

HOW TO CAST VISION IN 3 MINUTES

#1 Prepare ahead of time

- Make sure you and your co-leader are clear on what you want to say to your group
- Write some notes for yourself so you stay on task
- Rather than winging it, try to set aside time to actually talk it out on your own, out loud, two times. Pay attention to your tone, speed, and the “heart” you want to have come through to the group
Doing this makes you realize how much you can get done in 3 minutes... but also how 3 minutes really flies by too!

#2 Pick one big thing to focus on

- Focusing on one important theme, announcement, or desire will land better than mentioning several and treating them all as equally important
- Answer: If my group could grow in one specific area in the next 2 months, what would it be? Whatever rises to the top probably should be your topic for casting vision
- Draw out why this one thing is important to you as a leader and good for the group. Why will your group be healthier, closer, and cause growth in discipleship if this one big thing happens?

What should you cast vision about?

Here are but a few suggestions:

- **Multiplication:** If you don't tell your group that it has a trajectory, namely to grow to the place of having new leaders raised up and sent out, you greatly increase the difficulty of multiplying. Tell your group with some regularity how passionate you are to see more disciples made by multiplying your group. This also encourages people that there are great opportunities for them to grow into a vital role at Harvest of Small Group Leader.
- **Consistent attendance:** Got some weak attenders? You're not alone. Lovingly tell your group that outside of obvious reasons of sickness, work obligations, and being out of town, everyone needs to commit to be present. “Your presence matters to us” is very encouraging to people (and, it's true!).
- **Accountability time:** Cast vision about transparency, open confession of sins, doubts, and struggles. If you're concerned about a lack of genuine sharing, tell the group of your heart's desire to create a culture of love, mutual ministry and openness together.
- **Large group discussions:** Remind them why you have time together to talk about God's Word and applying it. If discussions seem lackluster and unmotivated, give a heartfelt call to prepare ahead of time by considering the questions themselves, be in the Word personally, and be ready to contribute.
- **Inviting new people:** Remind (or inform) your people that the primary way your group will grow and thrive will be active invitations being made to new folks on Sundays. Make a goal that within one month, everyone will invite at least 2 people to the group. Harvest places people in groups when they sign-up, but the majority of growth happens organically through personal invitation.
- **Prayer:** If prayer is mostly the opening and closing of your small group and doesn't have the earnestness or centrality it needs in your group, bring it up and talk about how to increase time in prayer together. Start going straight to prayer as a large group after discussion (for example), and make a timed goal of 10 minutes in prayer during accountability.