



THE  
**forge**

***Our history***

# History

1977



2020



***When we consider what Christ has done and does, we are tempted to laugh at our feverish anxiety over whether He can pull it off one more time in our present problem.***

—Lloyd John Olgive  
*When God First Thought of You*

*What has God been doing in your life  
over the last year?*

***Who are we?***

# Who are we?

- We are a *family*
- We are a *community*
- We are each a *new creation*

# Who are we?

- We are a **family**. The sons and daughters of God. Created in the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. Filled with the Holy Spirit.
  - Romans 8:28-29 — And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren...
    - 2 Corinthians 1:22 – ...He has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.



# Who are we?

- We are a **community**. One that desires to be known by Love.
  - John 13:35 — A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.
    - 1 John 4:11-12 — Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.
    - 1 Corinthians 13 — If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

# Who are we?

- We are each a **new creation**. Men and women who are loved, forgiven, and thankful. A group of people modeling God's original purpose for mankind.
  - Ephesians 1:4-5 — ...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will...
    - Genesis 1:26-28 — Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

***Where are we going?***

# Our Vision Framework: Jesus

1. Jesus is the hermeneutic key
2. The Truth is a person—Jesus
3. The Truth can only be lived, not rationalized
4. Jesus is the only way to be alive
5. When we know Jesus, we know who we are and who we are called to be
6. The Christian life is impossible without the stirring power of the Holy Spirit within us
7. Abiding frees us to allow God to love us
8. Abiding in God's love casts out our fear

# Our Vision Framework: Jesus

1. Jesus is the *hermeneutic key*: the only way we can understand God's plan for humanity, the only way to know God, and the only way to have a relationship with God

- Colossians 1:15-20 — Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see... Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.
- Colossians 2:2-3 — ...having been knit together in love, and *attaining* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, *resulting* in a true knowledge of God's mystery, *that is*, Christ *Himself*, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

# Our Vision Framework: Jesus

2. The Truth is a **person**—Jesus—and He is the incarnation and embodiment of Truth

- John 14:6 — Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

3. The Truth can only be **lived**, not rationalized

- 1 Corinthians 1:20, 24, 30 — So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish...But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God...God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.
  - John 1:14 — And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

# Our Vision Framework: Jesus

4. Jesus is the **only way** to be alive, apart from Him all people are dead in their Sin

- Colossians 3:3-4 — For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.
  - Romans 7:6 — Now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.
  - 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 — Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
  - 2 Corinthians 5:17 — Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
  - Ephesians 4:24 — ...put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

# Our Vision Framework: Jesus

5. When we **know**—experience life in and through—**Jesus**, we know who we are and who we are called to be

- Galatians 2:20 — My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
  - John 8:12 — Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”
  - Romans 12:6-8 — Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.



# Our Vision Framework: Jesus

6. The Christian life is impossible without the stirring power of the **Holy Spirit** within us

- When the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us, Jesus' character is reproduced in our own personalities
  - 2 Corinthians 3:18 — So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.
- Without the Holy Spirit, the only thing left is our frustrating attempts to accomplish God's law by man made rules and moral conduct, which leads to death
- Without the Holy Spirit, we look for other people's approval of our actions and turn man into an intermediary to get right with God, totally ignoring that Jesus has already served as our intermediary and atoning sacrifice

# Our Vision Framework: Jesus

7. **Abiding**, living in God as Jesus did, frees us experience God's love in the deepest dimensions of our inner self

