

# multiplyvineyard™

## VISION SERIES

## Facilitator Guide



---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

<i>How to use this Guide.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Session One: Developing Your Church Planting Vision.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Session Two: Defining and Refining Your Philosophy of Ministry .....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Session Three: Developing Your Three Year Plan .....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Session Four: Healthy Church Plants Are Obsessively Outward Focus....</i>	<i>15</i>



---

## *How to use this Guide*

The purpose of this series is to help potential planters discern the specific vision and purpose for the church they will lead in their unique culture and style. This will be accomplished through your teaching the material, and just as importantly, through the building of relationship in their interaction with you and others present, under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

We want to see healthy Vineyard churches planted throughout the United States and the world. The purpose of this Series is to help current and potential church planters understand and implement basic principles that will help their church take root and thrive in the environment in which it is planted.

This leader guide is designed to give you a tool to use in your own ministry environment to: 1) train potential church planters or 2) develop your church planting team.

### **Format**

The Vision Series consists of four sessions that combine video clips with student interaction and exercises. The sessions can be presented over a weekend (Friday evening/Saturday), in two successive weekends, or however your ministry schedule permits.

For all video referenced in this video go to <https://multiplyvineyard.org/course-category/vision/>.

### **How to Prepare**

1. Review the guide to get the flow of the material.
2. Plan how to use the material depending on:
  - a. How much time you have?
  - b. Which sessions are most pertinent to your church?
  - c. How in-depth you want to go?
3. Decide how to use the discussion questions and exercises.
4. Watch the videos beforehand.

### **Training Tips**

The video training clips provide the content; you as the facilitator create a healthy learning environment.

Planning a Healthy Learning Environment:

- Prayerfully prepare.
- Use the videos and accompanying exercises in a way that fits your culture.
- Thoughtfully guide discussion and answer questions.
- Debrief learning.
- Be available between sessions to interact with participants.



---

Above all, cooperate with the Holy Spirit as you serve those who participate in this training.



---

# *Session One: Developing Your Church Planting Vision*

## **Session One Overview:**

- 1.1 The Importance of Vision
  - 1.2 Vision Defined
  - 1.3 The Source of Vision
  - 1.4 The Components of Vision
  - 1.5 Defining Our Purpose – Kingdom of God
  - 1.6 Learning from the Purposes of Jesus
  - 1.7 The Purpose of Your Church Plant
- Total Session Time: 2.25 hours

**Learning Outcomes:** Participants will grasp the importance of vision, know what good vision looks like, discover the source of their vision, and know what components to include in a vision statement for their church plant. They will establish a great foundation to build their vision upon by reflecting on Kingdom of God theology and Jesus' purpose.

### **Welcome**

- Introduce yourself briefly if needed.
- Share personally why you are offering this course and what you hope they will gain (you may review the course objectives for ideas on this).
- Give brief overview of the class-time structure: video clips + exercises + debrief
- Emphasize the importance of individual conversations with you (or others you recommend) between each session as well as completing reading and other assignments.
- Encourage them to ask questions and have fun!
- Pray.  
(5 min)

### **Warm Up**

- Have each person share their name and one word or phrase that comes to mind when they hear the word "vision."  
(5 min)

### **VIDEO 1.1 The Importance of Vision (5:05)**

- Gather responses: "What stands out to you about the importance of vision?" "How about the difficulty of vision?"



---

(5 minutes)

- Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-18 aloud. Discuss: What was it that compelled Paul to keep pressing on through his great adversity to the extent that he called his trials “light and momentary”? What can we learn about vision from this passage? How do you want to respond?
- (10-15 minutes)

#### **VIDEO 1.2 Vision Defined (5:00)**

- Discuss any or all of these questions, depending on your group: What advantages are there in making your vision challenging yet possible? Why is it good for a vision to have a sense of urgency? How is it helpful for your vision to be specific?
- (10 minutes)

#### **VIDEO 1.3 The Source of Vision (5:55)**

- In groups of 2-3: What might be a good next step for you to take to get clearer vision?
- (5-10 minutes)

### **KEY QUOTE**

*"Vision integrates our past, our present, and future. It collects the best of our past. It draws upon our highest dreams and our longing for the future." — Michael Gatlin*

#### **VIDEO 1.4 The Components of Vision (4:55)**

- Discuss: “Which of the components of vision mentioned (purpose, values, priorities, practices, targets, ministry model, doctrinal statement) might be easiest or most natural for you to focus your energy and attention on?” “Which might take more work for you?”
- (10 minutes)

**Break** if needed, or you may end the first session here. If you want to devote more time to processing the material, take a few minutes to have participants sketch out a tentative vision statement for their church plant. Wrap up with prayer.

