

“A New Expression of our Call”
Our Vision and Mission as Jesus’ Disciples, Part 1
Small Group Study
Week of Oct. 25, 2009

This week we began a new series with a sermon that was also a summary of the last series in which we begin to explore the new statement of vision and mission of our church.

To Begin ...

1. Can any of you recite (from memory) our church’s old mission statement? Give it a try (without looking below, of course!)
2. Here is the statement.
Worshiping God together, we are a Christ-centered caring church family. We proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in Morgan Hill and throughout the world, discipling all who receive Him.
 - a. What do you like about this former statement?
 - b. What about this statement made it difficult to remember for some?
3. How might something simpler help our ministry here at MHPC?

Review the Sermon

1. Following is our new vision/mission statement as presented in the outline on Sunday. In your own words, describe what each point in the new vision/mission statement is trying to get across.

Connect ...

... with *God ... and God’s people*

Grow ...

... in *our relationship with God ... and God’s people*

Serve ...

... as *witnesses to Jesus in word and deed*

2. In the sermon, Mark said that this is both a vision statement (telling us who we are called to be) and a mission statement (what we are called to do).
 - a. How are these two things different?
 - b. Why are both important?
3. What else in this new vision/mission statement do you notice that you’d like to share?

Going Deeper ...

1. What was Jesus main point in this passage from the gospel of Matthew? How does this relate to our call to “connect?” What might putting this into practice look like in the life of Jesus’ disciples?

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it `Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mt. 22:37-38)

2. Read the passage from Ephesians 4 below. How does this relate to our call to “grow?” What might putting this into practice look like in the life of Jesus’ disciples?

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Eph. 4:11-13)

2. How do these two passage relate to our call to “Serve”? What might putting this in practice look like in the life of Jesus’ disciples?

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant ... (Php. 2:5-7)

Making it Personal and Practical ...

1. In which of the areas do you think you need to grow the most in your own life?
2. How can we as a small group better help others begin to connect, to grow, and to serve?

Praying Together ...

1. Share concerns with one another, and pray for those concerns.
2. Pray for each others ongoing spiritual growth.
3. Pray that God might use this new vision/mission statement in the life of our church congregation.