



## **“The Call to Dream Again”**

***DREAMPOWER***

### **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.”** Thinking like this transforms the Church of Christ into 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 wake up and come back to church once they learn to enjoy what we offer.”** Many churches have written off statistics that younger people 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 race exception the “growth” of mega-churches is from cannibalization of smaller membership churches.

### **OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- Which of these assumptions seems especially dangerous to us?
- Would you say that these assumptions spring from more of a passive viewpoint or an active viewpoint? Explain.
- How can active “dreaming” together help us to move forward, past these and other assumptions?

**Proverbs 29:18**

**KJV**

*Where there is no vision,  
the people perish*

**The Message**

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

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

## LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

### **PASSION FOR GOD**

**Matthew 22:37-38**

<sup>37</sup> *Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, and with all your mind.*

<sup>38</sup> *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 to Reach Up and experience God?
- What is your greatest obstacle?

### **COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE**

**Matthew 22:39-40**

<sup>39</sup> *And the second is like it:*

*Love your neighbor as yourself.*

<sup>40</sup> *All the Law and the Prophets  
hang on these two commandments."*

- Since Jesus is only asked for the greatest commandment, why does he volunteer a second?
- What is the right and wrong way to "love ... yourself"?
- Consider 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, their spirit, and their 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 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?

- Of the three, which might be the most difficult for you to dream about? Why?
- Pray for our vision. Pray for our time of dreaming. Pray for unity, conviction, change, and renewal.