

## IG 3 Vision

### TLDR:

For our IG, we desire to create a loving and welcoming environment where we are able to see and experience God's love through the love we show one another, as well as to help each other grow in our faith journeys by creating a space where we can respond to God, and seek to live out what He reveals to us in His Word.

### Encountering God Through Community

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to **love** and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)*

Throughout the Bible, God frequently reveals Himself through the care and love shown by individuals and in community, whether it was Philip helping the Ethiopian eunuch come to faith by helping him understand Scripture (Acts 8:26-39), or the apostles helping meet each other's needs by sharing their belongings (Acts 2:45). Hence, we want our IG to be a place where people can encounter God through the love, compassion, and hospitality that we show to others, regardless of where they are on their faith journey or where they stand with faith in general.

One way we can do this is by encouraging transparency between the IG members, which in turn fosters trust and allows us to more effectively care for each other, further demonstrating God's love through the ways in which he builds up our community. As well, we can see how God is at work in each of our individual lives, and let every person be seen and heard, as every individual is only part of a loving community in as much as they are valued by it.

Another way we can help people experience God through community is by establishing an understanding and responsive environment that welcomes questions, doubts and discussions. We can see in the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch how God uses people to help each other with obstacles they encounter on their faith journey. Thus, we want to create an open space for us to talk about questions or doubts about faith and how we ought to respond to the things we encounter in life.

### How To Implement This:

- Organize weekly IG study sessions
- Schedule one-on-one meals or meet-ups with the members later in the year
- Make an effort to show up to school events the members are involved in
- Remain in regular contact with the IG, text, call, etc, to show attentive care to their general and spiritual well-being

### Applying Our Bible Study

*“For the word of God is **living and active**, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)*

One of the parts of our weekly Bible studies is application of what God reveals to us through His Word. This can often be overlooked when we focus too much on “what does this mean”, rather than “what does this mean TO ME”. What makes Bible study different from a literature study is that we seek to have what we learn to impact our relationship with God and with others. We want our IG to be a place where people can respond to God by **living out what we learn** in His Word, growing together in our faith as a community. God’s word should be living and active in our lives, constantly driving us to pursue Him deeper and seek to live in a way that glorifies Him. So, every time we do Bible study, we should encourage each other to take what we have learned and live it out in our personal lives and in our interactions within our IG.

To do this, we want to increase our focus on the **application portion** of our Bible studies, seeking to have each person find a “take-home point” that can call us to action and change something about the way we live. We will make sure that there is always adequate time allotted for us to talk about how we will apply what we’ve learned. In addition, we can regularly share with each other about how we are doing in terms of following through with our calls to action. For example, if someone was called to be more loving with their words, they can share about how God has been helping them throughout the week. Ultimately, we don’t want our Bible studies to have no bearing on our relationship with God and our relationships with others.