

One Ascension

Mission of Ascension: Create opportunities for all people to become devoted followers of Christ

Problem: We live in a culture where church attendance and giving is in decline.

Response: Fear or faith?

Scriptural Inspiration (See Back): Luke: 10: 1-12; 17-21

Vision (a picture of the future that produces passion): You are the disciples. Your team tells a joyful story about how God worked through you to accomplish your mission (connected to Ascension's mission) this year.

Ascension Goal: A collection of stories that convey the joy and triumph of the disciples returning to Jesus to report the success of their work to build the kingdom. To be shared in some way with the rest of the congregation.

Strategy (per pastor Tim's Sabbatical): De-clutter, Create, Adventure:

1. *De-clutter* (vs. 4)
 - a. What is your team's *mission* as a part of the body of One Ascension?
 - b. What are the activities that you are currently engaged in?
 - i. What has been a success? Why?
 - ii. What has been a struggle? Why?
 - iii. How are the meetings?
 1. Covenant
 2. Agenda
 3. Attendance
 - iv. Is there anything that drains life? Are the gifts of each member being used well? Is there any burn out?
 - c. What gives life?
 - d. Is there anything that you can currently eliminate? (see Creativity)
2. *Creativity:* (vs. 8-9) what is *your* vision and how will you get there: What will make your team excited about building the kingdom this year?
 - a. Pray, (ask the lord of the harvest): this may be a process, as a group, as an individual
 - b. Brainstorm, talk about the gifts and graces you have, why are you willing to be this ministry, what is your hope/dream, what would success look like? How could you make it happen? Make sure you don't have too many goals.
 - c. Tell the story before it happens. Picture yourself at the end of the year- reporting to the congregation and what you got done. How you felt stretched, how you saw the Lord at work in the midst of you.
3. *Adventure:* (v. 3)
 - a. Why is it exciting? Why is it scary? How will it stretch you? How will the process of getting there bring you joy? How will it use your gifts? How did you work out your salvation with fear and trembling? How will you be accomplishing your vision (along the lines of the disciples?

Luke: 10: 1-12; 17-21 (The Message)

¹⁻² Later the Master selected seventy and sent them ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he intended to go. He gave them this charge:

“What a huge harvest! And how few the harvest hands. So on your knees; ask the God of the Harvest to send harvest hands.

³ *“On your way! But be careful—this is hazardous work. You’re like lambs in a wolf pack.*

⁴ *“Travel light. Comb and toothbrush and no extra luggage.*

“Don’t loiter and make small talk with everyone you meet along the way.

⁵⁻⁶ *“When you enter a home, greet the family, ‘Peace.’ If your greeting is received, then it’s a good place to stay. But if it’s not received, take it back and get out. Don’t impose yourself.*

⁷ *“Stay at one home, taking your meals there, for a worker deserves three square meals. Don’t move from house to house, looking for the best cook in town.*

⁸⁻⁹ *“When you enter a town and are received, eat what they set before you, heal anyone who is sick, and tell them, ‘God’s kingdom is right on your doorstep!’*

¹⁰⁻¹² *“When you enter a town and are not received, go out in the street and say, ‘The only thing we got from you is the dirt on our feet, and we’re giving it back. Did you have any idea that God’s kingdom was right on your doorstep?’ Sodom will have it better on Judgment Day than the town that rejects you.*

¹⁷ *The seventy came back triumphant. “Master, even the demons danced to your tune!”*

¹⁸⁻²⁰ *Jesus said, “I know. I saw Satan fall, a bolt of lightning out of the sky. See what I’ve given you? Safe passage as you walk on snakes and scorpions, and protection from every assault of the Enemy. No one can put a hand on you. All the same, the great triumph is not in your authority over evil, but in God’s authority over you and presence with you. Not what you do for God but what God does for you—that’s the agenda for rejoicing.”*

²¹ *At that, Jesus rejoiced, exuberant in the Holy Spirit. “I thank you, Father, Master of heaven and earth, that you hid these things from the know-it-alls and showed them to these innocent newcomers. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way.*