



# Vision Mission Values Passions

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STRATEGIC PLANNING  
FOUNDATIONS FOR THE  
RIVERGATE FAMILY

## Genesis 11:6

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And the Lord said, “See, they are one people, and they all have the same language. This is only the beginning of what they will do. Now all they plan to do will be possible for them.”

# Our Terms...

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**Vision:** a clear, definitive statement of what we want, and what the world will look like, once we've accomplished our mission.

Answers the questions, “Why do we exist? What do we expect the world to look like as a result of our community’s coming together?”

# Our Terms...

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**Mission:** a clear, definitive statement of what we do day after day that, when accomplished, will result in the fulfillment of the Vision.

Answers the questions, “What will we do, day after day, to ensure that our vision will be achieved? How do we make our vision a reality?”

# Our Terms...

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**Core Values:** Mission-critical convictions that guide our conduct and create our culture.

Culture is created by what a community celebrates and tolerates. We chose our core values because they are like little “slices” of Heaven’s culture.

# Our Terms...

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**Four Core Passions:** Essential elements of the life of Jesus that we personally engage, so we can live like Him.

Jesus did many things, but His lifestyle can be distilled into specific aspects. If we share His four core passions, we will, in increasing measure, experience the kind of full and fruitful life that He did.

# Our Vision

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For every place to look like *His* place.

Matthew 6:9-13; 28:18-20; Mark 16: 15-19; Ephesians 4:11-16

# Our Mission

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We empower people to live like Jesus.

Matthew 6:9-13; 28:18-20; Mark 16: 15-19; Ephesians 4:11-16



# Our Purpose

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We empower people to live like Jesus, so that *every* place will look like *His* place.

Matthew 6:9-13; 28:18-20; Mark 16: 15-19; Ephesians 4:11-16



## Our “Fierce Love” Foundation

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Beautiful Father, Your Fierce Love never lets us go!

It captivates and changes us. It empowers us, shapes our character, and drives our mission. Love is our top priority and bottom line, and we accept no love-like knock-offs. Love impacts everything. Lord, help us to love You well. Teach us to love ourselves, and overflow love onto others. Your love in and through us redeems impossible situations and turns the world upside down!

[Mark 12:30-31](#); [John 14-17](#); [1 Corinthians 13](#); [Ephesians 3:14-21](#); [4:11-16](#)



## Kidz Version

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Beautiful Father, Your Fierce Love never lets us go!

It changes us. It gives us power. It tells us how to behave and what to do. It's the most important thing. We want our love to look just like Yours. Teach us to love like You. We want to change the world with Your love!

Mark 12:30-31; John 14-17; 1 Corinthians 13; Ephesians 3:14-21; 4:11-16



## **PRESENCE** - A Divine Intimacy

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Being with God is awesome!

We passionately pursue and shamelessly enjoy God's tangible Presence. He fills our hearts, makes us more like Jesus, and releases miracles. Without His Presence, our programs mock His purposes.



## Kidz Version

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Being with God is awesome!

We are proud to enjoy Him. He fills our hearts, makes us more like Jesus, and does miracles. Without His presence, the things we do don't really matter.



# FREEDOM - A Life of Liberty

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We are free!

We jealously guard the freedom Jesus died to provide. People hunger for the liberty lost through sin and legalism. In Christ, we find our true selves and are free to be all He declares. It's an honor to surrender and be bound to God alone - His truth, His love, His will.

[John 8:32,36](#); [Galatians 5:1](#); [2 Cor. 3:17-18](#); [Romans 8:1-3](#); [Deut. 11:26-28](#); [Genesis 1-3](#)



## Kidz Version

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We are free!

Everybody likes freedom, but we can't have it if we're sinning. Jesus is the one who makes us free. We get to follow Him and be free in His truth and love!

[John 8:32,36](#); [Galatians 5:1](#); [2 Cor. 3:17-18](#); [Romans 8:1-3](#); [Deut. 11:26-28](#); [Genesis 1-3](#)



# INTEGRITY - A Brilliant Reflection

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Our character shines - just like Jesus!

This is our lifelong pursuit. As authentic sons and daughters, we are faithful and true, good and holy, merciful, just, generous, and more! We hold ourselves accountable to the Spirit's Fruit.

2 Peter 1:3-9; Micah 6:8; Romans 5:3-5; Ephesians 4:1-3; Galatians 5:22-23; Psalm 51:6,10; Ezekiel 20:8-10





## Kidz Version

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Our character shines - just like Jesus.

We grow in this our whole lives. We are faithful, honest, holy, merciful, giving, and more! We say, “YES!” to the Fruit of the Spirit, and “NO!” to bad behavior.



## **HONOR** - A Mutual Devotion

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We see God in everyone!

We are champions for His image and our relationships reflect Heaven's culture: respect, justice, unity, and a celebration of variety. We are encouraging, not critical; supportive, not enabling, secure and thoughtful, not defensive, offering accountability, not judgment. We treasure the kind of honesty and vulnerability that stretches us.

