

# Envisioning and Strategy Toolkit

A 4-Session Missional Living Tool  
to loving and reaching your city

Presentation Slides



# WHY CARE ABOUT YOUR CITY

ENVISIONING AND STRATEGY  
TOOL 1.1



# BIG PICTURE

## What is our God-given purpose?

It's easy for believers to assume that our God-given purpose is solely to focus on saving the lost. While this is an important part of our commission, there are other assignments the Lord has for our lives, including loving our neighbors and therefore our neighborhoods. Some believers are called overseas to foreign mission fields, while many are given the grace to tend and nurture the very mission field they call home. Both callings are invaluable. We might tend to believe that in cities as large as our own, we're too small to make a noticeable difference. However, that's not Kingdom perspective.

As Christ-followers, we are invited to be used as vessels for God's redemptive plan. This isn't just for the people around us,

but for institutions and circumstances inside our own city. God intends for us to bring shalom peace in the places we're planted. Shalom in the Bible is used to talk about peace, but the fullness of its definition encapsulates wholeness, perfection, and utter completion. Nothing is missing when a person/place/region experiences the shalom of heaven.

Therefore, as missional people, unless we're directed elsewhere, we are meant to look at the cities we live in as the fields were called to. We are called to look fully at our city - not just focusing on the parts that feel accessible or easy. Through our interactions and engagements with our neighborhoods and city, we are meant to partner with God to bring transformation and release Kingdom shalom wherever we go.



# SEE



What do you notice about these photos?

Is there anything that surprises you?

Is there anything you would want to see changed?

How can you help bring change to the issues facing your community?

Poverty and wealth coexist all around us, but many times it goes unnoticed. This dichotomy creates an invitation for us to be people of shalom. There's a principle we've watched at play the world over, and that is, you don't see what you aren't looking for. As we intentionally engage with the world around us and embark on this journey together, ask the Lord to give us eyes to see what's going on in our communities. As we adjust our eyes to see, may we have the wisdom to know where and how to engage in what the Lord is doing to bring the Peace of God to the cities that we live in.

*Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.*

Jeremiah 29:7



## WHY CARE ABOUT YOUR CITY

If we can identify God's plan for our city, then we will be able to understand our unique purpose inside this plan and take ownership of the role that is waiting for us.





# CRAFT YOUR GROUP'S VISION STATEMENT

# OUR CITY VISION

PLEASE USE THE BELOW SPACE TO CRAFT YOUR VISION:

Our City Vision is \_\_\_\_\_, and we hope to  
address this through \_\_\_\_\_ inside our region.



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# CITY RENEWAL FRAMEWORK

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ENVISIONING AND STRATEGY  
TOOL 1.2



# BIG PICTURE

## The Five Chapter Gospel Contextualised:

CHAPTER 1 - CREATION: God, a God of shalom peace, creates Adam and Eve, giving them the task to fill the earth and subdue creation; cultivating what was created in Eden everywhere they went. The world was meant to be a place of peace and prosperity.

CHAPTER 2 - FALL: Through an act of disobedience, humankind brought corruption into the story. For centuries now, cycles of violence, sin, manipulation and corruption still reign rampant around the world.

CHAPTER 3 - REDEMPTION: The coming of Jesus as the "Prince of Peace" created the beginnings of a world in which there would be "no end to Shalom" (Isaiah 9:5-6). He comes as the redeemer of people's hearts, bringing hope, rest, salvation and joy. He is the only Way to being right with God; the road to redemptive life.

CHAPTER 4 - RENEWAL: Jesus's death on the cross reconciled all of creation to Himself. Regardless of who you are - your background, lifestyle, sins or shortcomings - nothing is able to separate you from the gift of life available through Jesus Christ. All things in heaven and on earth have the same opportunity available for them. Jesus's sacrifice made all things new through His death on the cross.

CHAPTER 5 - RESTORATION: The new city of peace shall be on this earth, complete and whole. There will be a full restoration of all things made perfect in God.



# BIG PICTURE

How does operating out the Five Chapter Gospel help our city and regions?

Creation, Fall and Redemption help us realise ..... and .....; while Renewal and Restoration points us to .....and .....

## Why is this Tool Valuable?

The Five Chapter Gospel presents us with a full picture of the gospel and therefore a deeper understanding of God's heart for His people. These five chapters provide a broader narrative to the gospel focusing not only on our salvation, but also how we should live on this side of eternity. If our gospel is only Creation, Fall and Redemption, then our message is narrowed down to salvation only. This means we miss the purpose behind being a new creation; our commission and purpose - how we play a piece in the global church - all come into play when Renewal becomes part of our gospel message. Without Renewal, there will always be a divide between the secular and

the saved. Restoration then completes the story by pointing to the absolute sovereignty of God and His eternal plan to bring shalom to all humankind; just like it was at Creation.

Note: Remember that the term "Five Chapter Gospel" is just a name we are using to talk about God's overarching redemptive purposes throughout the Bible.

*I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'*

Isaiah 46:10



## CITY RENEWAL FRAMEWORK

If we can place ourselves in God's original design and plan, our mission and our actions will be a lot more clear and defined!



# EXERCISE

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

### 1 CREATION

- What was the original design?
- What was life meant to be like?

### 2 FALL

- Why can't I live the way I'm supposed to?
- What is fundamentally wrong with the world?

### 3 REDEMPTION

- How do I begin to live the way I'm supposed to?
- Where am I meant to begin?

