

April 6 → Vision Casting

I. INTRO

- A. I know that it seems a little counterintuitive to do a vision-casting sermon the first Sunday in April. We should be gearing up for Easter (and we will)
- B. That being said, we have experienced a bit of a growth spurt lately, and I want to make sure that we acknowledge those of you who are new and tell you a little bit about who we are
- C. What's our history? Why did we plant? What are about? Why do we have a weird name? Why do we do what we do? Why don't we do <fill in the blank> program?

II. HISTORY

- A. Did not grow up in church, grew curious about faith in high school, surrendered to Christ in college, where I met Gina
- B. The Gospel of Matthew opened my eyes to the Great Commission
- C. Went on my first mission trip; canceled my flight home
- D. 9/11 happened → that opened my eyes to the Unreached world
- E. During college, I was leading prayer meetings, Bible studies, sharing publicly, and street evangelizing regularly in Princeton with people smarter than me and in New Hope with people dabbling in the occult & alternative lifestyles
- F. After college, I got my M.Div, Gina and I went to Spain to work with Moroccans
- G. We left the field in a bit of a mess, feeling like we got hired for a job that didn't exist, but decided we wanted to go deeper into the Unreached world
- H. In SE Asia, on a month-long trip, we were exposed to a work and method that amazed us
 - 1. It was biblical... simple... reproducible... scaleable... worked among UPGs... free from Churchianity culture...
- I. But then God derailed us. We thought we were going to Southeast Asia, but He had us stay here and start a church at the age of 30...
- J. What kind of church did we want to start?
 - 1. *Acts 2:42–47* → “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...”
 - 2. We wanted to plant a church that revolved around Jesus
 - 3. We wanted to plant a church that knew how to HEAR and OBEY the Word
 - 4. We wanted to plant a church divorced from Churchianity
 - 5. We wanted to plant a church for people thirsty for God, but not religion
 - 6. We wanted to plant a church built on the Word and Prayer
 - 7. We wanted to plant a church where every person who came would be discipled and equipped to make disciples (discipleship: follow Jesus)
 - 8. We wanted to plant a church that equipped future missionaries, church planters, discipleship group leaders, ministry leaders, etc.

III. WHAT DO WE BELIEVE? Theology = Study of God

- A. Revolve Church's theology is rooted in historic Christianity. At the most basic level, I would say that we stand in accordance with the Apostle's Creed, the

Nicene Creed, Chalcedonian Definition, Athanasian Creed, The 1689 Second London Baptist Confession, the 5 Sola's, etc

- B. If that doesn't mean anything to you → that's fine. I am sharing for those of you who are new and it DOES mean something to you
- C. If you don't understand anything I just said:
 - 1. We believe in the Bible. We take it literally. We think it is sufficient for life and godliness. We believe it is living, active, God-breathed, and amazing.
 - 2. We believe that God works through the Bible by his Holy Spirit. He opens hearts and minds by His SPIRIT, not our efforts to see him clearly
 - 3. We believe Jesus is God and the ONLY WAY to the Father. We believe salvation isn't earned but given and appropriated by faith. He died, rez
 - 4. We believe Jesus is returning soon, and it is our job to live out the Great Commandment (love God/neighbor) and the Great Commission (tell the world) until he does, while we strive to live upright, godly lives

IV. HOW DO WE THINK MINISTRY SHOULD BE DONE? :

- A. *Ephesians 4:11–16, [11] And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...*
- B. Christ gave these gifts (and others – Romans 12, 1 Corin 12) to the church, distributing them in the body for a purpose
 - 1. Apostles: Sent ones → original eyewitnesses of the risen Christ, now more accurately seen as church planters and missionaries
 - 2. Prophets: Those who speak God's word under Spirit-led insight to the church
 - 3. Evangelists: Gospel proclaimers
 - 4. Shepherds and Teachers (often linked grammatically): Those who care for and instruct the flock. This is the most tied to the ongoing office of elder
 - 5. Note: These are giftings Christ gives to the church, not all permanent or institutionalized offices (Elder, Deacon, Member)
- C. Why did Jesus give these gifts? (v12) "...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..."
 - 1. Equipping the Saints: mobilize and empower, not become dependent
 - 2. For Ministry: All believers are ministers, offering service to God
 - 3. For Building Up: The body matures through mutual service and encouragement.
- D. What is the goal? (v.13) "...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God..."
 - 1. Unity in Faith and Knowledge: Shared understanding of and devotion to Christ.
 - 2. Maturity in Christlikeness together → love
- E. Because we believe our primary task is to EQUIP you and not do the work FOR you, there are certain things that we value → our philosophy of ministry

1. We think ministry should be Spirit-led, not driven by the spirit of the culture, what people demand, or what is currently popular
2. We believe ministry should be Word-centered. God has always used the Word to change things (creation) and we think God uses the Word discussed, explained, taught, and proclaimed as he renews our minds
3. We believe prayer is the lifeblood of the church → prayerlessness is our declaration of independence from God. Prayer reminds us who we are and who God is. No great movement of God has ever occurred without first a movement of prayer
4. We believe that it is our job to equip the people of God to do the work of the ministry, and not to do it for them. The Bible speaks of the priesthood of the believers, and we think that it is time to return to grassroots ministry, not more professional celebrity ministry
5. We believe that 100 equipped people are better than one mega-equipped person
6. This means we are decentralized, wanting YOU to take the ball and run with it
7. We believe the stage is only big enough for Jesus, so you'll never see us self-promoting
8. We believe that everything we do should aim for the Great Commission
9. Healing, counseling, discipleship, soul-care, teaching is about getting people healthy so they can get back on the battlefield for King Jesus
10. We believe in radical generosity (have given 50% of our money away for years now), which means operating on a shoestring budget as much as we can
11. We believe everyone should serve b/c it's not God's design to have 10% of the people doing 90% of the work → when we planted we wanted to guard people from burn out b/c part of discipleship is guarding your relationship with the church feeling like a tool (cause you're more than that)
 - a) We wanted every person to serve once a month b/c when everyone serves, nobody gets burned out
 - b) We don't do this perfectly, but I want to say from the front here that if we were able, nobody would serve more than once a month except the worship team
 - c) When each of us serves a little, we empower one another to meet with Jesus
12. We believe the Great Commission shapes our purpose and goals and it says to disciple NATIONS which means we target the nations undisciplined

