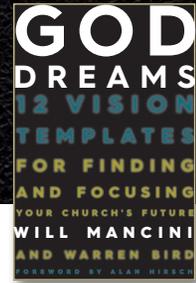


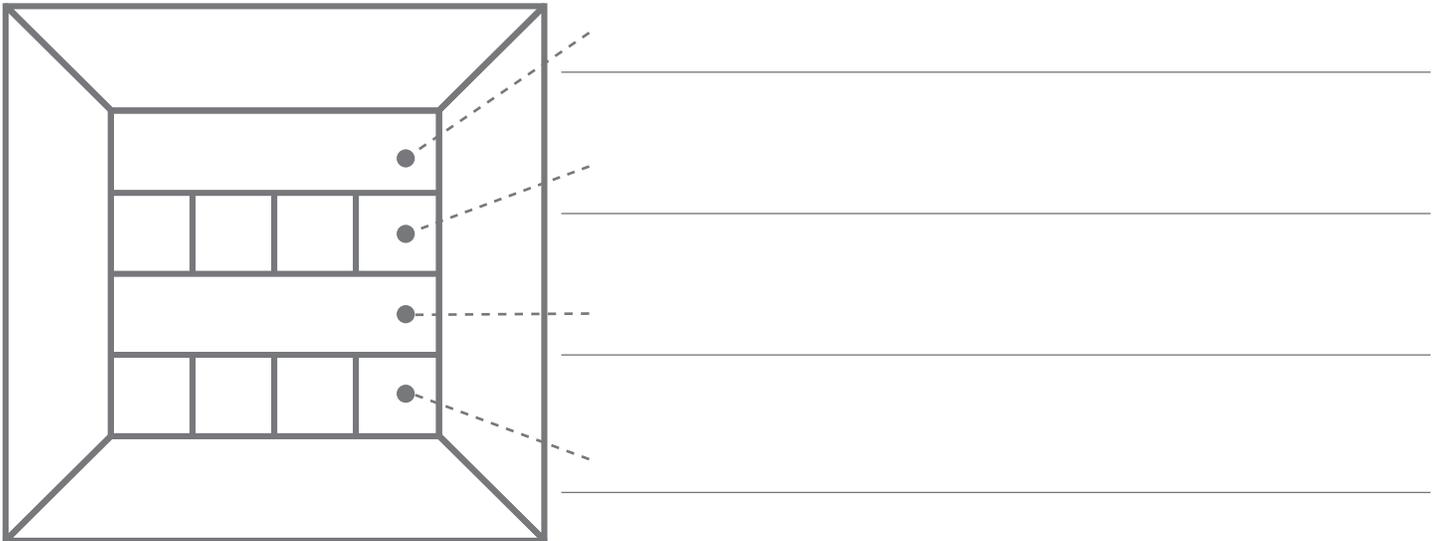


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The Horizon Storyline Overview

Horizon Name/Timeline



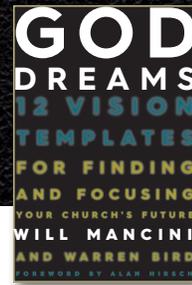
How the Vision Frame and Horizon Storyline Fit Together

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| | | |
| The Vision Frame (Church Identity) | The Horizon Storyline (Church Direction) | The Horizon Storyline is the fullest picture of "Where God is taking us" |





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Horizon Storyline Definitions

Beyond-the-Horizon Vision (5–20 years)

The beyond-the-horizon vision is a vivid picture of a church's future five to twenty years away depending on the life stage and context of the church. It is an aspirational sense of destination and clarifies the church's ultimate contribution for the given time frame. It should build from a singular idea that can be stated as both a sentence and a vivid description narrative. It is primarily qualitative and will have a compelling character that feels almost unbelievable to the listener. The primary benefits include:

- Shapes the destiny of the whole congregation.
- Creates deeper meaning for individuals.
- Cultivates heroic sacrifice among people.
- Guides the development of long-term strategy (background).

Background Vision (1–3 years)

The background vision contains four ideas, primarily qualitative, that clarify the four most strategic emphases in the next three years in order to fulfill the beyond-the-horizon vision. Each emphasis can be stated in one or two sentences. The background vision is not designed to inspire but to clarify. As such the background vision:

- Creates a broad-level road map to approach the future.
- Directs long-term allocation of church resources.
- Limits blind spots that would inhibit progress.
- Provides context for short-range goal setting (midground).

