

OUR VISION FRAME

Two Parts: Identity then Direction

When we think of mission and vision, we should think in terms of two sequential parts. First is **Identity** (*who we are*) and then from that flows **Direction** (*where we're going*).



This is also how biblical discipleship works.

1. We're given a new identity in Christ.
2. THEN our direction of life (our behavior) flows from that identity.

The book of Ephesians is a great case study of this. The first 3 chapters are identity, then chapters 4 through 6 are directional... 4:1 begins, "*I therefore (in light of your **identity** in Christ)...urge you to walk (**direction**) in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.*"

When discipleship is done in the reverse order it's religion—"*Do this activity (#2) and you'll achieve this identity (#1)*".

Healthy churches understand discipleship in the right order, but when it comes to their vision and missional direction as a church, there is a temptation to go all-in on activity (Direction) without ever taking time to understand who they are (Identity). As a result they spin their wheels and frustration looms. The same is true for any organization, not just churches. A clear identity yields meaningful direction. First identity, *then* direction.

OUR VISION FRAME = OUR UNIQUE IDENTITY

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What is a 'Vision Frame'?

A "Vision Frame" is simply a metaphor we use to understand mission and vision.

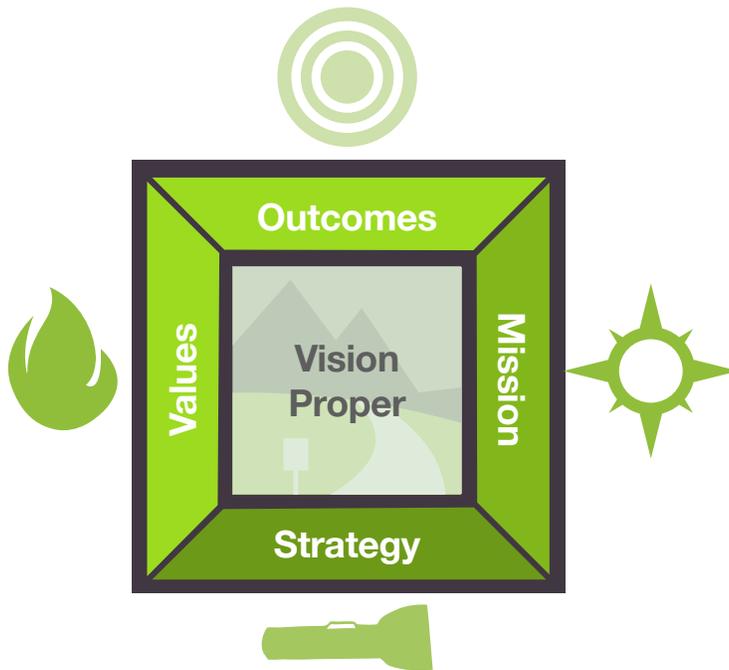
As you're reading this, look around the room you're currently sitting in. Chances are there's a picture frame somewhere. It likely has four sides to it that frame up and focus your attention on the photo or image inside of it. That's exactly what our Vision Frame does, it frames up our vision and focusses our attention.

Our Vision Frame Consists of 5 Parts:

Think of it like the 4 sides of a picture frame, plus the picture in the middle.

(Compare this list with the list under point 5 on Page 5.)

1. **Our Mission** — *This is what we do.*
2. **Our Values** — *This is why we do it.*
3. **Our Strategy** — *This is how we do it.*
4. **Our Outcomes** — *This is who we're becoming.*
5. **Our Vision Proper** — *This is where God is taking us.*



We are sent

to love people and invite them
to follow Jesus with us.

OUR MISSION

We are sent to love people
and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

This is our mission as a church. *It's what we do.*

We love, we invite, we follow Jesus, and we do it together.

This is the mission of every ministry at Wawasee Bible.

We are sent

Our God is a "Missionary" God—A *sending* God. When you hear the word "missionary" your first thought might not be of yourself. But the truth is that if you've become a Christian, then you have been sent by Jesus with a mission—which by definition makes *you* a missionary! In John 17:18 Jesus prayed for you in the garden, saying, "*As you, Father, sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.*" — So where have you been sent? To your home, your neighborhood, your job, wherever you go... Let's keep going to see what you've been sent to do.

to love people

As a Christian, you have been sent to love people. Jesus commanded us in Mark 12:28-31 to love God and to love others. What does it mean to love people? Paul says in 1 Corinthians 16:14, "*Let all that you do be done in love.*" Often times it's kindness or an action where I put the needs of someone else, sometimes even their desires and longings, ahead of my own. Sometimes loving people is being truthful with them, not enabling their destructive tendencies. We could talk about loving people for a long time, but there's more to our mission.