If you choose to make these separate sessions, start the next session by asking people what stood out to them from the previous session.

#### **VIDEO: 1.5 Defining Our Purpose – Kingdom of God (3:37)**

- Group Reading. Read the following passages aloud slowly and without comment; listen to the Holy Spirit as you read. Look for the purposes of Jesus, what he did, how he did it, and what motivated him. Notice how he interacted with and trained the disciples. You may jot down some notes if something stands out to you.
- Matthew 4:23, 9:35-37
- Matthew 10:1, Mark 3:13-19
- Matthew 8:1-9, 28-34



- 
- Matthew 12:28, Matthew 28:19-20
  - Mark 10:45
  - After a few moments of silence, discuss what stands out to you from Jesus' example.  
(10 minutes)
  - Now read Matthew 13:1-43 (The Parable of the Sower/Seeds), and look for the meaning that is under the surface.
  - Discuss: If we are the farmer, what is Jesus inviting us into?  
(10 minutes)

**VIDEO: 1.6 Learning from the Purposes of Jesus (6:00)**

- Discuss: What stands out to you from what Michael shared related to the purposes of Jesus?  
(5 minutes)

**VIDEO: 1.7 The Purpose of Your Church Plant (3:20)**

- How would you like to respond to God's call to join in the purposes of Jesus? Write down your commitment to God at this point in your journey.  
(5 minutes)

**Possible Activity (for an extended session)**

- Work on 3-Year Plan. Answer these questions to help discover the purpose of your church plant, the foundation upon which your vision is built.
- What are some key Scriptures and words from God that shape your purpose?
- Why would people want to be involved in the church you are planning (list as many different reasons as possible)?
- What do you want your church to be remembered for in 100 years?
- Considering your responses to those questions along with what we discussed in class, how would you summarize the primary purpose of your church? (Include that summary in your 3 year plan.)
- After 20 minutes or so, share one thing you have written with each other.  
(30 minutes)

**Wrap Up**

- Pray with each other for God's kingdom to come in awesome ways.  
(10 minutes)



---

# *Session Two: Defining and Refining Your Philosophy of Ministry*

## **Session Two Overview:**

- 2.1 People of the Kingdom of God
  - 2.2 Partner with the Holy Spirit
  - 2.3 Experience and Worship God
  - 2.4 Reconcile People with God and All Creation
  - 2.5 Engage in Compassionate Ministry
  - 2.6 Pursue Culturally Relevant Mission in the World
  - 2.7 Distinctives of the Vineyard Movement
  - 2.8 Articulating a Sharper Philosophy of Ministry
  - 2.9 Ministry Assumptions
  - 2.10 Living in the Tension
- Total Session Time: 2.5 hours

**Learning Outcomes:** Participants will assess their own values and key assumptions in light of Vineyard values and distinctives.

### **Warm Up**

- In groups of 2 (or 3 at the most): If someone asked you, “Why do you want to plant a church? Why do we need another church plant?” What might you say to them in 2-3 minutes? Remember, you only have a couple of minutes of their attention.  
(10 minutes)
- Keep a brisk pace through videos 1-6 unless you want to break this into two sessions.

### **VIDEO: 2.1 People of the Kingdom of God (3:15)**

- Briefly discuss: What stood out to you from that talk?  
(5 minutes)

### **VIDEO: 2.2 Partner with the Holy Spirit (1:38)**

- Write a response to this prompt: Think of someone you know who is in a difficult situation. What is the Father doing in their life that you can partner with? (Pray for discernment if you don't know.)



---

(5 minutes)

**VIDEO: 2.3 Experience and Worship God (2:55)**

- Briefly discuss: In your experience, what are helpful ways to make room for God's presence to be experienced in corporate worship without being manipulative?  
(5-10 minutes)

**VIDEO: 2.4 Reconcile People with God and All Creation (2:08)**

- Write a response to this prompt: What barriers do you think God is calling you to help break down?  
(5 minutes)

**VIDEO: 2.5 Engage in Compassionate Ministry (2:16)**

- Discuss: Can you think of a time when you have seen a group of people do compassionate ministry well? What factors contributed to making it a success?  
(5-10 minutes)

**VIDEO: 2.6 Pursue Culturally Relevant Mission in the World (2:24)**

- Discuss: What is one way that you hope to make your church plant culturally relevant?  
(5 minutes)
- Take a few minutes to write your response to these questions: Which of the Vineyard values are you most passionate about? How might your church plant reflect that passion (those passions)?  
(5 minutes)

**Break** if needed, or you may end the first session here. If you want to devote more time to processing the material, take a few minutes to have participants share with each other what they are most passionate about and how their plant will reflect that passion.

