

“The MEFC 2020 Vision 2 Years In...”:
Looking Backward → Looking Forward
Sermon Notes

- **The mission of Mound Evangelical Free Church is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ** (Mark 1:17)

**Therefore, our 2020 Vision is...*

To glorify God as a gospel-centered church family that celebrates, demonstrates, and communicates the good news of Jesus Christ among all people by...

- **Baptizing 50 new believers** (Romans 10:1; Acts 2:37-41)
- **Welcoming 40 covenant members** (1 John 4:7-12)
- **Raising up 15 reproducing leaders** (2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 2:3-5)
- **Launching 10 community groups** (Acts 2:42-47)
- **Establishing the Harbor Center for Biblical Counseling with 5 certified counselors** (Colossians 2:3-4, 8-10)
- **Commissioning 2 families for global missions** (Rev. 5:9)
- **Planting 1 church** (Acts 13:1-3)

How can I be a part of this?

- ✓ **Pray** for and **pursue** your ‘List of 5’ with abandon
- ✓ **Invite** folks on your 'List of 5' into your home, community group, our Wednesday evening meal, our counseling ministries, and Sunday morning worship gatherings
- ✓ **Ask** the Lord about your **next step** in our vision

Next Week: Luke 2:22-40 - “Waiting for the Consolation of Israel”

Community Group Study Guide
For the Week of January 8th – 14th

The MEFC 2020 Vision

*In many English translations, Proverbs 29:18 says something along these lines: “Where there is no vision, the people perish...”. This passage is often marshalled by well-intended Christian leaders to point to the importance of casting a compelling vision statement for the local church. While this is certainly a vital aspect of organizational leadership, Proverbs 29:18 has precious little to do with casting 21st century vision statements. The ESV captures the nuance of this verse aptly with its translation: “Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint...”. Clearly the verse, then, is about the importance of divine revelation for the life, health, encouragement of God’s people. Nevertheless, vision (in our sense of the word) is absolutely critical for us. Proverbs refers to this as “planning”. The following Bible study is designed as a companion to our **2020 Vision**. Take some time on your own, with your family, or in your community group to work through these questions and see just how essential vision (i.e. “plans”) is to the mission God has given us.*

Getting Started

1. An old adage says ‘if you fail to plan you’re planning to fail’. Another way of saying this is that ‘if we aim at nothing as a congregation we will undoubtedly hit it’. What do you think? Agree or disagree? Why?

Digging Deeper

2. What do you believe are the benefits of our church pursuing this five-year plan (our 2020 Vision)? What are the costs? Can you think of any cautions? Discuss these things as a group.

Open Your Bible to Proverbs 16:1...

3. The first thing the Book of Proverbs would want to point out to us as a congregation is that God is the one who is absolutely sovereign over our plans (i.e. our 2020 Vision). Take some time to read through the following verses: Proverbs 16:1, 9, 33; 19:21; 20:24. From the steps of our feet to the roll of the dice, the Bible teaches that God is sovereign over it all. How does that make you feel? How ought these truths both comfort and counsel us as we chase our vision? How does this also provide perspective for us as we consider our accomplishments thus far?

4. Proverbs also repeatedly reminds us that we ought to enlist wise counselors to help us plan. Read through the following scriptures: Proverbs 11:4; 12:5; 12:20a; 14:22a; 15:22; 20:18; 24:6). The careful development of the 2020 Vision at Mound Free Church has included contributions from your current pastors and elders, former beloved leaders, and even the leadership of the North Central District of the EFCA. How does *this* make you feel?

Not only was this vision developed with the input of wise leaders with care, it was also realized through much *patience*. What does Proverbs say about the importance of not planning in haste? Discuss the following verses: Proverbs 6:16a, 18b; 21:5b; 24:27.

5. At a couple of key points, Proverbs urges us to *pray* about our plans. Read Proverbs 3:5-6 and 16:3. The MEFC 2020 Vision has been (and continues to be) the subject of deliberate and focused prayer over the course of several years among our leaders and church members. Look back at our seven goals in the 2020 Vision. How many of these would benefit from our earnest and faith-filled prayers as a congregation over the next three years? Will you commit personally to praying for this vision?

6. Proverbs clearly would have some cautions for us as we plan and cast this vision. Perhaps it goes without saying, but whatever else we plan to do – we must never plan to sin. Take a look at Proverbs 6:16a and 18a. Just to be clear these verses say: “...the LORD hates...a heart that devises wicked plans...”. This is serious business. While our 2020 Vision is certainly made up of holy desires prompted by good and godly motives, it also true that even righteous desires can become wicked ones. For example, the 2020 Vision could become an idol that replaces the Lord himself. You know you have an idol on your hands when you want something so bad you’ll sin or in order to get it, or sin if you don’t get it. Though perhaps it sounds far-fetched, how might we be tempted to sin in order to accomplish our 2020 Vision? On the other hand, how might we be tempted to sin if we *don’t* realize our vision?

7. Maybe especially for 21st Americans more than most, God’s word entreats us to be humble about our plans. Proverbs 27:1 says: “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.” What sorts of potential stumbling blocks for pride does the 2020 Vision present our congregation? How can we guard ourselves against such temptations? (*Hint*: If you’d like some help, see question #3).

8. Finally, Proverbs also addresses the key role that good old fashioned follow-through plays in planning. Read Proverbs 21:5a and 24:10. It’s the plans of the *diligent* after all that lead to abundance (not the quitter, the lazy or the lethargic). Why are these virtues (determination, fortitude, etc.) important as we pursue our 2020 Vision? How are we doing in this area? What portions of the 2020 Vision are receiving the most follow-through? How might we be more deliberate *today* about what needs to be done in order to realize our goals by January of 2020?

Bonus Question: On a scale of 1 to 10 how *pumped* are you about MEFC’s 2020 Vision? Why?