and invite them

Our interaction with people should involve more than just loving them. We must invite them. Not condemn them, but love them and invite them. Salvation in Jesus Christ is an invitation that is offered to us, and one we must offer to others. Who invited you to follow Jesus? Who have you invited to follow Jesus? This is evangelism. Inviting someone means I must speak to them, befriend them, and invite them in love. Maybe the invitation begins with asking them over to your home or taking them out for dinner, maybe it's inviting them to church with you, but ultimately we want to invite them to follow Jesus.

to follow Jesus

This is inviting them to repent of their sin and turn in saving faith to Jesus! And then to follow him. To "obey all that he has commanded us"—to love God and love others.

with us.

This part of the mission is huge. We're not designed to go through life alone. We need others. This is discipleship, doing life together, worshipping together, following Jesus together as we grow to be like him!



Our Mission is the **guiding compass** of our church. It answers the question, "*What are we ultimately supposed to be doing?*" It gives our church unquestionable direction and points everyone in the same way.

For this reason, **every** ministry at Wawasee Bible shares the same mission.

There's no romance given to the idea that Men should have their own statement, or Outreach, or Kids Ministry... The only difference is the word "people" is occasionally shifted to "men", "women", "kids", "seniors", etc.

Our Mission is **what we do.**

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

youareloved.church

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OUR VALUES

The following five values are things you'll find to be true about Wawasee as you spend time with us.

Our five Core Values inform *why* we pursue our mission. These are the values of *every* ministry at Wawasee Bible.



1. It's All About Jesus!

It's all about Jesus and he must be first in everything. Jesus is the Senior Pastor of the Church and we're here to serve, love, exalt, and enjoy him! Our lives are to be all about Jesus. Creation is all about Jesus. The Church is all about Jesus. Salvation is all about Jesus. **It is ALL about Jesus!**



2. God Wrote it All Down

God wrote a book and he has revealed everything we need to know about him and salvation in the Bible. In addition, written in the Bible is everything we need to successfully live the Christian life and have joy! We are to believe God's Word in all that it teaches, obey it in all it requires, and trust it in all that it promises.



3. All People Matter

The Bible is clear that all people matter to God; therefore, all people must matter to us. No matter their age, skin color, status, intellect—all people bear God's image and matter to God. No matter who they are, where they're from, what they've done, or what's been done to them—there is no one we would not love and invite to follow Jesus with us!



4. We All Need Friends

There's one aspect of bearing God's image that is impossible for us to do by ourselves: We cannot image his relational nature without being involved in community. We were not designed to go through life alone. In fact, God created us lacking and needing relationship, even before the Fall. It is by his design that we all need friends!



5. No Sacred Cows

Jesus is sacred. God's Word is sacred. But our opinions and traditions and preferences are not. Therefore we hold everything other than God and his Word in an open hand (with a loose grip), and are willing to let it go for the sake of the Gospel. We are committed to having no "sacred cows".

One memorization help built into our language here is the word "All". The word "All" appears in each value—except for number 5, because there are no sacred cows—including the word "All"!



Our Values are the **motivational flame** of our church. They are the shared convictions that guide our actions and reveal our strengths. Values answer, "Why do we do what we do at our church?" They are springboards for daily action and filters for decision-making.

People coming to Wawasee Bible will encounter the atmosphere that is shaped by values before they hear the values themselves. Ideally, values will define the experience for an attendee before they are a conscious thought. Values are "what Joe feels" at the church.



OUR STRATEGY



Gather.



Grow.



Go!

This is your Pathway at Wawasee.

We want every person at Wawasee to Gather, Grow, and Go.

If you're wanting to connect and thrive at Wawasee Bible this is your pathway.

Every ministry at Wawasee Bible fits in one of these 3 categories.

We talk about our strategy as the **Pathway** for everyone at Wawasee Bible. In a nutshell, it's this...

We want everyone who calls Wawasee Bible home to do 3 things:

1 | Gather. **Show up** on Sunday mornings and gather regularly with us!

The first thing we want each person at Wawasee Bible to do is to Gather. We want you to connect and attend regularly on Sunday mornings so that you are part of a community. Hebrews 10 encourages us toward this end:

*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** (ESV)*

This short passage exhorts us to gather so that we can encourage one another, stirring each other up to live out our mission of loving people, doing good in Jesus's name. And it's all the more important as we get closer to Jesus's return!

2 | Grow. Don't just show up, **grow up** spiritually.

Next, we want you to connect to a ministry at Wawasee Bible where you will Grow. Examples include a Life Group, Thrive, Forge, and others. Don't just show up (Gather), grow up (Grow)!