If you choose to make these separate sessions, start the next session by asking people "What is the first word that comes to mind when you hear the words 'The Vineyard Movement'?"

**VIDEO: 2.7 Distinctives of the Vineyard Movement (8:17)**

- Discuss: Which of the distinctives stood out to you as you listened to the talk?
  - the main and the plain
  - the now and the not yet
  - come, Holy Spirit
  - worshipers of God and rescuers of men
  - naturally supernatural
  - come as you are, but don't stay as you are
  - everyone gets to play
  - equipping the saints
  - plant churches that will plant churches
  - leaders who walk with a limp
  - servant leadership



---

(10 minutes)

- Take a couple of minutes to write your response to these questions: Which of the Vineyard distinctives are you most passionate about? How might your church plant reflect that?  
(5 minutes)
- Discuss: Do you have questions about any of the values or distinctives?  
(5-10 minutes)

**VIDEO: 2.8 Articulating a Sharper Philosophy of Ministry (5:09)**

- Discuss: Can you think of some values that you are willing to compromise on and others that are non-negotiable?  
(5 minutes)

**KEY QUOTE**

*"A philosophy of ministry flows out of our values, flows out of our distinctives." — Michael Gatlin*

**VIDEO: 2.9 Ministry Assumptions (4:26)**

- Discuss: Judging from what Michael said, how might it benefit your church plant if you are clear about your ministry assumptions?  
(5 minutes)

**VIDEO 2.10 Living in the Tension (3:15)**

- Try balancing on one leg.
- Use one or more of the following discussion ideas as time allows.
- Discuss: What have you found to be helpful in managing the tensions in your life?
- Discuss: What other personal values do you hold that will also influence your church plant? Do you sense any tension between those values and Vineyard values and distinctives?
- Share the distinctive you are most passionate about and how you think your church might reflect it.  
(20 minutes)

**Possible Activity (for an extended session)**

- Given the processing you've done so far, try sketching out a philosophy of ministry. Be creative. It might be a paragraph, a list of bullet points, a diagram, or some other representation.



- 
- Now, apply this philosophy of ministry to a typical area of ministry (could be Kids, Worship, Preaching Small Groups...). What is important in this area based on your stated philosophy of ministry? What is excluded?
  - After about 20 minutes share with each other something of what you have written.  
(30 minutes)

### **Wrap Up**

- Pray for each other to passionately live out the values God has placed in each of you.  
(20 minutes)



---

# *Session Three: Developing Your Three Year Plan*

## **Session Three Overview:**

- 3.1 The Importance of Planning
- 3.2 The Holy Spirit and Planning
- 3.3 Setting SMART Goals
- 3.4 Budget Planning
- 3.5 Planning for Key Strategic Areas
- 3.6 Planning for Personnel and Context
- 3.7 How to Plan

Total Session Time: 2.5 hours

**Learning Outcomes:** Participants will start formulating a strategically thought-out plan as they listen to the Holy Spirit, knowing that planning is important and scriptural.

### **Warm Up**

- What is one fun thing you are planning to do in the next month?  
(10 minutes)

### **VIDEO: 3.1 The Importance of Planning (5:18)**

- Turn to the person next to you and briefly share one value in planning.  
(5 minutes)
- Exercise: Listening to what God is saying about planning
  - Have one person read Proverbs 16:1-9 aloud slowly. Follow that with a few minutes of silence. Let it soak into your mind.
  - Read the passage again (either the same person or another person), and each person should note any word or concept that God seems to be emphasizing to them and write the word down.
  - Read the passage aloud once more, asking God to reveal to each person the significance of the word that was emphasized earlier. Allow another 3 to 5 minutes of silence.
  - Share your responses with each other.  
(15 minutes)



## KEY QUOTE

*“A really good plan doesn’t tie us down, but it actually frees us up to do what our father is doing.” — Michael Gatlin*

### VIDEO: 3.2 The Holy Spirit and Planning (5:29)

- Have you experienced times when rehearsing and/or planning helped you to be more spontaneous on the spot (such as Michael’s jazz band example)? If so, share an experience. (10 minutes)

### VIDEO: 3.3 Setting SMART Goals (3:58)

- Discuss: What stood out to you from this video clip on SMART (Strategic, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) goals?
- Individually or as a group, brainstorm possible goals to set for your church plant. Write these down to ponder later. (5-10 minutes)
- **Break** if needed, or you may end the session here. If you want to devote more time to processing the material, take a few minutes to have participants write a SMART goal. If people seem to be having a hard time with this, you could create a goal as a group. Close in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide our planning.
- If you choose to make these separate sessions, start the next session by asking, “Who is someone you go to for advice?”

