

JASON'S MAIN POINTS:

God is expanding our vision!

Making disciples is a growth mindset.

What does God want to do in me and through me?

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER:

Where God guides, He provides.

We have always been a church that desires to get our hands dirty in discipleship and helping the lost find comfort in Jesus.

God keeps opening doors for us to enter.

When we talk about "bigger", we mean talking about expanding our influence for the Kingdom of God.

To fulfill the command of Christ to make disciples takes a growth mindset.

READ: Isaiah 54:2-3; Matthew 5:13-16; 16:13-18; 28:19-20; Mark 4:26-29; John 12:32; 1 Corinthians 3:6; 2 Corinthians 9:11; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Jason said of Illuminate, "*Where God guides he provides—that is the history of our church, and we believe that is because we have followed God's leading.*" A similar vein is struck in an old African proverb, "God does not send you down a rough road without first giving you good shoes!"
 - How has God provided for your life as your walk in Christ has grown stronger?
 - How have you seen God providing for this church?
 - What do you think we need to do to continue to see God's provision for our journey?
- Illuminate is a church that from the beginning has had a desire to "*get our hands dirty in discipleship and in helping the lost find comfort in Jesus.*"
 - How have seen us doing this at Illuminate?
 - What more do you think we need to do?
- Jason said that "*we have plans to increase because God keeps opening doors for us to enter..When we talk about bigger, we're talking about expanding our influence for the kingdom of God.*"
 - If we grow in influence, don't you think we will have to grow in size as well if we are doing what Jesus calls us to do in Matthew 5:13-16? How do

you feel about that? Why?

- What do you think you can do to do your part to help illuminate develop deep spiritual roots so, as we grow, we don't end up with superficial roots? Where can you dig in, roll up your sleeves, and get sweaty as you work with your brothers and sisters to expand our influence for Jesus in Phoenix and around the world?
- Jason noted that "*a church cannot really follow the command of Christ to make disciples without a growth mindset.*" What do you think of this statement? What kind of growth is being talked about here?
 - The parable of the farmer growing a crop is a good illustration of how God's provisions mix with the stewardship of people to produce a bumper crop. What is the job of the farmer? What is God's job in this process?
 - Jason laid out four major areas where we need to focus practically on the first steps of our growth: (1) Our student area (students 5-6 through High School), including recreational and gathering facilities; (2) Expansion of the worship center to boost seating by 50%; (3) Expansion of our welcome spaces and food prep and storage areas for our ministry to the homeless. (4) More parking spaces. What do you think your role can in expanding the kingdom of God at Illuminate? In what ways are you able (and willing) to help in to grow our church?
 - Our vision for Illuminate will require financial generosity (to the point of hilarious giving) and sacrifice by all of us. We are not all called to give equally, but we are all called to give as God moves our hearts. Read this passage about how the people responded to Moses' request for materials to build the tabernacle in the wilderness (Exodus 36:2-7). What did Moses have to tell the people to do? What happens when God stirs the hearts of his people?
 - As we embark on Bigger.Smaller.Deeper, each of you ask of God what he requires of you (in terms of contributions, sweat equity, prayer, encouraging your brothers and sisters on the project, and so forth). Go around and pray that God gives each of you the spiritual ears to hear, the heart to obey faithfully, the grace to make ends meet financially, and the strength of back and mind to get into the trenches and do the work. We have a wonderful future ahead of us! Finish by reading Jeremiah 29:11: "*For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*"

Bottom Line: Ask yourself, "What does God want to do in me and through me?"