



## HIS Small Group Study Guide – You Are A Visionary

A visionary is someone with a strong vision of the future. It seems like a title reserved for a select few: people like Walt Disney, George Lucas, Brian Houston, Steve Jobs, or Nelson Mandela, **but I believe every born again believer can live in such a way that “visionary” will come up at some point during their eulogy.**

God was a visionary. He envisioned the sky with its clouds, moon, stars, and sun. He envisioned the sea with its white waves, jellyfish, and coral. He envisioned the giraffe with its giant spots, extra-long eyelashes and black tongue. **And He envisioned you.**

**Psalm 139:15-16** *Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, the days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day.*

Before you took your first breath, God had a strong vision for your future. He is a visionary, and **because His very Spirit lives in you, you are a visionary.**

Don't scoff. Quit inwardly rolling your eyes. **I know you may not feel like a visionary, but if that's the case, it's only because you've never identified with that part of**

**your spiritual DNA.** You were created to have a strong vision of your future, the good hope-filled future that God has prepared for you.

Last October Josh and I were headed to Birmingham, Alabama for a very anticipated ministry conference and three days with no kids (Hallelujah! Can I get an amen?). When we arrived at the airport we found that our flight had been cancelled. Insert devastated emoji face here. We couldn't get a flight out until the next day, which just wouldn't have worked. It was drive 10 hours, or don't go at all. We decided to drive it. We rented the cheapest car we could find and took off. A few minutes into the trip Josh discovered the car did not have a cruise control feature. He was a good sport about it, but I know driving 10 hours without being able to set the cruise control and just...you know...cruise, made the trip more work for him.

Cruise control on a 10-hour road trip is a good, good thing. It's so easy to pick a speed, pick a lane, get comfortable, and set off to your destination, but visionaries understand that **if you want the future to look different, you have to do something different.**

If you want 2017 to be more fulfilling than 2016, than you'll have to turn cruise control off. You'll have to be okay with uncomfortable. You'll have to desire different. If you keep on keeping on like you kept on last year, you'll repeat the same year.

What would 2017 look like if you spent time seeking God and asking Him to reveal His vision for you to you? Remember, He said every stage of our lives was laid out in front of Him before our "birth" days!

He has envisioned what your relationship with Him looks like this year. He has envisioned your marriage. He has envisioned your career, your savings account, your friendships, your family life, your influence, your health, your mornings, your lunch breaks, your world. He's envisioned it all, now it's your turn. **It's your turn to kick into visionary mode.** It's your turn to dream about what God has planned for you this year.

**Habakkuk 2:2** says, *Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.*

I believe God is calling you to “run with it,” but before you can run with it, you must take time to understand what “it” is. Sit down with a pencil and a piece of paper and let God start to reveal His vision for you to you. Make it plain, easy to understand, create a timeline, think through practical steps that will make the vision become a reality. Write those steps down, and then read what you wrote and read it often. Keep it in front of your eyes, and then you can run with it and **live out the life God has envisioned for you.**

You are a visionary.



## CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. I am going to give each of you a piece of paper with four different time frames listed on it: three months, one year, three years, and lifetime. I'm going to set a timer for five minutes, and I want you to ask God to give you a vision for each of those time frames. Let Him fill you with dreams of the future and speak to the secrets of your heart. There are no right or wrong answers, and you do not have to share anything that you don't want to share. This is simply an exercise to help you tap into what God has envisioned for you. Start small with things like finish a book or go on two dates with husband but finish big because we serve a big God! (See example
2. If you feel comfortable, share a little about what you wrote down.
3. "Vision without action is just a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world." Which camp do you tend to fall into: vision without action—big dreams, little follow through, OR action without vision—busy bee working away with no vision/dreams?
4. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you about how you can more strongly identify with your visionary DNA? What steps can you start to take to see one of your visions/God-given dreams become a reality?



## HIS HEART WORK

**Study:** Read the story of Jacob and the spotted goats in Genesis 30:25-43. It's a great Bible study on the power of vision. Jacob gave his plain goats a vision to be spotted goats. He wrote the vision and made it plain for a bunch of goats to see, they ran with it, and he became exceedingly prosperous.

**Act:** Take time to sit down and let God further reveal His plans for 2017. Ask Him to give you one word or phrase for this year and a scripture to go with it and then share with your HIS group via Group Me.



## PRAYER NEEDS

Write down the prayer requests of your group members, and pray fervently for them! Let your group members know when you are praying for them, if you have any scriptures or encouraging words for them, etc.