

GROWTH GUIDE / January 15, 2023

Special note to Group leaders: THANK YOU for giving us grace as we “dust off” the rhythm of preparing a guide each week. Here’s a quick recap of our current series, and then some points and scriptures to help you as you discuss with your group.

Current Series: Seated

Based in Ephesians 2:1-10, esp. verse 6, where Paul writes that “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms.” It matters where we sit because where we sit determines our identity (we’re shaped by what we hear), our destiny (we’re guided by what we see), and our activity (we’re motivated by what we were made for).

This week we talked about how being seated with Christ changes what we see, which impacts where we’re going. We also talked about the difference between what we see and what we look at.

This week’s Big Idea: **What we see determines where we’ll be.**

Key points:

What we see changes our perspective

- Perspective helps us see our destiny
- It’s the big picture that never changes
- Many of the promise verses in the Bible that we love are about perspective
- Ex: 2 Cor. 2:14 / we’re being led to victory
- This is one reason why worship is so powerful; it raises us up and allows us to see where we’re headed - worshipping Jesus shifts our perspective
- Perspective helps us look out with the Father’s eyes

What we look at changes our focus

- Focus helps us get to our destiny
- It’s the constant focal point amidst change
- Many of the problem verses in the Bible that we don’t like are about focus
- Ex: Hebrews 12:1-2 / we’re being led by the Victor
- This is one reason why discipleship is so difficult; it requires us to navigate around distractions in the way of where we’re headed - walking with Jesus requires our focus
- Focus helps us look up with dove’s eyes
 - Song of Solomon 1:15
 - Doves mate for life and can only focus on one thing at a time; vision is singular and pure

Perspective isn’t the same as understanding

- It gives us clear vision, not necessarily clear thought
- We see the end, but don’t necessarily know how we’ll get there
- That’s why we lean in to the One who is showing us the end and learning us there
 - Hebrews 12:1-2 / fix your eyes