



— The Call to Dream Again —

Matthew 22 Small Group Plan

Read through again the dangerous assumptions that were presented Sunday that are often made by contemporary churches.

1. **“My church exists to serve me and people like me”** This creates a clubhouse where Christians hang out with people who think, dress, behave, vote, and believe like them.
2. **“Most people still regularly attend church”** Recent research shows that the percentage of Americans who regularly attend church is 18.7%
3. **“Young folks will come back to church once they learn to enjoy what we offer”** Many churches ignore statistics that youth have left and naively wait for them to return.
4. **“I know a lot of churches in my city that are really growing”** Research shows that with rare exceptions mega-churches grow by cannibalizing smaller churches.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Which of these assumptions seems to you to be especially dangerous?
- How can “dreaming” together help us to move past these assumptions to real growth?

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no vision, the people perish (KJV)

If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves (Message)

- Why will God's people “perish” or “stumble” without vision?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— PASSION FOR GOD —

Matthew 22:37-38

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your mind.

³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

- What is Jesus trying to communicate by listing heart, soul, and mind?
- Why does he call this the “first” and “greatest” of the commandments?
- What helps you and prevents you from Reaching Up to experience God?

— **COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE** —

Matthew 22:39-40

³⁹ And the second is like it:
Love your neighbor as yourself.
⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets
hang on these two commandments.”

- Since Jesus is only asked one question, why does he volunteer two answers?
- What is the right and wrong way to “love ... yourself”?
- How do you respond to the following short poem?

*To live above with the God we love,
that would be grace and glory.
But to live below with the ones we know,
well ... that's another story.*

- How would you describe the difficulty we sometimes have with our “neighbors” both “In” and “Out” of God’s family?
- How have you experienced the power of Reaching In?
- Who Reached Out to you? How did they do it? What was their manner and attitude?
- Is Reaching Out difficult for you? Why or why not?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- How do “All the Law and the Prophets” (v. 40), all of God’s will, “hang on” (depend on, are summed up by) these two commands?
- As we enter into a time of ministry dreaming, which is most exciting for you to think about, Reaching Up, Reaching In, or Reaching Out? Explain.
- Of the three, which might be the most difficult for you to dream about? Why?
- Pray for our vision. Pray for our dreaming. Pray for unity, conviction, change and renewal.