
OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

STUDY GUIDE



OUR VISION AND STRATEGY

Introduction

At CrossCulture, our vision is that we would know Christ, grow in Christ and proclaim Christ. We believe that God has given us this mission to our city and to our world. What will that look like for 2023 and beyond?

A few years ago, our church put together a strategic plan which established concrete steps toward this grand vision. In this series, we will be revisiting this vision. We will also be collaborating and discussing together on how we could work together to see this vision become a reality.

We hope you all catch this vision and realise that we all need to play our part!

Study 1

OUR VISION: GROWING INTO CHRIST

Introduction

Our vision as a church is to help people to know Christ, grow in him and proclaim him. In Ephesians 4, Paul unpacked what a healthy church with such a vision looked like. The purpose of this study is to help us to move toward this vision and increasingly take our God-given part in this great venture.

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

1. What was the vision for the church that Paul presented (verses 13-16)? List the key indicators of a healthy church in the table below.

2. How do you think your life group and our church are going with these indicators? Put your score individually out of 10 for each indicator and then discuss with others.

Key indicators of a healthy church	Score

Study 2

OUR STRATEGY: BECOMING A WELCOMING COMMUNITY

Introduction

At CrossCulture, we have the immense privilege of welcoming many visitors to our church each week. Due to our central location, many of the nations come right to our doorstep. A big part of our witness to the city is how well we welcome those who are new into our church.

Romans 15:7 says, “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Our welcome is to reflect the welcome we have received from Christ himself, who sacrificed himself at great cost so that we could be welcomed into his family.

God created the church to be a family – to live together with all our differences and quirks. It is a challenge to welcome those who are unlike us. It takes us out of the familiar and the comfortable. But it is into this environment that Jesus tells us to welcome others as Christ welcomed us.

1. What were your initial impressions when you first visited CrossCulture?

Read Matthew 25:34-40

2. How should this passage shape our attitude toward those who visit our church?

3. What would it look like to apply a similar ethos to our welcome at CrossCulture?

Application

4. When you started attending CrossCulture, what made you feel welcomed?
What hindered you from feeling welcomed?

5. At CrossCulture, we have welcomers at the entrances. However, this won't be enough to make people feel welcomed on a Sunday! How can the whole church be involved in creating a warm and welcoming culture?

6. Research shows that in the first few minutes of visiting a church, a newcomer has mostly already made up their mind of whether they would come back again. Think about the experience of a new person walking through our doors – from coming in, to experiencing a service, and seeing what happens after the service finishes. In what ways could we make CrossCulture a church that people will want to come back to?

7. What are some concrete and practical steps for you and your life group to make CrossCulture more welcoming to those who are new and those who have been here a long time?

Study 3

OUR STRATEGY: INTERNATIONALISING OUR CHURCH

Introduction

One of our strategies in helping people to know Jesus, grow in him and proclaim him is to intentionally become more international. In the book of Revelation, John was given a glimpse of the crowd gathered around the throne in the new creation.

We want CrossCulture to reflect this glorious heavenly reality and take steps to move toward it, so more and more can come to know and worship Jesus with us.

1. How easy is it for you to relate to people of other cultures?

Read Revelation 7:9-17

2. What strikes you about the scene in this passage?

3. What united this diverse crowd?

Application

4. How can we move toward the vision of Jesus being the centre of everything, so that our cultural differences become a cause for rejoicing rather than a barrier?

5. If this international Jesus-focused community is our ultimate destination as believers, how can we progress toward this now?

6. How can our church, life groups and ministry teams better reflect the international body of Christ?

7. We all naturally gravitate toward people like ourselves. What are some practical steps we can take this week to reflect the reality of the new creation and to include more tribes, peoples and languages?

Study 4

OUR STRATEGY: REACHING OUR CITY

Introduction

At CrossCulture, we are exceedingly privileged to be located right in the heart of this city we love. Simply by walking around the city, you'll soon notice the opportunities and challenges we face in reaching Melbourne with the good news of Jesus.

With our prominent location, often it's the city that comes to us too. Every Sunday we get visitors stepping into our doors to witness the way we worship God together.

In this study, we'd love you to have a discussion about how we could continue to grow and maximise these opportunities God has given us to love and reach our city for Jesus.

1. Share one thing you love and one thing you don't love about Melbourne.

Read Deuteronomy 4:5-8

2. How did Moses describe the purpose of obeying God's law?

3. How could Israel's obedience to God's law display their wisdom before other nations and the nearness of their God?

Application

4. What would it look like for us to obey God in the sight of others, such that they witness the wisdom and nearness of Jesus:
 - a. at work
 - b. among friends and family

5. Let's dream a bit – if you know you couldn't fail, what would you love to start at CrossCulture to better reach our city?

6. Practise sharing your two-minute testimony in pairs. That's often the time we get to share with people! Through our testimony, we can show how the story of Jesus intersects with our own. Pick a theme in your life and show how the gospel speaks into this theme.

Give each other feedback on the testimony – how it could be sharpened to connect with those in the different contexts of our lives. If you have the time, share a few with the whole group!

Sam Chan in his book *Evangelism in a Skeptical World* on page 70 (Zondervan: 2018) provides helpful categories for understanding how God meets our deepest needs and themes in our lives. Use these to stimulate your thoughts on how the story of Jesus speaks into our stories.

Our human state	Gospel transformation	Response in light of the gospel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transgression ● Guilt ● Rebellion ● Disobedience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Justification ● Forgiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faith ● Obedience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Falling short 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reconciliation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Calling on God's name
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Captivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Redemption ● Liberation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Serving Jesus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Blindness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Illumination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recognising our blindness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deadness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regeneration ● Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recognising our deadness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enemy of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peace ● Reconciliation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ceasing our hostilities ● Friendship with God
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not a child of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adoption ● Reconciliation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Repentance ● Returning

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uncleaness ● Impurity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sanctification ● Purification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recognising our uncleaness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Separation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Union with Christ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Returning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Idolatry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● God's favour and grace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Worshipping God
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shamefulness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Restoration ● Face 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Honouring God
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wandering ● Erring ● Going astray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Being on the correct path ● Wisdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Walking in God's ways
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wickedness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Godly flourishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Godliness

Prayer

Share about one person in your life that does not know Jesus. How can you pray for each of them specifically today? Can you purposefully invite them to church or a Bible study, or engage them in spiritual conversation?