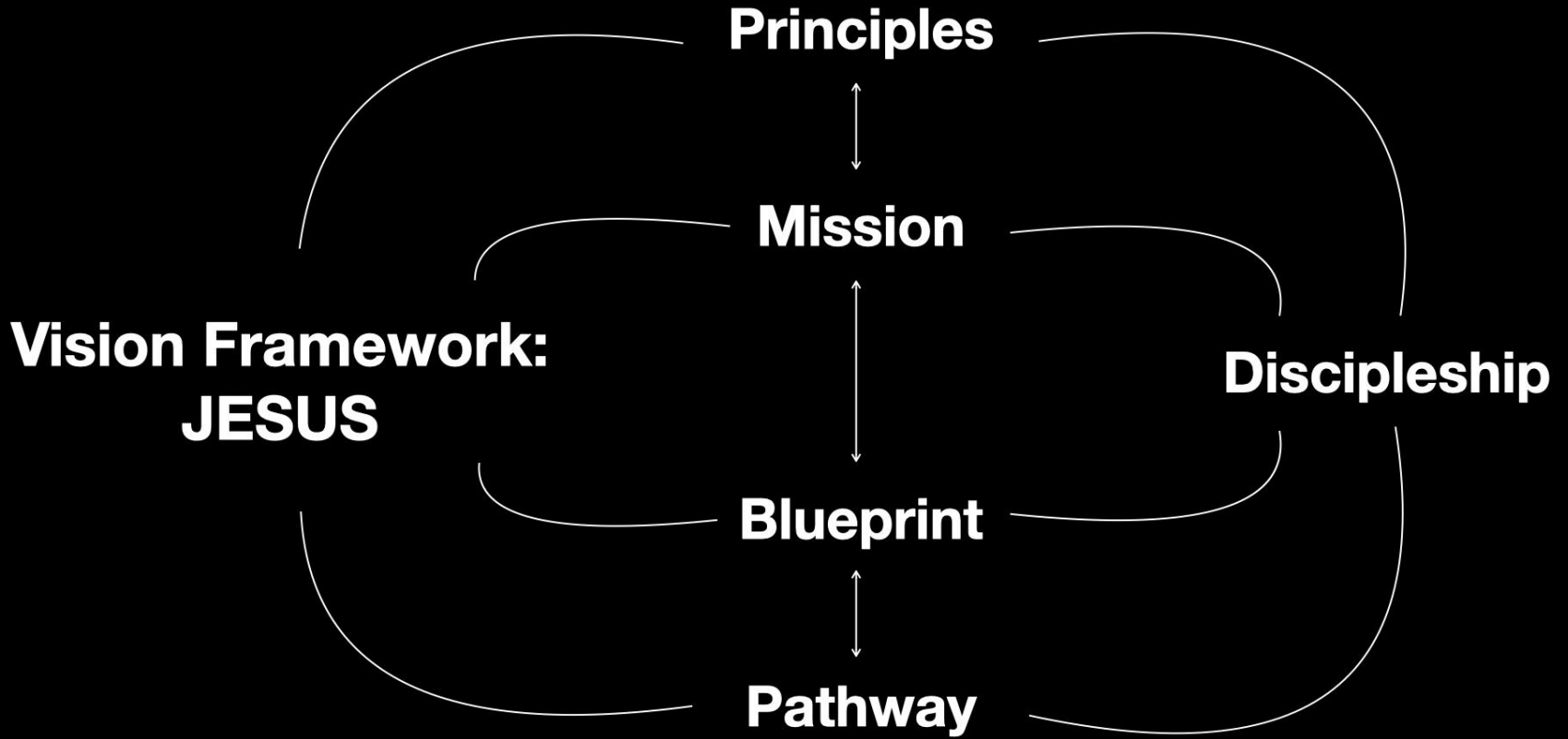
- We can choose to always swim in the shallows, hiding reality from ourselves and from God, or we can be totally honest with Him and be met every time by His unconditional love
- 1 John 4:16 — We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.
  - John 3:16 — For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him.

# Our Vision Framework: Jesus

8. Abiding in **God's love casts out our fear**—we can see that he accepts us unconditionally

- 1 John 4:18-19 — Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. We love each other because he loved us first.
- Abiding gives us the motivating power of God's grace that has existed for us from the beginning of time
- And just as his grace has gone before our existence, one of the most enabling results of abiding in God is that we discover he is always ahead of us in every relationship or situation

***Our principles drive our mission, our mission drives our blueprint, and our blueprint drives our pathway.***



# Principles

## Receive, Embrace God's Love

*Matthew 22:36-40*  
*Mark 12:30-31*

Love God above all things  
and all people

Love your neighbor as  
Yourself

## All is about Jesus

*Colossians 3:11b*  
*Colossians 1:15-20*

Jesus is all we need *Romans 8:32; John 16:23-24*

Jesus is the Door *John 10:1-9; Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 10:19*