### VIDEO: 3.4 Budget Planning (3:59)

- Share one way you have seen someone use money well. How can this inspire you as you budget for your church plant? (5 minutes)

### VIDEO: 3.5 Planning for Key Strategic Areas (5:58)

- Think through your goal-setting strategy. Setting goals will come more naturally to you in some areas. Would you rather start with more difficult goals or ones that are easier for you to set?
- Prioritize which area you would like to set goals in first.
- Identify at least one person that you could look to for advice. (Remember Proverbs 15:22: Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success.) (5 minutes)

### VIDEO: 3.6 Planning for Personnel and Context (5:32)

- Discuss: Why is it so important to recruit according to vision rather than friendship? (5 minutes)



---

**VIDEO: 3.7 How to Plan (4:00)**

- Answer the following questions individually then find one or two other people to share your responses with.
  - Who are you connected with that can help you develop good plans?
  - Who do you need to get to know?
  - When can you set aside time for planning?
  - Who should you include/keep informed as you plan?
  - What is your next step?

(10 minutes)

**Possible Activity (for an extended session)**

- Take some time for planning. Write out a SMART goal based on your response after VIDEO 3.3.

(30 minutes)

**Wrap Up**

- Share with the group in one sentence: My next step is to....
- (5-10 minutes)



---

# *Session Four: Healthy Church Plants Are Obsessively Outward Focus*

## **Session Three Overview:**

4.1 An Obsessively Outward Focus

4.2 Why Evangelism Is Good News

4.3 Objections to an Obsessively Outward Focus

4.4 Specific Ways to Become Obsessively Outward Focused

Total Session Time: 1.75 hours

**Learning outcomes:** Participants will grow in conviction that God's heart is for them to focus outward and gather people who do not yet know Jesus. They will learn strategies to help keep that focus.

### **Warm Up**

- Take 2-3 minutes to share with the group how you came to Christ; focus specifically, if you can, on what others did to help you make the decision to follow Jesus.  
(10-15 minutes)

### **VIDEO: 4.1 An Obsessively Outward Focus (5:14)**

- To help you think about how you might reach others, answer the following questions:
- Although known as the apostle to the Gentiles, Paul was a Jew and ministered first to Jews. In Romans 1:16 he says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." (He explains this a bit in 1 Corinthians 9:22: "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.") What kind of people are you apt to reach first, and whom do you want your ministry to extend to?
- Write your own version of Romans 1:16:
  - I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to \_\_\_\_\_, then to \_\_\_\_\_.



## KEY QUOTE

*“Our most important priority in regards to God is worship. Our most important priority in regards to people is evangelism.” — Rich Nathan*

- Now think about this:
    - What are some activities you enjoy doing?
    - What are you particularly good at?
    - How can you leverage those to serve and/or build relationship with those who don't know Jesus where you plan to church plant?
    - Share your responses in groups of two or three.
- (10-15 minutes)

### VIDEO: 4.2 Why Evangelism Is Good News (3:34)

- Share one way that the gospel has been good news for you.
  - What is one part of the gospel you are excited about as really good news?
- (10 minutes)

### VIDEO: 4.3 Objections to an Obsessively Outward Focus (5:07)

- Take a few moments to do a self evaluation. How passionate are you about being outward focused? How about your team?
- (5 minutes)

### VIDEO: 4.4 Specific Ways to Become Obsessively Outward Focused (5:40)

- Michael introduced four ways to become obsessively outward focused. 1) discard being inward-focused; 2) cultivate motivation and excitement for being outward-focused; 3) develop strategies for being outward-focused; 4) be disciplined in implementing those strategies. In light of these, take a few moments to jot down a response to these questions:
    - What is one specific thing you can do now to become more outward focused yourself?
    - What is one thing you can do as a team to become more outward focused?
    - Next, write a brief strategy for how you hope to maintain an obsessively outward focus.
    - Share with the group.
- (20 minutes)

## Wrap Up

- Share with the group: What is one insight you gained from this course?
  - Pray for and bless each other.
- (20 minutes)



---

## THANK YOU

*Thank you for completing the Multiply Vineyard Vision Series.  
To take another course, go to <https://multiplyvineyard.org/courses/>.*

**Please contact us:**

**email:** [office@multiplyvineyard.org](mailto:office@multiplyvineyard.org)

**website:** [multiplyvineyard.org](https://multiplyvineyard.org)

**twitter:** @multiplyvin

**facebook:** [www.facebook.com/multiplyvineyardusa](https://www.facebook.com/multiplyvineyardusa)