



THINK BIG

Think Big

#npbig

Week 1

1 of 1

January 1, 2017

Bottom Line: If you are working with God, plan BIG.

Icebreaker: What's the biggest project you ever tackled? What made it so big?

Key Verse: *God can do anything, you know – far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request, in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around, but by working within us, his spirit, deeply and gently within us. Ephesians 3:20*

The apostle Paul tells us that as believers, we are now officially co-workers with God (1 Corinthians 3:9). Can you imagine? That is a major upgrade in significance for all of us. Think of what He has done throughout history and what He is currently doing. He created the world and is in the process of restoring it. He handcrafted each person and is reshaping those who put their faith in Him into the image of His Son. He is drawing people to faith in Christ, and giving them incredible futures. He is reviving hope, meeting needs, cultivating and supplying resources. He is encouraging and building . . . He is endlessly working for good. If we are working with God, those are our tasks as well.

To work with God, we have to have the same vision He has, dreaming God-sized dreams and setting God-sized goals, doing what He does. The local church, when it is working with God, is the hope of the world. Pastor Dwight said the world needs the church to BE the church – to do what only we can do, not be a cheap imitation of our culture. The church is always the single most effective agent for hope and direction in any political climate, in the midst of racial tension, economic crises, or challenges. As we look out on the world at the start of 2017, most people believe we have come to a pivotal point in human history; a time of great hope and expectation, of breakthrough and innovation, but also of fear and threat and anxiety, of lack of direction. You are the church, I am the church, we are the church. We are being drawn into God's future, being called to work together with him to build his kingdom here and now, to do the redemptive work in this tumultuous world.

We can make God's vision a reality as we plan big. We are working with Someone Who can do anything, you know.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what was most significant and memorable to you?

Dwight said we make God's dream a reality by thinking big, serving big, giving big, praying big, and inviting big.

Which of those excites you most? Which gives you the most anxiety? Why?

"If your vision isn't big enough to scare you, it probably isn't from God." How do you react to that opinion?

How would a deep realization that "I am the Church" help you deal with critical thoughts about the church?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

The "Church" is bigger than NewPointe, but NewPointe is part of the Church. We become part of the Church by receiving Christ as Savior. When did you do that, and become part of the Church? When did you begin to realize you were actually part of history's most significant organization?

When did you identify with the NewPointe arm of the Church? How have you participated in the mission so far that has been particularly satisfying?

What does the Church do that you are proud to share with others?

Pastor Dwight says he believes we are uniquely positioned to make an unbelievable, unprecedented impact on NE Ohio. What would that look like to you?

As you think of the 5 points, what are you willing to do that you have not done before to see results we have not seen before?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Make a mutual prayer list with the names of the persons in whom you will be investing, and then inviting to try NewPointe. Pray together over these until Easter.
2. Doing this together and with each other is the most significant thing we will likely ever do in life: working with God to see His vision for us become reality. Pray that God will keep your vision clear and focused, and that you will be full of faith, bold and risk-taking for His kingdom and the people for whom Christ died.

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: If you are working with God, plan BIG.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Ephesians 3:20

Day 2: Matthew 20:26-28

Day 3: Luke 6:38

Day 4: Jeremiah 33:3

Day 5: Luke 14:23

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)