

INTRO

- Do you get excited about a new year? Why or why not?
- What did you do as a child for New Year’s celebrations?
- Is there a milestone you are hoping to achieve in 2019?

READ

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| 1. Gen 2:15-18 | 3. Proverbs 28:19 |
| 2. Isaiah 11:9 | 4. Rev 21:1-4 |

REFLECT

Churches, like individuals, often use the new year to take stock and refocus. It is important to understand that the big picture of vision, mission and values are already laid out in Scripture. Our job is to consider our context and discern how God is leading us specifically.

Here is our churches statement of vision:
 We envision being a multi-ethnic people of all ages, who passionately follow Jesus together on His mission, to bring gospel transformation to the people and culture of Toronto and, through it, to the world.

1. Vision is vital

Vision can be simply defined as a preferred view of the future.

Qu: Are you more of a dreamer who sees the possibilities or a realist, who sees more of the challenges to vision fulfillment?

Qu: If you are familiar with the Bible, can you think of people who sought God’s vision for their lives and persevered in it?

2. Vision must be shared

You may have heard the pithy statement, “It takes teamwork to make the dream work.”

Qu: How has individualism, tribalism, or cliques caused churches to be less effective than they could be?

Qu: Do you think it is important for churches to be multi-ethnic?

Qu: What is something you have come to learn and/or appreciate from getting to know people from other cultures?

“a multi-ethnic people of all ages”

Most churches in Canada are comprised of people 40+, and hundreds close each year.

Qu: What might be some reasons why the younger generation does not find Christianity and the church something for them?

Qu: What are ways the older generation can help mentor the younger?

3. Vision must be sought and received

For those of us who follow Christ and would consider ourselves Christians, we understand that our lives are not our own – therefore we seek to know and obey God’s will for our lives.

Qu: What do you do to hear God’s voice and direction in your life? Does a week of prayer and fasting help in this regard?

RESPOND

- Are you participating in the week of prayer and fasting?
- Are you seeking God to hear His voice, and discern His will for the coming year?

PRAY

- Pray for one another to grow in understanding God’s will and courage to obey it.