

# VISION STUDY GUIDE



This resource has been created to enable you to personally read, explore, apply, meditate on and pray through what God is calling us to do. It can be used through your own devotional time and/or sitting at your small table with friends.

Our Vision is “By 2029, BVUC will be a vibrant, faithful, multi-generational church with a passionate hunger for God. We will be a unified body of believers who are being transformed into whole-of-life disciples, are unashamed in our beliefs and equipped to fulfill our calling, using our unique gifts to serve. We will be known across Burleigh and have a Kingdom presence and impact in targeted corners of our community, where people will be overwhelmed by the love of Jesus, drawn to an irresistible hope and transformed by the Gospel. We see our place on the hill in the center of Burleigh fit to serve our local needs and a gathering place where people are brought from far and wide, and we see a church that is multiplying across the region with a local and wider impact for His glory.”

# WEEK ONE

**"By 2029, Burleigh Village Uniting Church will be a vibrant, faithful, multi-generational church with a passionate hunger for God."**

## LET'S READ

Acts 2: 42-47

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## LET'S EXPLORE

In Acts 2, the early believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. For the Church to have an emphasis on becoming a vibrant, faithful, multi-generational church with a passionate hunger for God, how does it need to shift based on what you see in Acts 2?

In Acts 2:38-39, Peter's call for repentance and baptism in the name of Jesus, for the forgiveness of sins, reflects a transformative journey for believers. How can the vision's commitment to being transformed into whole-of-life disciples, reflect the transformative message presented here?

The Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 marked the outpouring of the **Holy Spirit**, creating a fervent passion for God among the believers. How can the spiritual enthusiasm and empowerment (leading of the Holy Spirit) witnessed in Acts 2:1-4, be something we experience over the next five years?

## LET'S APPLY

- How is the Holy Spirit leading you to actively contribute to fostering an environment, in worship and church community, where people are excited about their faith, **learning** about Jesus and engaged with one another?
- In what practical ways can you deepen your personal commitment to faithfulness in your relationship with God and **faithful witness** in the community?
- Considering the vision's call for a multi-generational church, what will you do to intentionally offer **hospitality** and relationship to individuals of different age groups to you?

## LET'S MEDITATE

Considering the vision's call for a passionate hunger for God and transformational discipleship, take a moment to meditate on Acts 2:42-47. How can your personal devotion to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer contribute to the vibrancy and unity of our vision?

## LET'S PRAY

Thank you, Lord, for your provision and grace to me, please don't stop softening and opening my heart and the hearts of all of those in the church, to enjoying your presence and carrying out the responsibilities of love you have given me for everyone else in the church.

# WEEK TWO

**“We will be a unified body of believers who are being transformed into whole-of-life disciples, are unashamed in our beliefs and equipped to fulfil our calling,”**

**LET'S READ** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-60

## LET'S EXPLORE

In Acts 6:5-10 and Acts 7:54-60, Stephen stands unashamed in his beliefs, giving a faithful witness, even to the point of martyrdom. What similarities can you see between Stephen's story and the culture we live in?

Acts 6:8 -10; 7:54 - 60 highlights what Stephen went through, yet despite persecution, Stephen exhibits deep spiritual insight and courage. This was born out of the leading of the Holy Spirit, prayer and learning Jesus. How does Stephen's preparation and approach help you learn to follow Jesus with more devotion?

Stephen's life and death reflect a commitment to being a whole-of-life disciple. How does his learning of faith, devotion to prayer and transformation encourage everybody in the church to be transformed into whole-of-life disciples?

## LET'S APPLY

- In your daily life, how can you emulate Stephen's courageous faithful witness in sharing your faith unashamedly, particularly in situations where there may be opposition or differing beliefs?
- Reflecting on Stephen's empowerment by the Holy Spirit, how can you actively seek and rely on the leading of the Holy Spirit in facing challenges and fulfilling your calling?
- Considering Stephen's commitment to whole-of-life discipleship, what do you need to learn and then what practical steps can you take to ensure that your faith influences every aspect of your life?

