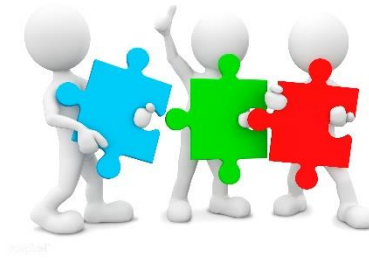
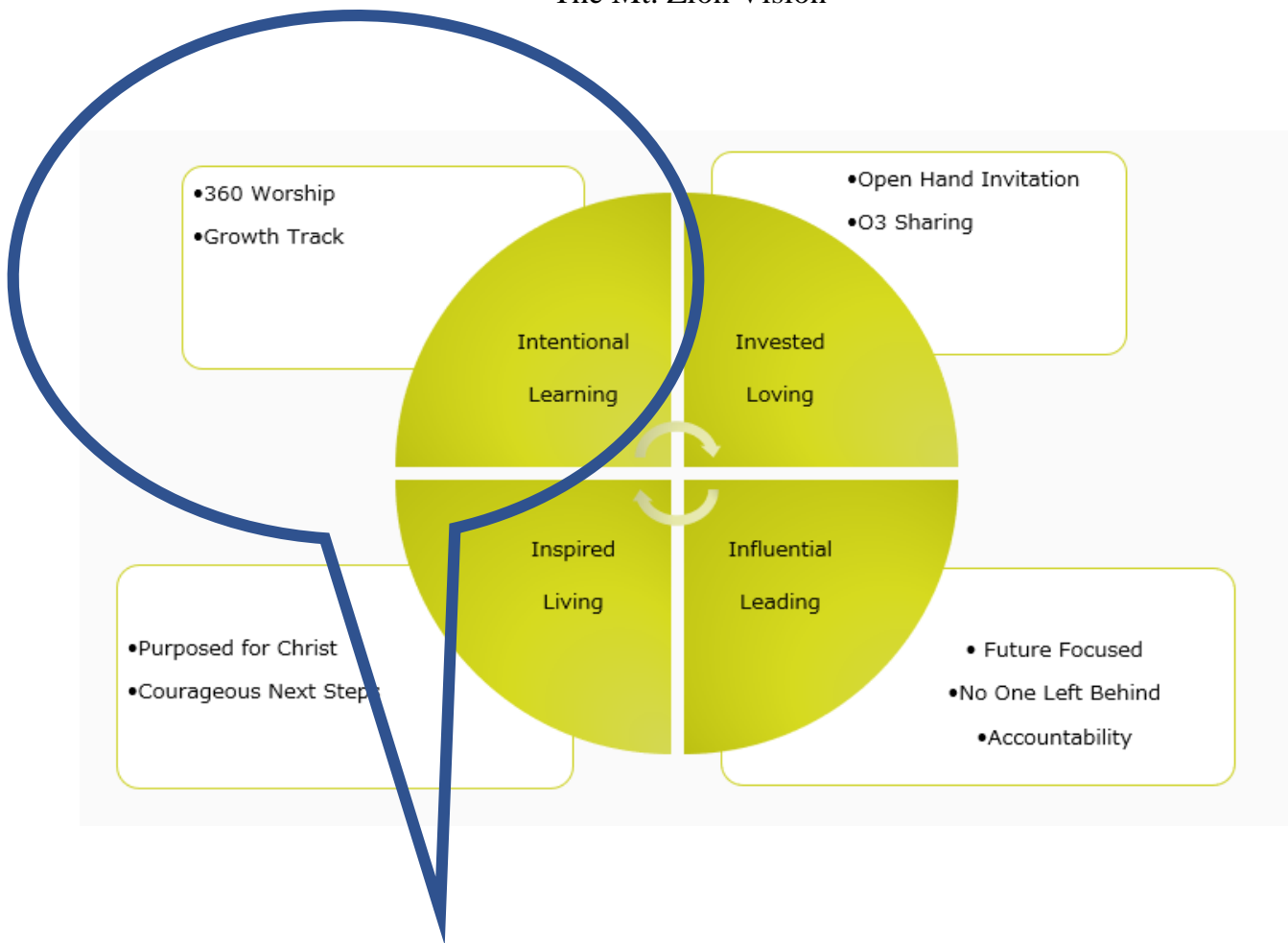


Lesson 1: Freedom In The King!