V. METHODOLOGY: Because of our CORE convictions of theology and philosophy, there are certain things we simply don't do and others that we love

A. Some examples:

1. My job is primarily to equip you, not to be a cruise director or a match maker (that's what WE need to do as we love one another: saying hi, inviting a new person out for coffee, etc)
 - a) Community is forged with battle buddies in the trenches of serving together, sharing together, and ministering alongside each other
 2. We do not do a lot of programs → bloated, \$\$\$, time consuming, low ROI, simply stated, they are “things Christians like” that don't impact eternity or change lives very well → Equipping courses (to grow and live out)
 3. Event evangelism // easter egg drop from a helicopter → gospel moves faster and further in YOUR social circles and not at events, so the best thing we can do is to equip YOU
- B. Positively, a lot of this is about equipping you for the GC → Nations → UPG Focus (Those American tools I just mentioned that we love don't work overseas in high conflict areas. Since we want to equip you for ANYWHERE God might send you, we try not to do them at all)
- C. We do teach you to self-feed on the Word, to pray, to hear from God, to share what he says, to obey him, to love one another, to serve others, and to GO
1. One way we do that is something called the Discovery Bible Study (DBS)
- D. DBS → Most churches are used to small groups that focus on the content, but we focus more on learning to hear, obey, and share in community.

What I mean by this is that the curriculum isn't as important to me as teaching everyone to read the Bible and apply it to their lives. I LOVE the Discovery Bible Study, but I have rich reasons to do so. Some of you think it's shallow but that's b/c you don't understand it well: It's a scalable hermeneutic **<REVIEW CARD>**

1. Pedagogical Perspective: Learner-Centered, Active Engagement
 - a) DBS encourages group-driven discovery rather than lecture, using open-ended questions so everyone contributes equally.
 - b) The facilitator's role is minimal, fostering shared ownership and accountability in the learning process.
 - c) When you discover something, you are 90% likely to retain it. When someone tells you, you are 15% likely
2. Philosophy of Education: Scripture and the Spirit Take the Lead
 - a) We believe the Word does the Work (Isa 55)
 - b) We believe the Spirit is the Teacher
 - c) The DBS is set up to put these two truths at the front
 - d) The DBS is about teaching a man to fish instead of giving him a fish → it's a philosophy about group and individual empowerment
 - e) If each step of the DBS is followed, it puts you on a trajectory for health as a disciple. (prayer, accountability, reading, evangelism)
3. Strategy: Simple, Structured, and Reproducible
 - a) DBS sessions follow a basic pattern: look back (accountability), look up (scripture discussion), and look ahead (obedience and sharing).

- b) Each meeting remains resource-light (just the Word and the questions), making it easily replicable and accessible to all.
- c) This means that it is easy to invite a friend to read the Gospel of Mark, for example, b/c you don't need to be the expert
- d) This "learn-as-you-go" model fosters immediate application and empowerment instead of, "Finish this year course first"
- e) Overall, the DBS cultivates a Word and Spirit-centered, discussion-oriented, obedience-based discipleship culture.
- f) By relying on Scripture and the Holy Spirit, it ensures every participant can encounter God's Word, act on it, and then pass it on—creating a cycle of growth and multiplication
- g) We want everyone to HEAR, OBEY, and SHARE

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. Whether you've been here for years or this is your first Sunday, the invitation is the same:
 - 1. to know Jesus deeply, to follow Him boldly, and to help others do the same.
 - 2. To hear, obey, and share.
 - 3. To love God, love one another, and tell the world.
- B. We're not looking for spectators.
 - 1. We're asking God to raise up disciples who hear, obey, and share.
 - 2. People who will walk with Jesus, walk with others, and walk into the world carrying His name.
 - 3. We want to see more missionaries, more church planters, more people bringing the gospel into their workplace for our King
- C. This vision isn't ours — it's His. He's the one building His church, and we're just honored to be a part of it.
- D. So ask yourself this week: "What's my next step?"
 - 1. Maybe it's joining a serve team → Goal is 100% of regulars serving once a month.
 - 2. Maybe it's joining a Discovery Bible Study → Got one happening Tuesday nights right now
 - 3. Maybe it's starting one → with friends, family, co-workers, people from Revolve
 - 4. Maybe it's starting to give b/c we aggressively give to good works, not just ourselves
 - 5. Maybe God's been nudging you and something I said today confirmed it
 - 6. Maybe it's just out loud, "Jesus, I'm in. Show me what to do."
- E. The definition of Mobilization is to prepare and organize troops for service → That's our goal at Revolve
 - 1. We want to prepare you and organize you for gospel service for our King
 - 2. Excited? Eager? Confused? Come talk to me or one of the elders <stand> after the service
 - 3. Prayer? Come forward