The primary place for this is a Life Group. But each of these ministries help you grow in the knowledge of Jesus and his Word, and in relationship with other Christians. By God's design you need *both* to grow spiritually.

3 | Go! **Go give and serve** somewhere!

*Contribute **as much or more than** you consume.* A great place to start is serving within Wawasee Bible on a ministry team. Other opportunities include serving in the community through Harvest Coffee or Harvest With a Heart, Habitat, or going on a short-term missions trip like the trips we take to India. Find a place to serve! If you only consume and never contribute, Wawasee Bible will never feel like family.

Think of our strategy (Your Pathway) as a **flashlight**, showing you where to go at Wawasee Bible.



Our Strategy is the process or **pathway** that shows how we will accomplish our mission on the broadest level. Strategy answers, "*How do we do what we do?*" It is a **flashlight** that shows new people clear next steps. It also sets the expectation of involvement for all members.

Our strategy is like a container that holds all of our church activities in one meaningful whole. Without this, individuals within Wawasee will forget how each component fits into the

mission. They will be lost in a programmatic soup of good, but random activity. Or activity that serves a leader's mission/agenda, not our church's.

Think of strategy as a **pattern of participation**. It reveals places and rhythms of being involved. It is our church's operational logic. It shows how every major environment (time and place at church) is a part of a discipleship pathway. Strategy is the missional map or "where Joe goes" at Wawasee Bible.



OUR OUTCOMES

This is who we hope you become at Wawasee.

This is "how we know we're doing it". At our Elder Retreat in March 2023 we worked to re-articulate this side of the frame better. We're still working on the language, but the concepts will be represented visually with 5 arrows. **Here are the high-level summary ideas:**

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...



1 | Receiving From God.

Am I reading the Word regularly?
When am I gathering regularly to hear the Word taught?
What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?



2 | Responding To God.

How am I talking to and listening to God regularly?
When am I repenting of my sin?
Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?



3 | Receiving From Others.

Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?



4 | Moving Toward Others.

How and where am I *contributing* to and *initiating* community with other Christians in our church? (*Or am I only consuming?*)



5 | Going to those who are far from God.

How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them and sharing God's Story and my own story?
When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story?
Who is on my PEARL list?

Think of these outcomes as our **target**. They apply to a believer at any stage of maturity, from a brand new Christian to one who's been walking with Jesus for 40 years. They should be growing in each of these five areas, and see progress in their spiritual journey in all of them.



Our Outcomes are the attributes or characteristics of an individual's life that reflect the achievement of our mission. These outcomes answer the question, "When are we successful?" Outcomes are visualized as hitting the **bull's eye**. Ideally, everything in the church is designed around hitting the same target.

The outcomes are also called missional life-marks. Think of them as our church's portrait of a disciple. They provide the standard by which the

mission can be measured with respect to an individual's development through the ministry of the church.

Leaders at every level should know the outcomes because every ministry environment and all teaching content is designed to help shape these outcomes in the lives of their people. Outcomes are "who Joe becomes" at the church.



WHY IT MATTERS

Here's what's at stake...

If our Ministry Leaders do not personally have a crystal clear understanding and internalization of our Vision Frame (our unique identity), they will lead in directions that are askew to who we are as a local church and a few things will begin to happen (with multiplied impact over time).

Here's a few...

1. **They will lead people toward a vision that is not aligned with who we are as a church, and frustration, friction, and conflict will arise.**

(Much more so in 5 years than 5 weeks from now.) The sneaky part of this is that it won't be intentional, but it will absolutely happen.

2. **They will communicate our mission/values/strategy/outcomes either with the wrong (confusing) language, or in a way that misguides the true intent of it.**

Here's one example... Let's say a leader understands "All People Matter" as a reaction to "Black Lives Matter". *(By the way, it's not. We crafted the language for our values over a 6-month process in 2016.)*

But if someone *thinks* it is, they might use one of our values (*that no matter who someone is, the color of their skin, their intellect, their age, their gender, their ethnicity, what they've done, what's been done to them, etc — that they matter to God and so they must matter to us*) as a weapon against "wokeism". That's not the origin, intent, or right use of that value.

If our leaders don't understand that, then instead of leading people toward loving and serving people (part of our mission), they'll lead them toward a culture war. **That would be an epic fail!**

In the same way, if they do not know it, and how to articulate and defend it — they cannot confront the times when it might be mis-used or misinterpreted by others, and suddenly we begin unintentionally sewing seeds of discord that grow into weeds of conflict down the road.

3. **They will find themselves frustrated with those they try to lead who HAVE fully embraced our Vision Frame, as they'll be speaking a language that's contrary to who those people know our church to be.**