



2026 ANNUAL VISION | SERIES 1

Series Overview and Guides

JANUARY

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

We create value via God's values.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works."

—Titus 2:14

"It's all what you do
When no one cares
Lord, I'm wondering
If what you're telling me
Is I got work to do
Yes, I got work to do."

—Jim Adkins
Integrity Blues

Premise

why we are studying this

Increasingly, we are noting serious problems in society, including:

- Checking out – quiet quitting, lack of pride in work, divorce, pansy parenting, etc.
- Chaos about right and wrong
- Confusion re: sense of self

Horribly, Christians are not immune to each of these big problems. In fact, these issues are arising with frequency in Christian communities. The problems are related to values. Thankfully, God offers the only viable and valuable solution.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

—Philippians 3:8

In honestly embracing our God-given agency [and] sense of purpose, we'll find ourselves...more in tune with whom God has called us to be vocationally, relationally, and everywhere in between."

—Abby J. Perry
"You Don't Want Work-Life Balance" -
Common Good

Theme

what the study is about

God creates marvelous opportunities for those who trust Jesus.

- We can know ourselves, understanding the calling of God and the glories of sanctification.
- We adopt virtues that come directly from the character of God, living out His values by His empowerment.
- We engage more deeply in creativity of all kinds, creating value in our homes, church, and communities.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope by grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good work and word."

—2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

"Happiness or meaning is only as good as the virtues that inspire and animate them...not merely the thin "character strengths" beloved of much recent psychology, but the more robust excellencies of character captured in the classical conception of a virtue."

—Bendan Case and Tyler Vanderweele
"Only as Good as the Virtue That Inspired It" - *Common Good*



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERIES 7 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL VISION 2026

VALUE

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 1 Peter 2:9-10

KEY IDEAS

SUMMARY

Individuals are chosen, sanctified, purposed, and ultimately judged by the Triune God. It is imperative that we appreciate the wonder and beauty of the value God places on each soul, as our capacity to create value stems directly from our understanding of God-originating value. Somehow, God intricately weaves each individual into the corporate body of Christ – never losing the individual while building the collective. The Christian must grasp this aspect of value as well, lest we falsely see self as the *raison d'être*.

OBJECTIVE

We properly value redeemed self and community.

INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE

"Human flourishing – the individual's maximization of her capabilities, and our collective endeavor to realize the best for humanity as a whole – is at once present-centered, future-oriented, and past dependent."

—David Armitage
History and Human Flourishing

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we value community.

Session 1: Value Who You Are in Jesus

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14.
 - In what ways does Paul describe believers in this passage?
 - What does this passage tell us about how God values his children?
2. Paul calls the believers "beloved by the Lord."
 - How do we know that we are loved by God? (See also Matthew 10:29-31).
3. Paul also calls believers "chosen."
 - What does it mean to be chosen by God?
 - When were you chosen? (see also Ephesians 1:4)
 - Did you do anything to deserve being chosen?
4. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10.
 - What does it mean that believers in Christ are a chosen race? (see also Deuteronomy 7:6-9)
 - What does it mean that believers in Christ are priests? (see also Exodus 19:6)
5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12. Paul says all believers are members of one body.
 - How does this affect how you value other believers?
 - Does this change how you see your place in the body of Christ?

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SERIES 7 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL VISION 2026

VALUE

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:9-21

KEY IDEAS

SUMMARY

Being a Christian, one is automatically incorporated into the universal – or what our ancestors called the *invisible* – body of Christ. As with any place of belonging, there are certain values indicative of the Church. These are not legalisms, as God's values aren't like earthly places. They didn't just develop over time and tradition. They are rooted in His character and are altogether eternal and good. The scripture reveals these values and impresses upon us the importance of living accordingly for optimum flourishing. Each local church also has certain values drawn from scripture and designed for optimum impact in the local context. Members should understand and live out those values as well.

OBJECTIVE

We live by God's values.

DISREGARDING OUR PAST

"We view our past as irrelevant, or we are ignorant of it, or we have an ideological view that the past is inferior to the latest fashionable idea."

—Sarah Irving-Stonebraker
Priests of History: Stewarding the Past in an Ahistoric Age

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that our community would be characterized by brotherly love.

Session 2: Live Wisely According to God's Values

1. Read Romans 12:9-21 and identify the commands in the passage.
 - What do these commands teach us about God's values and living in community?
 - If we are to live by God's values, how are we to take on His character?
2. Read Romans 12: 9-10 and Romans 8:28-30.
 - What are some practical ways we can cling to what is good (v. 10)?
 - How can we have love that is pure and deep and that honors one another?
 - How does our culture's definition of "good" erode love in the body of Christ?
3. Read Romans 12:11-12.
 - What does it mean to be diligent in zeal, fervent in spirit?
 - Does it help to focus on serving Jesus in everything we do?
 - Share about a time that you have rejoiced in hope, been patient in affliction, or persisted in prayer.
4. Read Romans 12:13-21.
 - Discuss ways that evil can be conquered by good. What does it mean to "bless" those who persecute you?
 - How can we instill these practices and values in our church community, not just individually? Consider the following verses: Philippians 2:16; Ephesians 4:15; Ephesians 4:2-3; 4:12 and Deuteronomy 6:6-7.
 - What might God be calling you to do this week to respond differently to circumstances in your life?



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SERIES 7 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL VISION 2026

VALUE

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 4:7-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

KEY IDEAS

SUMMARY

We are called by God to create value; what some call "add to the common good." It seems the Christian contribution includes common good, but it is much more. We create value that stretches beyond the material and immediate. In fact, Christians are expressly shown how to create lasting value even under hostile conditions with limited resources. It's hard work, but empowered by God, the results are worth the struggle.

OBJECTIVE

We create value.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE?

"The thing about human beings... is that we don't have work and life as though the two can be extracted from each other, or as though they are equal but separate parts of what it is to be human. In other words, each person has, obvious as it may seem, one life."

Work is part of it, not separate from it."

Abby J. Perry

"You Don't Want Work-Life Balance" -
Common Good

PRAYER

Pray for each other, that we would create value for God's glory.

Session 3: Create Value

1. Read 1 Peter 4:7-11 and identify the specific commands and exhortations in the passage.
 - How does following these commands contribute to the common good?
2. Read 1 Peter 4:7.
 - What does it mean to be "sober and disciplined" in prayer (v. 7)?
 - Why is this important in view of Christ's imminent return?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:8-9.
 - How can we maintain love and hospitality for others (v. 8-9)?
 - How can we be hospitable without complaining?
4. Read 1 Peter 4:10-11.
 - Why is it important that we use the gifts that God provides?
 - Share how God has strengthened you to serve?
5. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12. Believers are instructed to lead quiet rather than frantic lives, and to "mind their own business."
 - What strategies help you follow these principles?
 - Share about a time when these principles were not followed. What was the result?
 - How do these behaviors create value?
6. Review the annual vision on Page 1 of this packet.
 - What do you hope to learn in the series?
 - How can you help each other create value for God's glory?