkness are both present, which one always wins? Why?
4. If Jesus is light, and He is, then how should that truth impact the way you live this week?

Review these main points with your group:

Sunday, Dave shared the following three aspects of God's Vision for our church from John 1:1-5.

1 God's vision begins and ends with His Word.

2 God's vision begins and ends with oneness.

3 God's vision begins and ends with the light overcoming the darkness.

What was surprising or especially helpful in Sunday's message?

What did God bring to your heart and mind as a result of Sunday's message?

Application Questions:

1. If God's Vision begins and ends with His Word, with oneness, and with light overcoming the darkness (and it does), then how much are you actively pursuing these things in your life? What needs to be adjusted to give His Word more influence on your life?
2. How are you pursuing oneness with the church and God's vision? What needs to be adjusted to do this?
3. How are you taking light to the darkness? What practical things can you do this week to take light to the darkness? How did someone bring the light to your darkness in the past?
4. What would it look like to allow God's Vision to change us and drive every aspect of our lives? What would be different in our community around us? What would be different in our families?
5. If you could choose three people to come to know Jesus as Savior today, who would they be (e.g. neighbor, co-worker, family member, etc.)? Why did you pick them? Write their name down, or put it in the notes on your phone, or calendar app and pray for them.
6. Is it easy or hard to believe that God wants to use you uniquely to love others and serve Him? Why?

Pray For It: Prayer at 1:00 PM Every Day

- Set a timer on your phone or clock each day at 1:00 PM. Pray that the light of Jesus would shine through you to the community around you. Pray for the one(s) that God places on your heart, in your mind, and in your path. Pray for the church as we continue forward as One Church with One Vision.
- Pray that [Ephesians 4:3-6](#) would be true for Northland in the coming days, weeks, and months.