

Lesson Aim: To guard our heart and focus on developing a heart that cultivates vision based on God and His Word.



connecting

Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on winter break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this simplified format, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the winter break.

Prayer: Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

Icebreaker: Have you ever been involved in a project or organization that lacked vision? What was that experience like?



growing

1. **Read Ephesians 1:15-23.** What does this passage teach us about Jesus? What does it teach us about discovering vision for our lives?
2. In his message Sunday, Scott talked about discovering and pursuing God's vision and goals for our church. What are some areas in your life personally where you hope to discover God's vision?
3. What are some principles from this passage that you can apply to your own life that can help you pursue Christ's vision for you?
4. **READ 1 Samuel 7:10-12.** Looking back on 2011, what are one or more "Ebenezers" you are excited about and want to remember that happened through The Bridge? Why?
5. Looking back on your own personal life, what are one or more "Ebenezers" that you want to remember from 2011? Why?



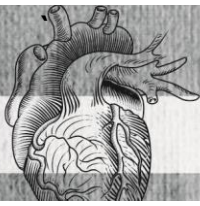
serving

6. Looking ahead to 2012, do you have room for God to do some new things in your life in the areas of connecting, growing, serving or reaching?
7. What are some specific plans you can make to ensure you will pursue this path of growth?
8. How can your LifeGroup help you in this process?



reaching

Close in prayer by asking God for His vision for yourself, family, friends and The Bridge and however else the Lord leads you.



Heart

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Proverbs 4:23 - *Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*
- ▶ Vision = Purpose, Dreams, Goals...
- ▶ Ephesians 1:15-23 = A prayer for Spiritual Progress
 - Know God better (the essence of discipleship)
 - Grasp the full meaning of Christian hope
 - Anchor your soul into what is coming in the future
 - Tap into God's power for living in the present
 - Take part in something bigger than yourself – the Church

WHAT'S YOUR EBENEZER? (1 Samuel 7:12)

PURPOSE OF THE BRIDGE (Matthew 28:18-20)

LOOKING BACK AT 2011

- ▶ Personal (Discipleship) Spiritual Score Card for 2011 (on a scale of 1-10)

Connect

Grow

Serve

Reach

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2012

- ▶ Philippians 3:13-14; Isaiah 43:18-19; James 4:13-14; Proverbs 16:1, 9

PRINCIPLE #1: A faith journey with God requires establishing purpose-driven goals & plans.

PRINCIPLE #2: Write your plans in pencil & hold them in an open hand.

- ❶ A word about our Rio Mesa property
- ❷ A word about Missions Emphasis Month (James 1:27)
- ❸ A word about "March Adjustments"
- ❹ A word about Children's/Family Ministry
- ❺ A word about our developing 1-3-5 Year Plan
 - ◆ On-Site Video Venues ◆ Off-Site Video Venues ◆ Multisite Church

ASKING GOD FOR SPIRITUAL PROGRESS (Proverbs 16:3)