## LET'S MEDITATE

Considering the idea of being unashamed in beliefs and equipped to fulfil one's calling, meditate on this question: How can you cultivate a deep and unwavering faith that empowers you to face opposition with grace, resilience, and a commitment to your calling, just as Stephen did in Acts 6:8-7:60?

## LET'S PRAY

Lord, you faced the epitome of evil and triumphed, handing your victory to me. I am eternally grateful. Show me how your Spirit, that secured this victory, can secure the same victory in my life now. Give me the resilience and courage to not only welcome persecution but pursue it for your sake. Amen.

# WEEK THREE

"...using our unique gifts to serve."

## LET'S READ

Acts 6:1-7

## LET'S EXPLORE

In Acts 6:1-7, the early church addressed a practical need by selecting individuals to serve based on their unique gifts. How does this passage help our church understand what it is being called to do and how it should carry out that charge?

Acts 6:1-7 emphasizes the importance of addressing needs within the community while maintaining unity. How does the early church's approach to service and unity help our vision's call to use our unique gifts in a way that contributes to the unity and vibrancy of the church?

The selection of leaders in Acts 6:1-7 highlights the significance of spiritual leadership in service. What does this passage clarify and support regarding the role of leaders in the church?

## LET'S APPLY

- What are your gifts? If you're not clear, what intentional steps can you take to **learn** what your unique gifts and talents are? How can you apply your gifts in a way that serves and enhances the vision?
- Reflecting on Acts 6:1-7, how will you actively collaborate with others in the church community to identify and meet practical needs, ensuring that your collective unique gifts find expression and contribute to the overall well-being of the church?
- Whether in a formal leadership role or informally, how can you lead by example in using your unique gifts for service, inspiring others to do the same and fostering a culture of service within the church?

## LET'S MEDITATE

Take a moment to meditate on the vision's call to use unique gifts for service, ask yourself: What specific gifts has God blessed me with? Has the way I've previously been gifted changed? In what ways can I dedicate the gifts I do have to serve others within the church community?

## LET'S PRAY

Heavenly Father, by your wonderful grace, you have bestowed supernatural abilities on us, your church. Clarify for me what my gifts are, and empower me now, with the Holy Spirit, as you guide me in serving the church and the world using these gifts. Amen.

# WEEK FOUR

**"We will be known across Burleigh and have a Kingdom presence and impact in targeted corners of our community, where people will be overwhelmed by the love of Jesus, drawn to an irresistible hope and transformed by the Gospel."**

## LET'S READ

Acts 8

## LET'S EXPLORE

In Acts 8 and 10, we see the expansion of the Gospel beyond Jerusalem, reaching into Samaria and even to the Gentiles. How do these passages relate to what God is calling us to do by having a Kingdom presence and impact, in the targeted corners of our community?

Acts 8 and 10 showcases the transformative power of the Gospel and the overwhelming love of Jesus reaching diverse communities. How do these Biblical narratives guide us to reach people in the targeted corners of our community, so that they can be overwhelmed by the love of Jesus and transformed by the Gospel?

Both Acts 8 and 10 reveal instances where a **faithful witness** of the Gospel brings hope that is irresistible. What is it about the Gospel that forges an irresistible hope?

## LET'S APPLY

- Which corner is God calling you to? What do you need to do to ensure you are living in a state of being overwhelmed by the love of God, for that love to touch others?
- Reflecting on the love of Jesus and the transformative power of the Gospel in Acts 8 and 10, how can you contribute to creating spaces within the church where people feel overwhelmed by the love of Jesus and experience genuine transformation?
- In your interactions with others this week, what will you do to embody and share a **faithful witness** of the irresistible hope that can be found in the Gospel?

## LET'S MEDITATE

Meditate on the vision's call for Kingdom presence and impact, ask yourself: How can I actively participate in bringing the love of Jesus and the transformative message of the Gospel into the targeted corners of my community?