The Mt. Zion Vision



We Have a Vision to Be Intentionally Growing!



The Next 5 Weeks!

We have finished our study in Nehemiah and are now taking some time off to re-energize and prepare for our next set of lessons. You have done a wonderful job in learning what it means to be intentional about your group studies. The small group is a great way to have accountability for your personal growth. Now, I want you to stretch yourself, hold yourself accountable, and dig into the word individually.

Each week, I will send out a lesson which will extend some of the ideas from The Mt. Zion Church's Sunday School lessons. I am only choosing one major aspect of the lessons to push your thinking and to get you to reflect. This is not a replacement for Sunday School. If you are able, attend Sunday School at 8:30 AM weekly, so you can further your growth. We must catch the vision for spiritual growth! You have some work to do and I hope and pray that you will continue the habits you began during the previous study.

May God bless you during this time of study!

Pastor Ken!!!

Lesson 1

Read the Following Scriptures:

John 8

Answer the following questions

1. In John 8: 33-34, the Jewish followers explain to Jesus that they have never been slaves to anyone. What have they misunderstood in relationship to the freedom that Jesus wants to provide?

Hint: They think _____ but Jesus meant

_____.

Enslaved to Sin:

2. What does it feel like to be a slave to your most difficult sin? How does it impact your life?

Freedom In Christ

Directions: Read the following short excerpt about Harriet Tubman. As you consider how she used her enslaved past to free others, consider your own life and how Jesus wants to utilize you to help others find freedom.

Harriet Tubman is perhaps the most well-known of all the Underground Railroad's "conductors." During a ten-year span, she made 19 trips into the South and escorted over 300 slaves to freedom. And, as she once proudly pointed out to Frederick Douglass, in all of her journeys she "never lost a single passenger."

Around 1844 she married a free black named John Tubman and took his last name. (She was born Araminta Ross; she later changed her first name to Harriet, after her mother.) In 1849, in fear that she, along with the other slaves on the plantation, was to be sold, Tubman resolved to run away. She set out one night on foot. With some assistance from a friendly white woman, Tubman was on her way. She followed the North Star by night, making her way to Pennsylvania and soon after to Philadelphia, where she found work and saved her money. The following year she returned to Maryland and escorted her sister and her sister's two children to freedom. She made the dangerous trip back to the South soon after to rescue her brother and two other men.

Tubman returned to the South again and again. She devised clever techniques that helped make her "forays" successful, including using the master's horse and buggy for the first leg of the journey; leaving on a Saturday night, since runaway notices couldn't be placed in newspapers until Monday morning; turning about and heading south if she encountered possible slave hunters; and carrying a drug to use on a baby if its crying might put the fugitives in danger. Tubman even carried a gun which she used to threaten the fugitives if they became too tired or decided to turn back, telling them, "You'll be free or die."

3. Take 5 minutes and write out the answer to these two questions. (This is for your eyes only)
 - What sin has mastered you the most and how has/is the Lord set/setting you free from that sin?
 - How does The Lord want you to use your freedom from that sin for Him?
4. How would you explain to someone what it means to be a servant of sin in general and to a sin specifically?
 - Have you ever shared with anyone how Jesus has helped you to become free from your answer to question 3A?
 - Why? Or Why not?
5. How do you think Satan uses our past slavery to sin as a tool to keep us from sharing the gospel with others?
6. How can you use your past as a tool for Christ to help someone else find freedom in Christ?

Closing: Ask God to strengthen you to never seek to be mastered by sin again. And ask Him to give you the courage to "go back" and help someone else find freedom in Christ just like you!