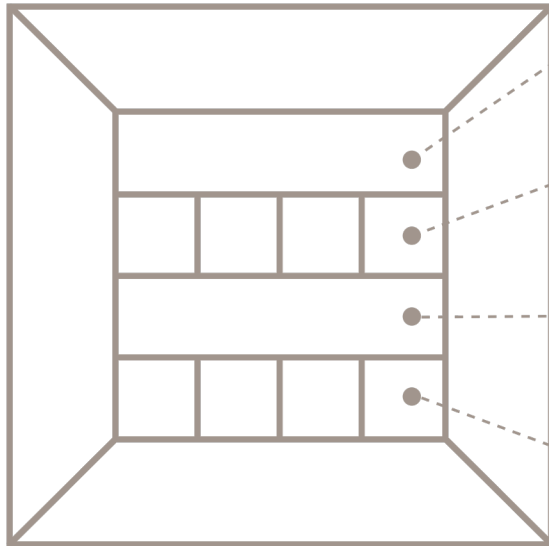
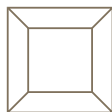


THE HORIZON STORYLINE OVERVIEW

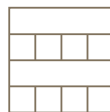
HORIZONTAL NAME / TIMELINE



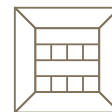
HOW THE VISION FRAME AND HORIZON STORYLINE FIT TOGETHER



The Vision Frame
(Church Identity)



The Horizon Storyline
(Church Direction)



The Horizon Storyline is the
fullest picture of
“Where God is taking us”

HORIZON STORYLINE DEFINITIONS

BEYOND-THE-HORIZON VISION (5–20 YEARS)

The beyond-the-horizon vision is a vivid picture of a church's future five to twenty years away depending on the life stage and context of the church. It is an aspirational sense of destination and clarifies the church's ultimate contribution for the given time frame. It should build from a singular idea that can be stated as both a sentence and a vivid description narrative. It is primarily qualitative and will have a compelling character that feels almost unbelievable to the listener. The primary benefits include:

- Shapes the destiny of the whole congregation.
- Creates deeper meaning for individuals.
- Cultivates heroic sacrifice among people.
- Guides the development of long-term strategy (background).

BACKGROUND VISION (3 YEARS)

The background vision contains four ideas, primarily qualitative, that clarify the four most strategic emphases in the next three years in order to fulfill the beyond-the-horizon vision. Each emphasis can be stated in one or two sentences. The background vision is not designed to inspire but to clarify. As such the background vision:

- Creates a broad-level road map to approach the future.
- Directs long-term allocation of church resources.
- Limits blind spots that would inhibit progress.
- Provides context for short-range goal setting (midground).

MIDGROUND VISION (1 YEAR)

The midground vision is a single emphasis stated as both a qualitative and quantitative goal in the next year. That means the midground or one-year vision should be both an inspiring picture and a measurable number. They accompany each other. Like the beyond the-horizon vision, the midground vision is designed to inspire people and stretch their thinking of what might be possible. It can be stated in one sentence and adapted regularly for communication every day. The midground vision:

- Generates excitement for what God is doing in the next year.
- Focuses the attention, prayers, and resources of the church in a dramatic way.
- Reveals progress for celebration (or recalibration).
- Highlights one shared priority for all ministry areas.
- Cuts through the complexity of life and ministry with one focus.

FOREGROUND VISION (90 DAYS)

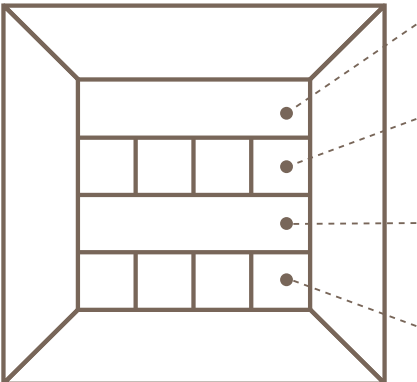
The foreground vision contains up to four specific initiatives that must be started within ninety days, as needed. The foreground initiatives are typically led by crossfunctional staff teams or may be carried by individual ministry departments. Most initiatives support the midground vision directly or indirectly. Think of these as the four most important next steps in order to complete the single, midground vision:

- Clarifies weekly action steps and daily priorities for leaders.
- Sequences short-term projects, tasks, and goals.
- Activates the unique gifts and abilities within the body.
- Provides regular, positive accountability for individuals and teams.

SUMMARY TABLES FROM GOD DREAMS

FIVE KEY FEATURES OF THE HORIZON STORYLINE	
Principles	Benefits
1. How our eyes see different distances (up close and far away) will relate to different time horizons or “distances” into the future.	The linking of long-range and short-range planning.
2. How people long for simplicity to get greater impact with fewer goals.	Focus and enthusiasm with one big goal at a time.
3. How people think differently to create better team synergy.	A combining of inspirational and operational abilities on your team.
4. How the brain works to leverage pictures and numbers.	A meaningful and memorable plan.
5. How we communicate to blend planning and storytelling.	An easy-to-share plan.

HOW THE HORIZON STORYLINE WORKS

Horizon Storyline	Horizon Name	Time Frame	Long/Short Range	Max # of Ideas
	Beyond-the-Horizon Vision	5–20 years	Long/Short Range	1
	Background Vision	3 years	Long-Range Visionary	4
	Midground Vision	1 year	Long-Range Strategic	1
	Foreground Vision	90 days	Short-Range Visionary	4

THE HORIZON STORYLINE TEMPLATE FOR

BEYOND THE HORIZON: 5-20 YEARS			
BACKGROUND BIG IDEAS: 3 YEARS			
MIDGROUND MILESTONE: 1 YEAR			
FOREGROUND ACTION INITIATIVES: 90-DAY DOVETAILED TIMELINES			