## LET'S PRAY

Loving God, fill me with the intensity of what you accomplished on the cross for me. May I get a glimpse of your true love for me and may it fill me to the point it overwhelms me. Use this experience God, to increase my heart for those who are yet to know you. Amen

# WEEK FIVE

**“We see our place on the hill in the centre of Burleigh fit to serve our local needs and a gathering place where people are brought from far and wide,”**

## LET'S READ

Acts 13

## LET'S EXPLORE

Acts 13 and 14 depict Paul's **missionary** journeys where he uses local buildings and geographical places to proclaim the Gospel. Buildings are never meant to replace the Gospel, only to facilitate **mission** and the sharing of the Gospel. How do these passages relate to the vision's call for our church to be a gathering place, a place of hospitality, on the hill in the center of Burleigh, fitting to serve local needs and attracting people from far and wide?

In Acts 13 and 14, we see the establishment of local congregations and the strengthening of believers. What can our church learn from this, to offer the **hospitality** of a spiritual centre serving its local community and drawing people from far and wide?

Numerous times in the Old Testament we see the Kingdom of God attached to physical land. Scott McKnight argues that the Kingdom's advancement does include physical ground upon which we can walk and meet (see Joshua 1:3). What do you feel the relationship should be between the church as people, and the church as a building?

## LET'S APPLY

- How is God calling you to contribute to the vision of the church as a place on the hill that is **missional**, serving local needs?
- In your interactions and involvement in the church community, how can you contribute to creating an inviting, welcoming and **hospitable** environment that attracts people from far and wide?
- Our Cultural values are **mission, leading of the Holy Spirit, faithful witness, prayer, hospitality and learning**. See the **Introduction to Culture** handout for more information. Of these values, which come naturally to you, and which one will require you to rely on God?

## LET'S MEDITATE

Taking a moment to meditate on the vision's call for the church to be a gathering place on the hill, consider this question: How can I personally contribute to the church becoming a central, impactful hub in the community, drawing different people in, while at the same time, ensuring my identity and value are in Christ are not in a building or place?

## LET'S PRAY

Jesus, hold my identity in you and you alone, not in the building I worship you in, or the land I minister on. Open my eyes to what you want to do with the physical resources we have. Guide me and our church in how to best use them. Amen.

# WEEK SIX

“and we see a church that is multiplying across the region with a local and wider impact for His glory.”

## LET'S READ

Acts 5:12-16 and Acts 11:19-24

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## LET'S EXPLORE

In Acts 5:12-16 and Acts 11:19-24, we see the early church expanding its impact beyond its immediate location. How do these passages speak to the vision's call for the church to multiply the **mission** of Jesus, across the region, to have an impact for God's glory?

Considering, Acts 5:12-16 and Acts 11:19-24 what do you feel it means for us when you read “and we see a church that is multiplying across the region with a local and wider impact for His glory.”

Acts 5:12-16 illustrates the multiplication of believers and Acts 11:19-24 reveals the expansion of the church beyond its initial boundaries. How do these passages encourage and guide us as a church as we commence our vision journey?

## LET'S APPLY

- How can you actively participate in **mission** efforts that extend beyond your local community into the region, state, country or world?
- What is the **Holy Spirit** leading you to do **missionally** this year?
- In your interactions and involvement within the church community, how can you contribute to fostering a culture of **faithful witness** and **mission**?

## LET'S MEDITATE

Considering the vision's call for the church to multiply across the region, meditate on this question: How can I align my personal growth, efforts, and contributions within the church to be in harmony with the vision of Kingdom multiplication, ultimately for the glory of God?

## LET'S PRAY

Creator God, the challenge of planting more churches can seem overwhelming, too soon, intimidating or just wrong. Sway my heart and our church to your intentions. Be clear in the ways you want us to multiply and how we might do that. Amen.