

# ONE

WEEK 1

LIFE GROUP  
FACILITATOR GUIDE

## Ephesians 4:1-6 // One Direction: ONE - Week 1

### // Week 1 // Main Emphasis: Newbreak's Mission

This is week one of our new churchwide study, "ONE", which will help all of us at Newbreak across our five campuses to unite under one banner to more effectively grow as Christ-followers and serve others. Over the past year, our pastors, staff, and lay leaders have spent considerable time in a reflective, soulful, and Spirit-led journey to the core of who we are at Newbreak. With great dialog and prayer, we looked back in time to evaluate what God has been doing here at Newbreak over the years in order to help us determine where He is taking us as a church in the future. As we spent time considering where He has taken us, very particular themes emerged.

While God commissions all of us to glorify Him and make disciples, the way we at Newbreak are called to fulfill this mission is very unique. It takes into account our *local predicament*, that is, the unique needs and opportunities we have in our communities; it takes into account our *collective potential*, that is, the capabilities and resources available to us as a church; and it also takes into account our *apostolic spirit*, that is, the particular focus that drives our Newbreak leaders. Through the lens of scripture, we have taken the themes we identified and given new language to what we believe God is calling us to do as one united church, fully equipped to grow as believers who will impact our communities.

Over the course of the next eight weeks, we are going to be presenting the Newbreak Vision Framework, a four-sided tool that will help us all to understand and articulate Newbreak's mission, vision, values, strategy, and measures at Newbreak that will be revealed over the coming weeks. As we jump in to Week One, we are looking at the first side of the Vision Framework, Newbreak's mission: connecting people with God, through authentic relationships, to serve communities.

**FACILITATOR NOTE:** Make sure to review the Life Groups Expectations sheet included with this week's study. Distribute the Vision Framework handout to each member of your group and advise them that we will fill out one side each week so they need to bring it with them each time.

### // Opening Prayer // 5 minutes

**FACILITATOR NOTE:** Open this week by praying for God to do a mighty work through this study and that we will be united as ONE church focused on ONE mission, and all equipped to move in ONE direction.

// Lean In // 5 minutes

***Did you play any team sports growing up? What did this team experience teach you?***

// Look Down // 10 minutes

### **Read Ephesians 4:1-3 [MSG]**

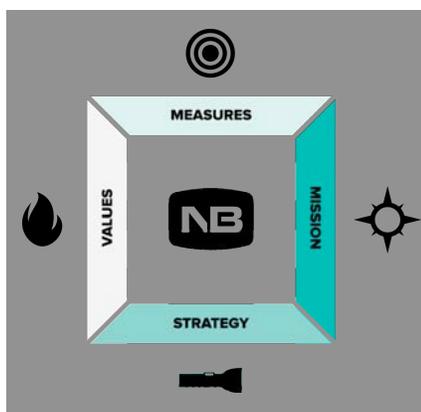
**FACILITATOR NOTE:** Read Ephesians 4:1-3 [MSG] and then pause before reading the rest of the passage. Ephesians 4:1-6 will be the focus of this week's discussion as it presents an amazing picture of how we all have been called to one singular path. The Apostle Paul writes to us Christ-followers that we all belong to one body, Christ himself. Each of us, while given individual abilities, talents and interests, can work together to serve God and impact our communities as one united whole.

### **Read Ephesians 4:4-6 [MSG]**

#### **QUESTION 1: *Why is unity in the church so important?***

**FACILITATOR NOTE:** When we are all pulling in the same direction, there is synergy and we can do more together than we could alone. To further emphasize the theme of "unity," use this analogy; imagine a brass ring with several cords attached. If each cord is pulled in a different direction, you'll never get anywhere together. But if each cord is pulled in the same direction, you will all move in the same direction with great force. Or, did you know that one horse can pull 1000 pounds, but two horses harnessed together can pull 2600 pounds (40% more than if they are individually pulling 1000 pounds each)? We want our team all pulling in the same direction. That's what the Vision Framework helps us do.

