

SECTION 1. THE VISION (BIG PICTURE)

Q1. What is the vision in simple terms?

Answer

The vision is to align Eastgate with the Great Commission, by becoming a multiplying church, where every believer becomes a **contagious son or daughter**, who:

- Lives a life shaped by Jesus
- Makes disciples in everyday life
- Helps others do the same

This flows from our identity as **a house of His presence**

And is expressed through:

- Presence-centred lives
 - Relational discipleship
 - Multiplication across a region
-

Q2. What does “bringing heaven to earth” actually mean?

Answer

It means *more* than leading people into encounters with God.

It means:

- Training people to **become carriers of His presence**
 - Living like Jesus:
 - In the Father’s love
 - In the power of the Spirit
 - Bringing healing, freedom and reconciliation
-

Q3. Why the focus on multiplication?

Answer

Because the Church is here to fulfil the Great Commission and our current approach isn't the most effective way to do this.

The illustrative example shared on Vision Sunday was:

- At our current rate of growth it would take **95,000 years to reach Kent**
- Even with a significant uplift it would still take thousands of years

But, if we were all engaged in and equipped to be disciples who make disciples:

- Multiplying disciples exponentially could reach a region in ~30 years
-

Q4. What is the ultimate goal?

Answer

- To be a **house of His presence**
- To become **Contagious Sons & Daughters**

By looking at Jesus, living like Jesus, and “sharing him with the one in front of me”.

Q5. What will change because of this vision?

Answer

It will affect:

- Leadership
- Time and priorities
- Use of resources
- How we train people
- How we measure success

Success will not be attendance-based or numbers-based, but rather:

- Lives being transformed
 - Disciples being made
 - Multiplication happening
-

SECTION 2. HOW THE VISION WORKS (STRUCTURE)

Q6. What is the model we're moving towards?

Answer A simple, reproducible discipleship journey:

1. **Fire Groups** – the core discipleship environment
 2. **Emerging leaders** raised from within those groups
 3. **Jesus Project (equipping)** – monthly leadership development
 4. **Deployment into community**
 5. **Prayer walking and finding “persons of peace”** (Luke 10)
 6. **Discovering Jesus Groups** (short-term introduction to Jesus)
 7. **Multiplication** of this cycle
-

Q7. Why both “big” and “small” church?

Answer:

Acts 2 talks about the early church meeting in homes and gathering in the temple courts. We want to replicate this biblical pattern of:

Big (Sunday gatherings):

- Corporate identity
- Shared vision & inspiration
- Experiencing God's presence together as a family

Small (Homes / Fire Groups):

- Relational discipleship, including accountability
- Evangelism in community
- Church as family - belonging and caring for one another

Both expressions of the Church are essential.

SECTION 3. FIRE GROUPS

Q8. What is a Fire Group?

Answer

- A small, relational, family-style discipleship group
 - The primary place where:
 - We learn to live like Jesus
 - We disciple one another
 - We grow and multiply
-

Q9. Are Fire Groups compulsory?

Answer - No.

They are:

- A **key pathway**, not a rule
 - An opportunity to engage deeply in the vision
-

Q10. What if I can't attend a Fire Group?

Answer

You can still:

- Find other expressions of and ways to connect with Eastgate family
- Cultivate a Spirit-led lifestyle of living in God's presence
- Make disciples in your own context
- Engage with the other opportunities Eastgate provides for discipleship & growth

Fire Groups are there to serve the vision — **they are not the goal themselves.**

Q11. What should a Fire Group look like?

Answer

- Relational and family-based
 - Rooted in:
 - Worship & encounter in God's presence
 - Scriptures – with an emphasis on **putting the word into practice** (Mt. 7:24)
 - Prayer
 - Shared lives
 - Open and outward-looking
-

Q12. How big should a Fire Group be?

Answer

- Typically around **10–15 people**
 - Groups should **multiply rather than just growing larger**
-

Q13. How do we avoid cliques?

Answer

By:

- Focusing on Jesus
- Building family, not just friendship groups
- Having an invitational emphasis

This requires:

- Intentional leadership
 - A shared culture of inclusion
-

Q14. How do people join a Fire Group?

Answer

- Speak to a Fire Group leader or someone in the [Get Connected](#) team
- Visit the [Fire Groups page on our website](#) / ChurchSuite
- Join organically through relationships

More visible and simple pathways will continue to be developed.

Q15. What if there aren't enough groups yet?

Answer

This is recognised.

The plan is to:

- Raise up new leaders
- Start new Fire Groups
- Multiply existing ones over time

To that end, we have already run the first training session for new Fire Group Leaders (in July & August) and we have several new Fire Groups starting imminently. We intend to do more leaders' training and launch more groups in the near future.

Q16. How do we ensure accessibility (mobility, childcare, etc.)?

Answer

If you have particular needs then please speak to one of us directly or email us at leaders@eastgate.org.uk.

Our aim is to create groups that are as available and accessible as possible, by running them in a variety of venues and at different times of day.

SECTION 4. DISCOVERING JESUS GROUPS

Q17. What are Discovering Jesus Groups?