### 4 RENEWAL

- Where are the means by which I grow?

### 5 RESTORATION

- What is the hope by which I can impact the world around me for the better?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. If we look at the gospel as only a three-fold message - Creation, The Fall and Redemption - what aspects of the gospel do we miss out on?
2. How does believing the full message of the gospel transform our faith?
3. How can we go from believing the full message to receiving and releasing it?
4. Once we start releasing the full gospel, what will change in and around us?

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# CREATING A SHARED VISION

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TOOL 1.3





# BIG PICTURE

## Why is this Tool Valuable?

A vision is a futuristic mental image or statement that describes a potential believed achievable. It should hint at core values, purpose, mission, and/or strategy.

The Bible mentions several instances where people have detailed and prophetic visions that conveyed information about future events. The visions of Ezekiel, Daniel, Paul, and John were all important guides for the prophets of Biblical times. A vision statement creates focus on the mission ahead.

It streamlines effort towards the end goal and keeps participants on track despite any obstacles that may arise. As leaders, envisioning an achievable goal will help in leading with purpose, passion, and motivation.

Getting to the heart of a shared vision will require understanding the "Why" behind each individual's involvement. This tool is meant to highlight members' "Why" with the hope that similar interests, beliefs, and passions will come forth.

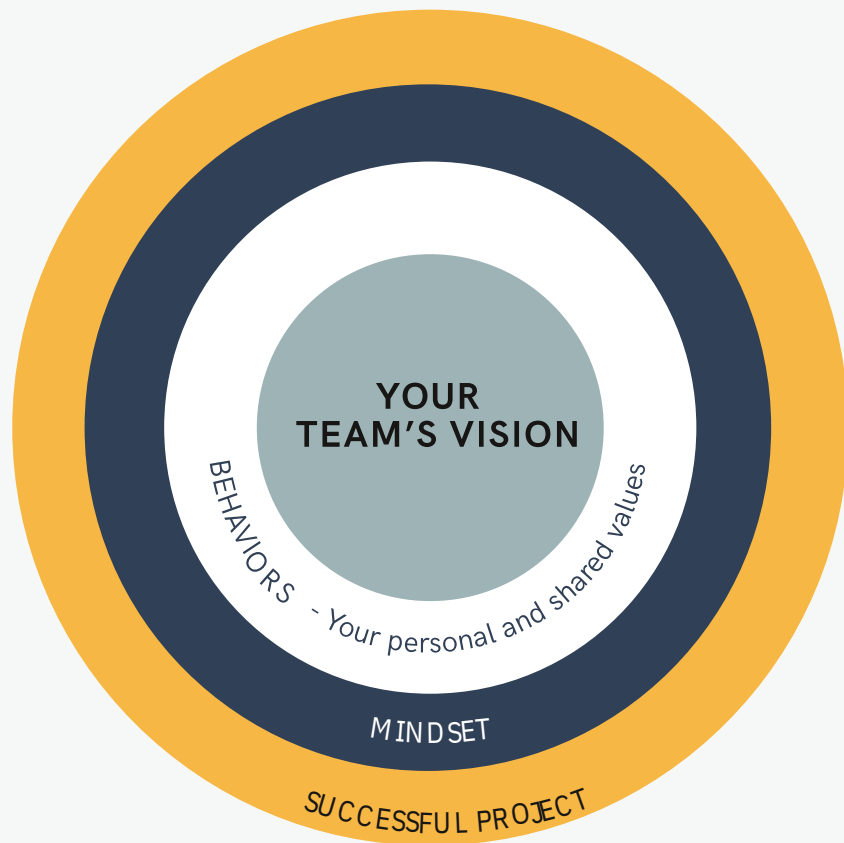
**What can our team do to ensure our city's vision is applied inside all our regions and projects?**



## CREATING A SHARED VISION

If we contextualize our city's vision to our assigned regions, it will help us stay connected to the goals we focus on our specific projects.

# FROM VISION TO ACTION







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# WORKING A MISSION

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TOOL 1.4





# BIG PICTURE

We've been on a mission together, to help envision and build strategy for the last 3 sessions. During that time we've looked at:

- We are called to the city where we are planted.
- We are called to care for our cities.
- We are called to be part of bringing Shalom to our cities as we walk out the 5 Chapter Gospel Contextualization: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Renewal and Restoration.
- We are called to lead out in our city with purpose, passion and motivation as part of a shared vision for our communities.

## **How can we ensure that as a group, we're always connected to our singular mission for the city?**

If the vision is an inspirational driver towards a successful end, the mission is the pathway one takes to see the vision come to pass. A mission reflects something aspirational; it inspires and invites others to get involved, while practically showing how the transformation will take place. Missions break the vision down to bite-size pieces and instill a greater sense of purpose in every effort made.

As followers of Jesus, we are given one of the greatest missions in the world - to go and make disciples. That mission works towards the vision of seeing every human reconciled with God.

This tool is meant to bring out discussion around the "How" of city transformation and decisions regarding what practical steps would look like.



## WORKING A MISSION

Working on smaller missions that complement the city's overall mission will help participants recognize the shared purpose between them. This can create feelings of connection and unity despite the possibility of working on separate projects.

# WHITEBOARD EXERCISE

- What would you like your team to be known for?
- What do you hope your team accomplishes in the next 1-2 years?
- What are the most impactful and bold goals your team could have for your city in the next 1-2 years?





*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything  
in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the  
Father through him.*

Colossians 3:17

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