Midground Vision (1 year)

The midground vision is a single emphasis stated as both a qualitative and quantitative goal in the next year. That means the midground or one-year vision should be both an inspiring picture and a measurable number. They accompany each other. Like the beyond the-horizon vision, the midground vision is designed to inspire people and stretch their thinking of what might be possible. It can be stated in one sentence and adapted regularly for communication every day. The midground vision:

- Generates excitement for what God is doing in the next year.
- Focuses the attention, prayers, and resources of the church in a dramatic way.
- Reveals progress for celebration (or recalibration).
- Highlights one shared priority for all ministry areas.
- Cuts through the complexity of life and ministry with one focus.

Foreground Vision (90 days)

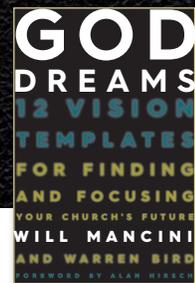
The foreground vision contains up to four specific initiatives that must be started within ninety days, as needed. The foreground initiatives are typically led by crossfunctional staff teams or may be carried by individual ministry departments. Most initiatives support the midground vision directly or indirectly. Think of these as the four most important next steps in order to complete the single, midground vision

- Clarifies weekly action steps and daily priorities for leaders.
- Sequences short-term projects, tasks, and goals.
- Activates the unique gifts and abilities within the body.
- Provides regular, positive accountability for individuals and teams.





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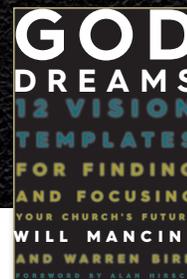
EXAMPLE: The Horizon Storyline of New Urban Church

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---------------|
| Beyond-the-Horizon Vision: | | | | LONG - RANGE |
| <p>A Leadership Centrifuge in the Inner Loop: Ten years from now we will all see a blanket of high-impact missional communities within the inner loop that have become self-sustaining launching pads for entrepreneurial kingdom leaders. We see dozens of these missional campus families ranging from 50 to 150 in worship attendance, whose primary measure of effectiveness is the number of leaders permanently sent out every two years. If the inner loop is small ocean, our missional communities will be a fleet of aircraft carriers deploying missional sorties in our city and all over the world.</p> | | | | |
| Background Vision: | | | | LONG - RANGE |
| <p>Four Campuses: We will multiply from two to four campuses. These will function as a network base of four, strategically located missional-communities of 100+.</p> | <p>Transitioned Funding: We will transition our funding model to move from having outside support that contributes 40% of our operating budget to 20%.</p> | <p>Completed Pipeline: We will complete our leadership development pipeline with a highly functioning leadership culture, including content and systems developed in house.</p> | <p>Stable Core: We will build a stable, leadership team core of forty-eight volunteer or bi-vocational leaders supported by six full time pastors. They will have high awareness of their APEST functions and commitment to our city vision.</p> | |
| Midground Vision: | | | | SHORT - RANGE |
| <p>4-in-4 Salt and Light Living: In one year our eighty mission partners (members), will each build four new relationships for the sake of the gospel every four months. That's twelve new people for every mission partner— 960 people. We dream that God will attract two people for every mission partner permanently to our missional families for total worship addition of 160 people.</p> | | | | |
| Foreground Vision: | | | | SHORT - RANGE |
| <p>New Relationships Training Content: Develop plan to create twelve weeks' worth of preaching, with sermon-based group content and fifty-two weekly digital devotionals.</p> | <p>Loop Groups Revised Strategy: Raise the missional intensity of our Loop Groups by helping leaders embrace a "third-place" meeting location every other week.</p> | <p>Innovative Training Delivery: Embed the necessary life training for the 4-in-4 midground vision into sermons, Loop Groups and online tools.</p> | <p>Story-telling Inspiration: Capture and retell stories of both failure and success, to increase confidence in the gospel and to help the 4-in-4 feel accessible for our people.</p> | |





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Summary Tables from God Dreams

| Five Key Features of the Horizon Storyline | |
|--|--|
| Principles | Benefits |
| 1. How our eyes see different distances (up close and far away) will relate to different time horizons or "distances" into the future. | The linking of long-range and short-range planning. |
| 2. How people long for simplicity to get greater impact with fewer goals. | Focus and enthusiasm with one big goal at a time. |
| 3. How people think differently to create better team synergy. | A combining of inspirational and operational abilities on your team. |
| 4. How the brain works to leverage pictures and numbers. | A meaningful and memorable plan. |
| 5. How we communicate to blend planning and storytelling. | An easy-to-share plan. |

| How the Horizon Storyline Works | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Horizon Storyline | Horizon Name | Time Frame | Long/Short Range | Max # of Ideas |
| | Beyond-the-Horizon Vision | 5-20 years | Long-Range Visionary | 1 |
| | Background Vision | 3 years | Long-Range Strategic | 4 |
| | Midground Vision | 1 year | Short-Range Visionary | 1 |
| | Foreground Vision | 90 days | Short-Range Strategic | 4 |

