



Vision Has Power | October 6th - October 12th

Warm-up: Who introduced you to the Lord? How were they able to gain your trust?

- Read **John 1:40-42 & Matthew 16:17-19** aloud together. Prior to Jesus' introduction, Simon Peter could hardly have been described as a "rock." He was hasty to speak, and often failed to think things through before taking action.
 - Against all odds Jesus affirms that Peter is to be foundationally instrumental in the establishment of the Church. What does this reveal to us about our true identities?
 - Can we really know ourselves if we don't know Jesus? Why or why not?
- Andy Stanley in *Visioneering* writes, "*Vision is powerful. Particularly when it is cast by someone we look up to and respect, someone we trust and are prone to emulate. Chances are you either have or will have people in your life who feel that way about you.*"
 - Have you ever had someone in your life whom you emulate speak into your vision? Have you ever been that person? Share with the group.
 - Think of those people in your life that you look up to and emulate. What are some of the qualities they have that you are drawn to?
- God sees potential, not performance. **1 John 3:2** reads, "*Dear friends, we are already God's children, but He has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He really is.*"
 - What does this verse teach us about our potential before God?
 - What is the significance of being called children of God? If He made us His children while sinners, what does that say of His love for us now that we are saved?
- Recall how a young Andy Stanley was discouraged by his basketball coach's criticism. Words are powerful and do have an effect on those around you.
 - Is there any lingering pain you feel from your childhood (or even more recently) that illustrates the power of discouragement from those you look up to?
 - How does God typically move His people towards accomplishing His vision for their lives? In what ways can we emulate this behavior with those around us?

Wrap-up: This week, try to identify those people in your life to whom you look up to, as well as those who may be looking up to you. Consider **Ephesians 4:29** as you close in prayer: "*Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.*"