

# STUDY NOTES

## VISION 2018 A SERIES at NEW CITY CHURCH

[www.newcityphx.com/sermons](http://www.newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message “You Are the Vision” on 1/14/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

## PRAYER

*Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.*

## SCRIPTURE: EPHESIANS 3:7-12

## WHO IS GOD? WHO ARE WE?

The apostle Paul reminds us over and over that this work isn't his doing. Paul says that he is the least of the saints, and he isn't the one doing the work. It is God and his grace that are at work. We don't build the church, Jesus does. Man can build a church through clever marketing, catchy slogans, and comfortable environments, but only God can build a church that passes through the fire and lasts forever.

### **God's job description is to build the church.**

- *Please avoid gossiping here, but how have you felt like churches have tried to build the church through human efforts?*
- *Reflect on the history of the church. What does it show us about God's promise to build his church?*

## WHAT IS THE PLAN?

The mystery of the gospel that Paul talks about is that God's kingdom is for everyone. What is the vision for how God is going to execute this? Through the Church. We are

the plan. The Church is how God is going to accomplish his mission of reaching everyone.

### **You are the vision. You are the plan.**

- *How is the Church uniquely positioned to reach everyone?*
- *What does it say about God that he wants to use us to accomplish his mission?*

## GOD GIVES GIFTS TO BELIEVERS

**Read Ephesians 4:11-15.** Jesus gives the Church gifts in the form of people. Not all of those gifts are on a church staff. God gives people the power to equip others for His purposes. God's job is to build the Church. Our job as a church body is to make disciples and do works of ministry. The church isn't a platform for our own personal gain. It is a place to serve others.

### **We have a God through you vision, not a God through New City vision.**

- *Why is it important to see the people of the church as the vision and not the institution of the church as the vision?*
- *How do you feel like you fit into the plan of God—the Church?*
- *In what ways do you sense the Holy Spirit leading you to take ownership by serving others?*
- *Pray with each other as you seek ways to serve others.*