Jesus is the Truth *John 1:14,17; John 14:6; 1 John 5:20*

Jesus is the Way *John 14:6; Hebrews 10:20; 2 Peter 2:2*

Jesus is the Beginning and the End

*2 Corinthians 5:19, Colossians 2:10; Colossians 1: 16,18*

The Purpose: to see God in Jesus

*John 14:9; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Hebrews 1:3; John 1:17*

## God's Eternal Plan & Purpose for US

*Romans 8:29; Ephesians 3:6*  
*Deuteronomy 10:12; Micah 6:8*

The Eternal Plan: A Family of many sons and  
daughters at the image and likeness of Jesus

# Mission

## Live from / in Jesus

*1 John 4:17*

New Covenant, New Creation, New Identity

*Hebrews 13:20-21; Hebrews 9:15; Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Exclusive Dependency and Obedience to Jesus (God's Will)

*John 4:34; John 5:19; John 5:30; John 6:38*

Be Love

*1 Corinthians 13*

## Abide in Jesus

*John 15*

Oneness/Unity:

He living in us and We living in Him

*Ephesians 2*

His Word

*1 John 1:5-8; John 1; Phillipians 3:1—11*

His Love

*Ephesians 4:17-31; 5:1-20; 1 John 3:11- 4:7-20*

# Blueprint

## Prayer

Prayer as a lifestyle

Contemplative Rhythms

Silence

Solitude

Stillness

## Rest

Eliminate Hurry

Eliminate the sacred / secular divide

## Life

Incarnate the Word

Embrace life as a ministry

Life shaped by the Word

Scripture

Jesus' Life

God's word

## Relationships

Point one another to Jesus

Love God above all thing and people

Love your neighbor as yourself



# Pathway

## Community

House Churches

Simple Gatherings

Life on Mission as God's Family

## Equipping

Studying the Word & teaching

Personal Discipleship

Day to day life together;  
community discipleship

## Giving

Develop a heart of generosity, stewarding  
what God has entrusted you

Time

Money

Possessions

Spiritual Gifts

Talents

## Serving

Embrace a lifestyle of sacrificial and unconditional Love to God,  
To the Church, Community, every people, every Nation

***Practical changes***

# Gatherings

- House Church
  - One, unified house church (meal, worship, bible study, prayer) that meets weekly
- Family Group
  - Every week, meet in groups of 8-12
  - Adopt a model of community discipleship and spiritual family
  - Equipping through topics needed in the present season
- Discipleship
- Pursue living in unity and proximity with other believers

# House Church

- Purpose
  - Study scriptures, worship and fellowship together
  - Invite and engage with new believers and non-Christians, welcoming and loving all people as a family
  - Live out our principles, mission, blueprint and pathway
  - Pursue living in unity and proximity with other believers

# House Church

- Benefits
  - House Church is the best scenario to live out / apply our pathway (community, equipping, serving, giving)
  - Provides a family atmosphere (Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 4:1-13)
  - Provides a welcoming environment for people to easily engage with each other, make new friends and nourish established ones
  - Opportunities for giving your time, money, resources, and gifts (Acts 4:32-35)
  - Regular fellowship time (Acts 2:42, 1 John 1:7, Hebrews 10:25)
  - Community evangelism (John 13:35, Acts 5:12-21)

# Family Group

- Purpose
  - Build relationships where trust is deep and vulnerability is natural, experiencing God's unconditional love
  - Adopt a model of community discipleship and spiritual family
  - All family groups will go through the same equipping topics
  - Pursue living in unity and proximity with other believers
  - 8 to 12 people max

# Family Group

- Benefits
  - Easy to create a trustworthy environment
  - Easy to create and develop safe relationships where authenticity is natural (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
  - Easier to open hearts and share experiences, thoughts, etc. (Hebrews 10:24)
  - Opportunity for community discipleship (Proverbs 27:17, Colossians 3:16)
  - Go deeper into each equipping topics and relationships

*Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days. The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses. Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon. There the Lord will display his glory, the splendor of our God. With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you.”*

—Isaiah 35:1-4