



## ***Sojourn Galleria Vision Frame***

### **Mission**

We exist to enjoy Jesus and join Him in the renewal of all things.

- As a neighborhood church our focus is Houston's Galleria area, the geography God has planted us in (Acts 17:26).

### **Vision**

To see the gospel become unignorable in Houston's Galleria area.

3 year vision:

1. Identify and train leaders to multiply 10 parishes into unreached geographies, at least one of which is in an apartment complex
2. 180 people in 60 D-groups (this year: 33 people in 9 groups, year 2: 75 people in 25 groups)
3. Every member: (1) Enjoying Jesus in daily personal time with Him in his word and prayer (2) In a D-group (3) Engaged in BLESS 30 (4) Sharing the gospel with at least 1 person/week (5) Equipped for workplace ministry (6) Using spiritual gifts(s)
4. Every parish running a monthly outreach event
5. Investing at least 20% of income into plants and partnerships
6. In a building in the Galleria area that we share during the week with other for profit and not-for-profit businesses

### **Values**

Enjoy Jesus. Love neighbor. Prioritize prayer and gospel proclamation.

Multiply disciples. Care for the poor.

1. Enjoy Jesus. The Westminster divines began their Larger Catechism with the question, "What is the chief and highest end of man?" They answered, "Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy Him forever." The point of life is to glorify God *by* enjoying Him. That can only happen through the Person and work of Jesus, God's Son He sent to save and reconcile us to His Father. Jesus is not just our Savior. He is also the Creator and King. The point of life is to enjoy Him in everything we do.
2. Love neighbor. We are made to love God with our whole selves – heart, mind, strength. Because God made us in His image, when we love the person in front of us, it is like loving Him. We are called not only to love our neighbor but to love our neighbor as ourselves. This means that it is impossible to put too much effort into caring for those around us. We want to prioritize this in our life together

in the Galleria, with our immediate neighbors and with the nations around us. They are also next door. The world is at our doorstep.

3. Prioritize prayer and gospel proclamation. Jesus reminds us, "My house shall be a house of prayer." Prayer should be the beating heart of the church, its nucleus. It is the engine of the early church in the Book of Acts. It powers their clear, bold, and frequent proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ crucified and risen. These are the two things the apostles prioritize (Acts 6:4), and they will be priorities for us.
4. Multiply disciples. Having won all authority, Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:18-20). We don't just want to make disciples but to make disciples who go on to make disciples. We seek not addition but exponential multiplication for the saturation of the Galleria with the glory of God. Furthermore, our Lord made clear that discipleship is not aimed merely at conversion but at whole person transformation by commanding his followers to teach others to obey "everything I have commanded you." The whole counsel of God, from Genesis to Revelation, makes the whole Christian. The whole Bible is our training manual for making fully mature disciples of Jesus Christ.
5. Care for the poor. God has a special heart for the poor and vulnerable. You have to be poor to enter the kingdom, to realize you have nothing of value to offer God (Matt 5:3). We all stand before God impoverished. But the good news is that he who was rich became poor that we who are poor might become rich with his riches (2 Cor 8:9). This is the great exchange. Jesus took our sin and death upon himself on the cross and gave us his life (2 Cor 5:21). Jesus also chose to be born poor and to live poor. In his life and death Jesus identified with the poor in most profound ways. So should we.

### **Strategy**

Enjoy Jesus, make disciples, multiply parishes, plant churches, partner strategically

*Enjoy Jesus*

1. George Mueller said, "The first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day is to have my soul happy in the Lord." We were created by God to enjoy God, one another, and all creation and are able to do this by being brought back into right relationship with God through the work of His only Son Jesus. All our good

works, evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and service are rooted in and grow out of this enjoyment, made possible through his work, not ours. To quote G. K. Chesterton, “Joy is the uproarious labour by which all things live.” It is a chief mark of the Christian, and it comes from Christ by His Spirit.

#### *Make Disciples*

1. Evangelism (BLESS 30)
  - a. Every member makes and maintains a list of 30 people in their lives who are far from God. We pray for them, love them, and share the gospel with them word and deed. We B.L.E.S.S. them (**B**egin with prayer, **L**isten, **E**at with them, **S**erve them, **S**hare Jesus thru our story).
2. Discipleship (D-groups of 2-5 max)
  - a. D-groups are a discipleship tool we encourage every member to utilize. They help us grow in our walk with God and invite others to walk with us as we walk with Him. Groups consist of 2-5 believers and last about a year.
3. Leadership Development (clear pathways to leadership)
  - a. The goal of our pastors is not to do the ministry but to equip the saints for the work of the ministry (Eph 4.11-12). The goal is to train and release every member of Jesus’ body for active participation in His mission of disciple-making.

#### *Multiply Parishes*

1. The neighborhood parish is a smaller expression of the larger family of God at Sojourn Galleria, the primary place of family gatherings where the lost get a taste of the family that God has created.
2. Parishes meet in homes, consist of ~10-20 adults plus children, and prioritize proximity (your parish should consist mainly of those you live close to). Our goal is to have a parish on every block, to saturate our geography with gospel presence. Parishes meet at minimum weekly to share a meal, open God’s word together, and pray with and for each other, our city, and our world. We gather to scatter as salt and light into an insipid, dark world, holding out the hope of the gospel in Jesus Christ.
3. As with disciples, the goal with parishes is to mature and multiply them.
4. Goal: 1 parish for every 1000 people in an area. We are aiming for 200 parishes minimum in our larger Galleria geography.

#### *Plant Churches*

1. Our church-planting is driven and “fed” by disciple-making. We look not to gather a group of Christ-followers and start a Sunday service but to proclaim the gospel among the lost, calling them to follow Christ. Once enough disciples are made, and those disciples are making disciples, Sunday services will be considered. In short, we want church planting to be fed by gospel proclamation and disciple-making. This should prove integral to the life of the church for its entire life-span, not just at its infancy.
2. Sojourn Galleria cares deeply about our neighbors, but we also desire to see the gospel go forth in Houston and around the world. Therefore, we will seek to raise up leaders and teams who are willing to move their families wherever the Lord calls them to plant new churches. Our primary focus will be saturation of the Galleria and surrounding regions, but we also aim to send and support church plants into other parts of our city and world.

#### *Partner Strategically*

1. God’s heart for the downtrodden and shoved-aside leavens the pages of Scripture: Israel were slaves; so were all God’s children (Deut 5.15, Rom 6.17). He who was rich became poor that we who were poor might become rich with his riches (2 Cor 8.9). God has a special love for the poor, oppressed, and marginalized. We should too. Therefore we will actively pursue relationships with those in need. We will share the gospel with them, love them, serve them, and invite them into our life together as a family of God.
2. We will also partner with those loving the poor in the Galleria, in Houston, and around the world. We pour our time, energy, and money into these pursuits.