DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)
Introduction and Vision

Module Aims

- To identify what vision is.
- To continue the process of discerning God's vision for our lives.
- To explore one way of more fully discerning God's priorities for our lives.

What is vision?

Biblical Vision: Exodus 3:1-12

- Vision of God (3:4-6).
- Vision for God's people (3:7-9).
- Vision for Moses (3:10-12).

What is Personal Vision?

- Finding and fulfilling God's particular call for our life, giving direction to how we use our time, talents and treasure.
- Keeping the end in mind.
- Personal vision is like a magnifying glass; it helps create focus.

Key Insights

'If we find God with great ease perhaps it is not God that you have found.'
Thomas Merton

'Jesus knew his calling. He wasn't just passing through life, but pursuing a vision.'
Leighton Ford

'...the most important thing for you is your vision, your sense of God. The richer, deeper, wider your vision of the Divine Reality, the more rich, real, deeper and fruitful your work will be.'
Evelyn Underhill, 1927 addressing a conference of teachers

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)
Discerning vision and calling

Where does it fit with our Calling?

- Our primary calling is to discipleship.

- Our particular calling is to discern God's unique purpose for our lives.

Why is Discerning Personal Vision Important?

CONSIDER...

- Question one.

- Question two.

Key Insights

'Our task is not dream, up a vision for our life but to see Jesus' vision, understand the Father's strategy for our life, and live it.'

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)
God's vision for us

What Can we Do?

If you were to fault yourself in one of these three areas which would it be?

- The ability to prioritise. ◯
- The lack of desire to organise around these priorities. ◯
- The lack of discipline to make these priorities happen. ◯

The Greatest Leadership Challenge

What opportunities have you been offered?

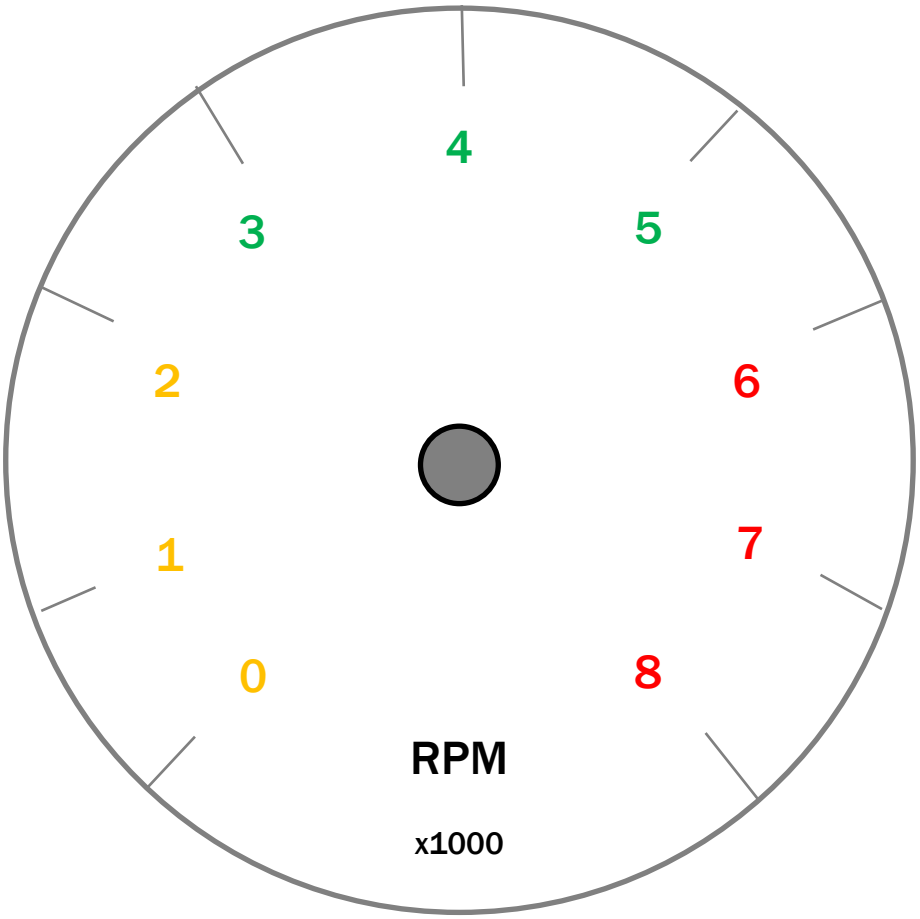
Key Insights

'Everyone was saying that I was doing really well, but something inside me was telling me that my success was putting my own soul in danger.'

