

Vision Preach 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**There are two things that never change in our changing world:**

- 1) Jesus (**Hebrews 13:8**)
- 2) His purpose to use his church to make his glory known (Ephesians 3:20-21)

But what does church look like in this new post covid world? What is God doing?

As elders of King's, we've taken time to hear God, discuss, pray, learn from others and feel that God is doing a new thing. This is a new chapter of King's Church.

We have received many prophetic encouragements about this, including a word that encouraged us that despite the fog of uncertainty of the world we live in, we were to move forward expectantly that God would show us his favour. The favourable year in Old Testament times referred to every 50<sup>th</sup> year of Israel- where slaves would be freed, debts forgiven, land rested and restored. A reset button on the life of Israel- to bring them back to who they were meant to be.

We feel that God is bringing us back to what we're meant to be, rather than add lots to our to-do list! There are three priorities we felt God wants us as a church to dive deeply into:

- 1) REDISCOVER CHURCH AS THE FAMILY OF GOD
- 2) RECALIBRATE TO A GREAT COMMISSION MINDSET
- 3) RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN POWER MORE THAN EVER

**1) REDISCOVER CHURCH AS THE FAMILY OF GOD**

Jesus said this is how the world will know we are disciples of Jesus: "because we **love one another.**" **John 13:35.** He's chosen a family to show his glory to the world

Church isn't an organisation, or a business or a club. It's a FAMILY.

- a) Families change and grow- new people come along!
- b) Families are complex (1 cor 12- the body of many parts!)
- c) Families have small and larger expressions
- d) Church family has a culture of Jesus, the older brother.

We feel a really important expression of church as a whole family will be the weekend away (25-27<sup>th</sup> March). It's a family moment!!

Israel would annually celebrate the feast of tabernacles- it was holiday who's main purpose was to remind Israel of their history and identity and purpose by camping together.

## **2. RECALIBRATE TO A GREAT COMMISSION MINDSET**

In **Matthew 28** Jesus gave his followers this commission:

**“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”**

God wants to give us a bigger vision this year. The disciples told their family and friends about Jesus. But more than that they received this commission to GO. And the story of acts is the story of churches getting planted all over the place.

Here's something we'd love to begin to dream of again. Not just King's church as a family. But King's becoming a family of churches that blesses Scotland and the world. East Lothian, West Lothian, Mid Lothian, Fife.

This isn't the time for church planting- but it's season where we prepare to be that kind of church- though MAKING DISCIPLES and TRAINING LEADERS

We're not primarily trying to gather a crowd but make disciples. To help each person who is part of Kings to follow Jesus wholeheartedly in every area of life.

We hope to launch a peer-discipling plan a bit later this year, so discipleship is accessible to more people.

We also want to begin to train leaders through a new rolling training programme starting this autumn called "GROW"- aimed at developing people in the areas of Knowledge, Gifting and Character. Head, Hands, Heart. We want to draw on other leaders across Scotlands Newfrontiers churches to help us with this.

### 3. RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus finished the GREAT commission with these words “**And I am with you always- to the end of the age**”.

Our “Why?” could be summarised: “To experience Jesus in community and demonstrate his love to Edinburgh and everywhere”

Being a church that loves the Spirit has always been in our DNA, but we’re more aware than ever that we can only move into our next chapter by experiencing the Holy Spirit more and more.

For some of us we’re at the beginning of the journey of being filled with the Spirit. For some of us we’ve grown a bit dry and cynical.

For some of us our gifts have grown stagnant, or our prayer life needs help.

For some of us our witness lacks the power it needs.

We’d love us to think what it looks like for us to not just be a church that practices gifts on a Sunday- but to be empowered and led by the Spirit in all of our lives through the week.

#### Bring Jesus what you have

The miracle of Feeding of the 5000 required somebody’s lunch. It wasn’t impressive and it wasn’t enough for that many people.

Yet in Jesus hands this imperfect, inadequate lunch was more than enough.

Don’t let perfectionism hold you back. Don’t bemoan lack of time or capacity- give Jesus what you do have- and let him do the rest.

## **PRAYER POINTS FOR WEEK OF PRAYER:**

### 1) Rediscover Church as Family of God

- Ask God how we could live out his command to “love one another”
- Pray for your small group
- Pray for those currently joining King's
- Pray for those struggling to follow Jesus, to engage, or struggling with hard things.

### 2) Re-orient to Great Commission Mindset

- Pray that God would make us a “going” church
- Pray that we would feel God's heart for Edinburgh, Fife and the Lothians
- Pray for King's in time to become a “Family of Churches”
- Pray for King's to be filled with disciples who grow in devotion to God
- Pray for leaders to be raised up

### 3) Receive the Holy Spirit

- Pray for more of God's Spirit as we gather
- Pray for more of God's Spirit as we're scattered (work, home, uni etc)
- Take some time to soak in the Holy Spirit and let him speak today. What is he saying to his church?