As a facilitator, it is helpful for you to have the Newbreak Vision Framework in your mind each week. While it is important not to jump ahead and start describing other sides of the frame, knowing that each side of the frame addresses particular topics will help you navigate questions and provide clarity. People frequently use terms like mission and vision interchangeably, but for our purposes, each side of the Vision Framework addresses a very particular topic. Take a moment to read through the following definitions with your group and refer back to them throughout the series as necessary:



**Mission:** Our mission is the **compass** that guides us to understand why we exist as a church.

**Values:** Our values are the **flame** that fuels motives. Our values are The Newbreak Way and are the shared convictions that guide our actions and reveal the strengths of our church.

**Strategy:** Our strategy is the **flashlight** that illuminates the path for engaging people in our mission.

**Measures:** Our Measures are our **target** and reflect whether we are accomplishing the mission in our individual lives.

**Vision Proper:** Vision Proper is the mountaintop and milestone picture inside the frame that shows where God is taking us next.

**QUESTION 2: *Newbreak's mission is connecting people with God through authentic relationships to serve communities. What do you like best about this mission statement?***

**FACILITATOR NOTE:**

**Our Mission:**

- **CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH GOD THROUGH AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS TO SERVE COMMUNITIES.**

Take a moment to review this as a group. In addition, use the memorization order of “with, through and to” to help others memorize the statement.

**FACILITATOR NOTE:** The main point of this *Look Down* section is to talk about the Newbreak Vision Framework, the mission of Newbreak, and the important role they serve in helping achieve unity.

**COMMENTARY:** As Christ-followers and members of the church, we share things in common: one body, one Spirit, one hope, one love, one faith, one baptism, one God. Nevertheless, God has given each of us a variety of spiritual gifts, unique talents, different life experiences and sometimes even conflicting perspectives. We must find unity in our diversity so we may use our gifts to strengthen the body of the church and serve others. One way we do this is by having common language that focuses us all on what God has called us to do as a community of believers. Ask God how you fit in to the mission of connecting people with God through authentic relationships to serve communities.

**// Look Out // 10 minutes**

**QUESTION 3: *Why is it so important to focus part of our mission on serving communities?***

**FACILITATOR NOTE:** Have one person read Luke 15:1-7 (The Story of the Lost Sheep) and another person read Luke 15:8-10 (The Story of the Lost Coin) and discuss how serving our community allows us to reach the lost.

**// Look In // 15 minutes**

**QUESTION 4: *What does it look like when you lose sight of the mission/direction of your life?***

**FACILITATOR NOTE:** In the message this weekend, our campus pastor shared that, “This is not just the church’s mission; rather, it’s my individual mission as a Christ-follower, called to this community of believers at Newbreak.” As part of Newbreak, I too am part of the mission of connecting people with God through authentic relationships to serve communities. This is something we can all be a part of, regardless of age, life stage, or spiritual maturity. But when all of us come together to carry this mission out as a larger group, we can change our communities for eternity.”

**QUESTION 5: *Who are the people in your life that help you stay focused on the mission/direction for your life?***

**FACILITATOR NOTE:** Who is a person (or people) that has the ability to speak truth into your life? As a Facilitator, take time to ask the group who are the people who keep them on track and if they don't have one... what steps could they take to develop those relationships, even within this group?

## // Live It Out // 5 minutes

**QUESTION 6:** *Which of the three parts of Newbreak's mission statement comes most naturally to you?*

**FACILITATOR NOTE:** As you ask this question, go around the group and have each person list one step they could take to make accomplishing the mission a priority.

## // Key Memory Verses //

**FACILITATOR NOTE:** Challenge the group to memorize **Ephesians 4:4-6 [NIV]**. Make sure to help the group understand the power of memorizing scripture and keeping it in front of us each day. Also challenge the group to use the Newbreak ONE devotional that can be found on the Newbreak App and to memorize the Newbreak mission.

<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

**-Ephesians 4:4-6**

## // Look Up // 10 minutes

**FACILITATOR NOTE:** Take some time and share any prayer requests within your group. Also pray for unity and about making the mission of Newbreak a priority in our lives. As you close this week, make sure to emphasize the point, "I am the one; we are the one" by praying Ephesians 4:1-6 over your group:

Father,

We know your desire is for us to be unified as your church. Help us to be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Give us the strength to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Father we rejoice in the truth that there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

**AMEN**



## LIFE GROUP EXPECTATIONS

We believe that being a part of a healthy spiritual community is one of the best ways to grow into **DEVOTED** followers of Jesus Christ. In order to foster that kind of community, it's a good idea to establish some common expectations, based on Scripture, and to put them into words. That way we can avoid confusion or misunderstanding and learn to trust each other.

### WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING EXPECTATIONS AS A GROUP:

- CLEAR PURPOSE:** We want to grow healthy spiritual lives by developing healthy spiritual community.
- GROUP ATTENDANCE:** We get to know each other by meeting together regularly. That's not always possible so when we can't be here, we let the group leader or another member know.
- SAFE ENVIRONMENT:** What's said in the group stays in the group. Seriously, if we can't count on true confidentiality, we won't feel free to share honestly. We listen carefully, applying grace and without offering quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes. That way group members feel heard, valued, and loved.
- BE CONFIDENTIAL:** If something concerns you and to avoid gossip, go to the individual and share your concerns privately (Matthew 18:15-17).
- AUTHENTIC FAITH:** We want to encourage living an authentic Christian lifestyle by including worship, prayer, solitude, fasting and other spiritual disciplines.
- OPEN CHAIR:** We look for opportunities to invite people to this Life Group and welcome people when they join us.
- BUILDING COMMUNITY:** It takes time to build authentic community. We do this by praying for each other regularly and looking for opportunities to get to know each other better. As they say "whatever you put into it, is what you will get out of it."
- VALUED TIME:** We value each other's schedules so we start and end on time. As a group we commit to being together for at least the 9 week quarter.

Group Start Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Group End Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Group Start Time: \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_

Group End Time: \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_

Child Care Pick Up: \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_

Drop Off Times: \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_

## OUR MEASURES

*fill in the blanks*

### CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH GOD

- *Experiencing God's Grace*
- *Embracing Biblical Truth*
- *Practicing Spiritual Disciplines*
- *Developing Biblical Stewardship*

### THROUGH AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

- *Reciprocating Gracious Accountability*
- *Committing to Family*
- *Building Servant Leadership*
- *Expressing Christ-like Character*

### TO SERVE COMMUNITIES

- *Sharing your God Story*
- *Being Socially Aware*
- *Demonstrating Grace*
- *Cultivating a Generous Heart*

# NEWBREAK

# VISION

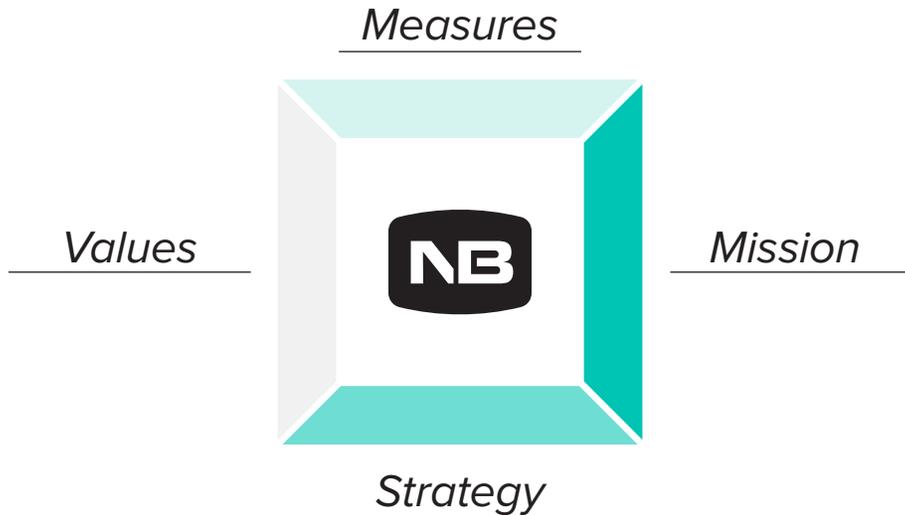
# FRAMEWORK

FACILITATOR GUIDE

 NEWBREAKCHURCH

## THE VISION FRAME

draw Newbreak logo and fill in the blanks



## OUR STRATEGY

draw strategy icons and fill in the blanks



## OUR MISSION

fill in the blanks

Connecting people **with** God  
**through** authentic relationships  
**to** serve communities

## OUR VALUES

fill in the blanks

- Keep it accessible
- Do it together
- Make it better
- Give it away