

MEFC Community Group Study Questions

For the week of January 12th – 18th

Getting Started

1. According to the old adage, ‘if you fail to plan, you’re planning to fail’. In other words, if we aim at nothing as a congregation, we will undoubtedly hit it. As you look back over our 2020 Vision these last five years, what do you think? Agree or disagree? Why?

Digging Deeper

2. What were the benefits of our church pursuing our five-year plan (our 2020 Vision) from 2015-2020? What were the costs or liabilities? How about cautions? Discuss these things as a group.

Open Your Bible to Proverbs 16:1...

3. As we reflect on the 2020 Vision, the first thing the Book of Proverbs would want to point out to us as a congregation is that God is the one who is absolutely sovereign over our plans (i.e. our 2020 Vision). Take some time to read through the following verses: Proverbs 16:1, 9, 33; 19:21; 20:24. From the steps of our feet to the roll of the dice, the Bible teaches that God is sovereign over it all. What evidence of God’s sovereign hand do you see in our church as we’ve chased our 2020 Vision since 2015?

4. Proverbs also repeatedly reminds us that we ought to enlist wise counselors to help us plan. Read through the following Scriptures: Proverbs 15:22; 20:18; 24:6. The careful development of the 2020 Vision included contributions from current (and several former) pastors, elders and beloved leaders, and even the leadership of the North Central District of the EFCA. How does this reflect the heart of Scriptures such as the ones cited above? In what ways do we leave ourselves vulnerable without the input of godly leaders?

Not only was this vision developed with careful input of wise leaders, it was also realized through much patience. What does Proverbs say about the importance of not planning in haste? Discuss the following verses and their practical application looking back over our 2020 Vision: Proverbs 6:16a, 18b; 21:5b; 24:27.

5. At a couple of key moments, Proverbs urges us to pray about our plans. Read Proverbs 3:5-6 and 16:3. The 2020 Vision was the subject of deliberate and focused prayer long before it saw the light of day back in 2015 as well as subject of upwards of 60 monthly prayer meetings on Wednesday evenings as a fellowship since that time. Look back over our seven goals. How many of these benefited from our earnest and faith-filled prayers over the course of five plus years? Were you a part of those who prayed over our vision at any point?

6. Proverbs also clearly has cautions for us as we plan and cast vision. Perhaps it goes without saying, but whatever else we plan to do – we must never plan to sin. Take a look at Proverbs 6:16a and 6:18a. This is serious business. While our 2020 Vision was certainly made up of holy desires prompted by good and godly motives, it is also true that even righteous desires can become wicked ones. For example, a vision statement can become an idol that replaces the Lord himself. Though

perhaps it may sound far-fetched, can you think of any ways we were tempted to sin in order to accomplish our 2020 Vision? On the other hand, were there any ways we were tempted to sin where we didn't realize our vision?

7. Maybe for 21st century Americans more than most, God's Word entreats us to be humble about our plans. See Proverbs 27:1. What sorts of stumbling blocks for pride have there been along the way over

these last five years with reference to our 2020 Vision, or now that we've come to its conclusion? How can we seek to guard ourselves into the next five years as we approach our 2025 Vision?

8. Finally, Proverbs also addresses the role that good old-fashioned follow-through plays in planning. Read Proverbs 21:5a and 24:10. It's the plans of the diligent after all that lead to abundance (not the quitter, the lazy or the lethargic). In what concrete ways did you see yourself or others press ahead with determination and fortitude as we pursued our 2020 Vision?

Bonus Question: On a scale of 1 to 10 how pumped are you to hear about MEFC's 2025 Vision in two weeks on 1/26?

Sermon Notes for 1/12/20
Various Texts
“The 2020 Vision of Mound Evangelical Free Church”:
5 Years of God's Remarkable Grace

Our mission is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ

**Therefore, our 2020 Vision has been to glorify God as a gospel-centered church family that celebrates, demonstrates, and communicates the good news of Jesus Christ among all people by...*

1. Baptizing 50 New Believers - by God's grace, we baptized ____ (Acts 2:37-38)
2. Welcoming 40 Covenant Members - by God's grace, we welcomed ____ (Acts 2:41; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)
3. Raising Up 30 Reproducing Leaders - by God's grace, we raised up ____ (2 Timothy 2:1-2; Titus 2:3-5)
4. Launching 10 Community Groups - by God's grace, we launched ____ (Acts 2:42)
5. Establishing the Harbor Center for Biblical Counseling with 5 Certified Counselors - by God's grace, we established the ministry with ____ (Romans 15:14; Colossians 2:2-4, 8-10)
6. Commissioning 2 Households for Global Missions – by God's grace, we commissioned ____ short term and ____ long term (Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 5:9)
7. Planting 1 church - by God's grace, we planted ____ (Acts 13:1-3)

Next Week: Sanctity of Human Life Sunday - 2020