[Romans 12:9-10](#); [1 Peter 2:17](#); [James 3:9-10](#); [1 Cor. 12:12-27](#); [John 17:21-23](#); [Philippians 2:1-4](#); [Romans 13:8-13](#)



## Kidz Version

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We see God in everyone!

We treat people with respect. We work and play nice together. We encourage each other. We say true things in kind ways. We help each other live more like Jesus. We aren't afraid to be honest.



# COMMITMENT - A Radical Surrender

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We are ALL IN!!!

We refuse to live selfishly entitled. We fearlessly surrender our time, talent, and treasure - humbly giving God our absolute best. We're an interdependent family, each contributing as we consume. And we've abandoned our right to quit on each other.

Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 3:12; Mark 12:41-44; Revelation 12:11; Colossians 3:23; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Psalm 1:1-3; Hebrews 12:1-3; Genesis 11:6; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Galatians 6:12-14; Philippians 2:1-12



## Kidz Version

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We are ALL IN!!!

We aren't selfish. We serve and do our best. We give God offerings. We help each other. It's fun to get, but even more fun to give! And we never give up.

Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 3:12; Mark 12:41-44; Revelation 12:11; Colossians 3:23; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Psalm 1:1-3; Hebrews 12:1-3; Genesis 11:6; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Galatians 6:12-14; Philippians 2:1-12



# JOY - A Vibrant Celebration

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We laugh! We sing! We celebrate!

Whatever the age, stage of life, background, ethnicity, or social status - our culture of joy draws people in. Joy fuels our faith, inspires creativity, and invites Heaven's abundance.



## Kidz Version

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We laugh! We sing! We celebrate!

Heaven is happy and so are we! All kinds of people like to come be happy with us. Joy makes our faith strong. It helps us make beautiful, new things for God. Joy fills us all the way up!



## REVIVAL - A Kingdom View

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“Your Kingdom come; Your will be done!”

We are just one, beautiful piece of God’s revival puzzle. We are alive in the power of our assignments, gifts, and callings, transforming people, regions, and the world by releasing Heaven on earth.

[Ephesians 4:11-16](#); [Matthew 6:10](#); [Psalm 133](#); [John 4:39-42](#); [John 14:12-14,21](#); [Isaiah 9:6-7](#)





## Kidz Version

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“Your Kingdom come; Your will be done!”

We are one part of God’s big, beautiful plan. God gives us supernatural power to change people’s lives. When we let Him use us, our world looks just like Heaven!



## Four Core Passions

# 1. PRESENCE

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“In Him we live and move and have our being.”

Jesus loved and drew strength from being with His Dad. Whether alone in prayer, serving, teaching, enjoying good meals, deep conversations, or performing miracles, the Presence of God marked His life. Experiencing our Father in real ways is essential for us, too. We don't just “do things for God.” We *do life* with Him.



## Four Core Passions

# 2. PEOPLE

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**“The character of Christ matures in us through community.”**

Jesus loved people and connected with them deeply. He was cooperative and caring. The intimacy He shared with His disciples demonstrated what the Bible teaches about the undeniable importance of community. Developing authentic, intimate, caring relationships is a must for those who want to live like Jesus.



## Four Core Passions

# 3. POWER

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“Good News is more than words.”

Jesus loved sharing truth; and He constantly confirmed His words with Kingdom power. Signs, wonders, miracles, spiritual gifts, and defeating demons are all normal functions of our life in Christ. Training and freedom opportunities help us to better enjoy, understand, and exercise our authority.



## Four Core Passions

# 4. PURPOSE

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**“Discover God’s Kingdom purposes for you – then do them!”**

Jesus loved doing His Father’s will. Even the painful parts were endured for the sake of that overriding joy. Well, we get to discover and fulfill our assignments, too. Some are the same for us all. Others are tailored to our individual DNA. Either way, we passionately pursue them, just like Jesus!

Our  
**PURPOSE**

**Empowered people live like Jesus, making every place look like His place.**



Our  
**Four Core  
Passions**

**PRESENCE**

**PEOPLE**

**POWER**

**PURPOSE**

Our  
**CORE  
VALUES**



# It makes supernatural sense...

AS WE GROW IN OUR EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S **PRESENCE**,  
ALLOW RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER **PEOPLE** TO MATURE  
HIS NATURE AND CHARACTER WITHIN US, BECOME FREE  
AND EQUIPPED IN HIS **POWER**, AND DISCOVER AND  
ENGAGE HIS KINGDOM **PURPOSES**, WE WILL BE **LIVING  
JUST LIKE JESUS** – AND **EVERY PLACE WE GO WILL  
BEGIN TO LOOK JUST LIKE HIS PLACE!**

# Here's how our 4 Passions show up in the things we do...

