

DEEP AND WIDE

Shane Philip
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Discussion Notes
The Crossing Church
Las Vegas, Nevada

OPENING

Today I want to share with you a deeper and wider vision for The Crossing and to commission you as partners on this journey. The church is not about a building, a location or a style of worship - it is about a movement. We are on a journey to go deeper and pursue Christ at a deeper level of discipleship. We are on a journey to go wider and reach our neighbors and our communities. Jesus is calling us to unlock new doors of evangelism as He challenges us to a deeper spiritual connection with Him.

SCRIPTURE¹

Matthew 16:13 “When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ “

Matthew 16:14 “They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ “

Matthew 16:15 “ ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ “

Matthew 16:16 “Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, Son of the living God.’ “

Matthew 17-18 “Jesus replied, ‘...on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.’ “

Matthew 19-20 “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

OBSERVATION

Are we at The Crossing going DEEP and WIDE? Are we moving or simply meeting? Are we making a measurable difference in our communities or simply conducting meetings? Are we organized around a model or are we allocating resources as if Jesus is the hope of the world?

Question: What is your opinion as to The Crossing’s current efforts to go deep and wide?

We have the following characteristics in common:

- We want to grow spiritually.
- We are investigating Christianity to see if it is relevant for our lives.
- We are trying to take a next step in our spiritual growth.

Question: What is it about your spiritual life that you want to change?

APPLICATION

We are launching a series called Transformed which is about having more transformed lives than ever before. It focuses on growing spiritually, emotionally, relationally, physically, financially, at work and at home.

Question: Are you ready to be transformed? In what areas?

We are going deeper as a church.

- We are going to have daily time with God.
- We are providing opportunities to join small groups and engage in Bible studies.
- We are planning Men’s and Women’s Conferences.
- We are launching a new discipleship strategy called Rooted. It is specifically designed for those

¹ All scripture listed is NIV unless otherwise indicated

who are leading a group or have been part of a group for a year or more. We will discuss how God speaks to us, how we overcome temptation and spiritual battles, and how and why we should tell others.

Question: Are you involved in a small group now? What is that experience like?

Our commitment is to go deeper because if we are followers of Jesus, we ought to:

- be more like Jesus today than we were a year ago.
- have the Fruit of the Spirit growing in our lives.

Church attendance is not an indicator of spiritual growth. The number one indicator of spiritual growth is Bible engagement. People want help understanding the Bible because the Word of God changes lives.

Question: How well do you know the Bible?

Question: Are you prepared to teach the Bible in a small group?

We are going wider as a church because we believe everyone who does not know Jesus is facing a Christ-less eternity. Our commitment is to go wider because if we don't have a passion to reach those who are far from God, how can the love of God be in us? When a church is working right, it is reaching out to unchurched neighbors and friends with amazing grace; skeptics, seekers, agnostics and atheists start discovering that they really matter to God; the broken find healing, alcoholics and addicts find hope; everyone is connected in life-giving relationships; and everyone is using their gifts and passions to serve the community.

Therefore, we are going to the people of Las Vegas through a Regional Campus. In 2017, we are opening a location in the Southeast Vegas/West Henderson area. The groups who might be interested are:

- those who live in that area;
- those who love The Crossing, but would prefer a more intimate setting;
- those who have an entrepreneurial mindset;
- those who love to be part of something new;

Question: What do you think about being a part of this new outreach?

Another goal is to have 100 microsites around Las Vegas and beyond. These sites are for 20-30 people who:

- prefer to watch services online;
- have left the area and haven't found another church that meets their needs;
- live downtown and have friends there who want to grow in Jesus;

A third goal is to reach beyond our borders and build neighborhoods of homes in Mexico.

Question: Are you ready to commit to programs that will stretch your skills and take you beyond your fears?

Our vision is that we would have a thriving community in every neighborhood in Las Vegas.

Question: Are you ready to accept the keys of the Kingdom and join the vision of the Church? If not, what is holding you back?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we are called to go deeper and wider in our commitment to you and our community. Only through Your strength, wisdom, power, mercy, grace and by Your Holy Spirit, can we hope to see our vision fulfilled and our goals a reality. Give us a passion for the work, O God, and the strength to persevere to the end. In Jesus' Name. Amen.