Henri Nouwen

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)
Discerning Priorities

How We Can be Challenged



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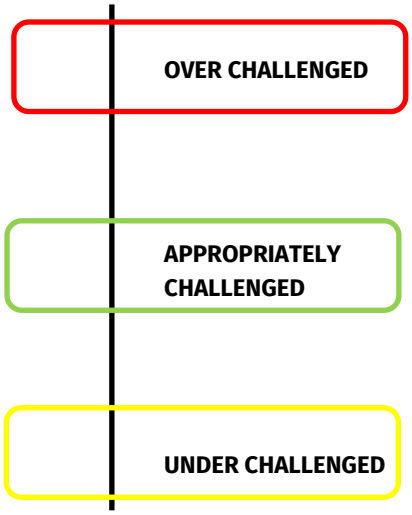
ALP17 Symptoms of different zones of living A3 folded (P:Drive)

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)
Why is Discerning Vision so Important?

What Might Lead You into the Red Zone?

What Might Lead You into Tick-over or blue zone?

Where are You on the Challenge Scale and Why?



Living God's vision

How do we live a Godly life, living in God's vision and journeying with God's priorities?

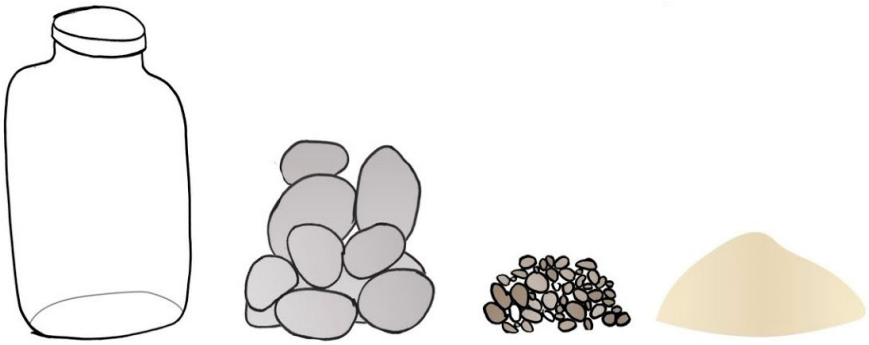
DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)
Protecting Vision

A Personal Vision Statement is...

- 'A tool to help us identify God's priorities for our lives.'

- Developing a personal vision statement is like a compass, it helps give direction.

A Personal Vision helps us focus on our calling...



Key Insights

'The greatest incentive to saying "no" is having an even greater "yes" burning inside you.'
Stephen Covey

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)
What is a Personal Vision Statement?

Five Areas

- Spiritual: how is God calling me to grow in my relationship with him?
- Personal: what areas of my character does God want to develop in me?
- Relational: how does God want me to grow in my relationships?
- Professional: what does God want me to do in my work?
- Physical: how does God want me to take care of my body?

How does it Help?

- Brings direction.
- Clarifies priorities.
- Informs decisions.
- Fuels motivation.
- Strengthens perseverance.
- Guides evaluation.

Key Insights

'Beware of anything that competes with loyalty to Jesus Christ. The greatest competitor of devotion to Jesus is service for him.'

Oswald Chambers

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)
How do we Develop a PVS?

Getting Started

Two problems:

- Getting started.
- Having an idea of the end product.

An Exercise

Choose one of the two options (go with your instinct) and use the five areas listed below to inform the areas you reflect on.

- Personal: what areas of my character does God want to develop in me?
- Relational: how does God want me to grow in my relationships?
- Spiritual: how is God calling me to grow in my relationship with him?
- Professional: what does God want me to do in my work?
- Physical: how does God want me to take care of my body?

A Process

Seek your personal vision through exercising spiritual disciplines.

Sharpen it by capturing it in detail.

Test it by submitting it to others.

Develop it through obedience.

Clarify it through reflection.

Key Insights

'Experience is not what happens to you. It is what you do with what happens to you.'
Aldous Huxley

'Vision for Jesus was seeing how the truth as his Father showed it, touched life as Jesus lived it.'
Leighton Ford

DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)
How do we Develop a PVS? (contd)

Remember

- It comes from the heart.
- We, alone, can make this statement.
- It is radical and compelling.

Common Blockages to Vision

- Too much activity.
- Pressure.
- Poor self concept.
- Fear of failure.
- Forgetting.
- Lack of focus.
- Imbalance.
- Tiredness.

Journal Time

You might find it helpful to reflect on this module using the following.

Write a letter to God about your understanding of his vision for your life. Talk about

- Your hopes.
- Your fears.
- Those things you want to do.
- Those things you want to leave behind.

Draw a picture/sketch.

Write a prayer of offering.

Key Insights

Disturb us, Lord
when we are too well pleased
with ourselves,
when our dreams have come
true
because we have dreamed
too little,
when we arrive safely because
we have sailed too close
to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord,
when with the abundance of
things we possess,
we have lost our thirst for
the waters of life;
when having fallen in love
with life,
we have ceased to dream
of eternity;
when in our effort to build a
new earth,
we have allowed our
vision of the new heaven
to dim.

Disturb us, Lord,
to dare more boldly;
to venture on wider seas
where storms will show
your mastery,
where losing sight of land,
we shall find the stars;
to push back the horizons of
our hopes;
to push in the future in
strength, courage, hope and
love.