Note: these were originally called “Discovering Sonship” groups, but we have renamed them in response to feedback received.

Answer

These are:

- **Short-term** groups, designed for those exploring or new to faith
 - **Small** and scalable – could be 1:1 or 1:12
 - **Simple** - the idea is that anybody could run one
 - Intended to provide the **core foundations of following Jesus**
 - **Intended to feed into joining a Fire Group** as the next step
-

Q18. How are they different from Fire Groups?

Answer

- **Discovering Jesus Groups** are:
 - Short-term
 - Entry-level
 - Introductory
 - **Fire Groups** are:
 - Ongoing
 - Family-based
 - Focused on growth and multiplication
-

Q19. Will Fire Groups be replaced by these groups?

Answer

No. Discovering Jesus Groups:

- Feed into Fire Groups
 - Do not replace them
-

SECTION 5. JESUS PROJECT (EQUIPPING)

Q20. What is the Jesus Project?

Note: This was originally called “Sonship Project” but we have renamed it in response to feedback received.

Answer

- A monthly equipping environment
 - For emerging leaders and disciple-makers
 - Focused on developing a culture of Contagious Sonship through:
 - Encounters with God (Presence)
 - Training
 - Accountability
 - Impartation
-

Q21. Who is it for?

Answer

- Primarily for those engaged in disciple-making
 - It may include others connected into the vision over time.
-

Q22. How will leaders be trained?

Answer

Through:

- Living out contagious sonship (in community)
 - Practicing contagious sonship (in Fire Groups)
 - Being equipped (through the Jesus Project)
-

SECTION 6. DISCIPLESHIP & MATURITY

Q23. How do we ensure maturity (not just multiplication)?

Answer

Through:

- Ongoing relational discipleship
- Engagement with Scripture - with a focus on putting it into practice
- Jesus Project equipping

The aim is:

- To teach people how to grow, not just what to believe
-

Q24. How will doctrine be safeguarded?

Answer

This is a reasonable question, but one that is equally applicable to the current model!

We did address some of this in the fire group leaders' session in July:

- The groups are focused on studying the scriptures **together**
 - The passages are centrally determined
 - We are providing training for Fire Group leaders
 - We also trust the Holy Spirit to lead people into all truth
-

Q25. How will success be measured?

Answer

Success will be measured by:

- People living like Jesus as **Contagious Sons and Daughters**
- People are hearing God's word and putting it into practice
- Disciples are making disciples

Even small signs of multiplication are considered success.

SECTION 7. CHILDREN & YOUTH

Q26. How are children and youth included?

Answer

Fully. **There is no “junior Holy Spirit”!**

Our Children & Youth curriculum will be aligned along the same lines as the whole church vision.

Children and young people are:

- already learning Scripture, prayer and mission
- intended to be part of family-based discipleship contexts

Families are welcome to join Fire Groups together

Q27. How are future leaders being developed?

Answer

By:

- Prioritising raising younger leaders
 - Fire group leaders are facilitators (everybody can have a chance to lead)
 - Giving people responsibility earlier - and giving them **freedom to fail**
 - Encouraging family discipleship in the home
-

SECTION 8. CHURCH LIFE & PRACTICALS

Q28. What changes on a Sunday?

Answer

Sundays remain:

- Critical for corporate worship, presence, vision and inspiration

But:

- They are not the primary driver of discipleship
 - More emphasis moves into everyday life and homes
 - This is where true accountability happens
-

Q29. Are we stopping other ministries?

Answer

No.

However, leadership will direct Eastgate's *centralised* resources towards the Vision that God is leading us into in his season, using **the same governing principle that we have always done:**

- If God's presence is on something → continue
 - If not → re-evaluate
-

Q30. What about charities and social action?

Answer

- These are fully supported and remain an important part of church life
 - People are encouraged to serve in these areas and we will seek to recognise and celebrate that
 - This also includes corporate donations from Eastgate to external charities, which are facilitated via our giving group
-

Q31. What about other spiritual gifts (prophetic, etc.)?

Answer

These are still very much a core part of Christian life for Contagious Sons & Daughters!

We strongly encourage the development of Spiritual gifts within Fire Groups, which are intended to be:

- **Five-fold environments**
- Not limited to evangelism

All the gifts should be expressed within them.

We are also looking at developing other opportunities for equipping people in specific areas.

SECTION 9. LANGUAGE & TERMINOLOGY

Q32. Why was the terminology changed?

Answer

Feedback highlighted that some language could feel confusing or alienating

As a result:

- **“Sonship Project”** becomes **“Jesus Project”**
- **“Discovering Sonship Groups”** becomes **“Discovering Jesus Groups”**

This reflects our desire to:

- Be accessible to every member of the body as equals and as one in Christ
 - Keep the focus on knowing and following Jesus and becoming like him – which is the essence of discipleship
-

FINAL NOTE

This is a **journey**, not a finished product.

The invitation remains:

- **“Come on a journey”**

And:

- Start slow
 - Get the culture right (*i.e.* determine what it means to be contagious sons & daughters)
 - Allow God to shape what grows
-