November 23: Imagine That Imagine God's Provision

Scripture: Gen. 12:1-4

Vision Statement: "Springfield First glorifies God by striving to be a loving community of faith where all individuals are challenged to deepen their journey with Jesus through worshiping genuinely, connecting and serving, and experiencing life together."

- Do you have a sense of God's call on your life or purpose for your life? Name some practical effects it has had on how you live or use your time, energy, and other resources.
- 2. How have you heard God's voice in your life? Can you describe how you know it was God, and what it is that God has spoken?
- 3. If you believe you're still waiting to hear from God, how have you remained faithful in the meantime?
- 4. Are there sacrifices you have made in pursuit of God? Have they been worth it? Have any of them made you feel negatively toward God?
- 5. Are there places of resistance in you to what you sense God is calling you to? What keeps you from fully surrendering? Is there any person in your life you could share this with?
- 6. Do you have an example of a time when you responded to God's call and you experienced God's blessing? Be as specific as possible.
- 7. Do you have an example of a time when you responded to God's calling and it blessed other people? Be as specific as possible.
- 8. Where might you fully trust God today? Make a plan and do it.
- 9. Whom can you bless this coming week? Make a plan and do it!

November 16 - 23: Imagine - The 2030 Vision Casting We believe God is calling us to dream beyond what we can see and give beyond what feels comfortable. We are most alive in God when we step out in faith, trusting in God's provision.

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or Imagine!" (Ephesians 3:20).

November 16: Imagine our Impact

Scripture: Acts 2: 42-47

- 1) What is your "first" remembrance of church? How did it feel? What did you experience?
- 2) Describe the "ideal" church? What does the "ideal" church look like?
- 3) Read Acts 2:42-47. This is the New Testament picture of the first century church? What are the similarities between the early church and Springfield First? What are the differences?
- 4) Many church leaders want their particular local church to closely imitate the first century church? Is that possible? What are the limitations?
- 5) In this scripture, who is it that ultimately determines the growth of the church? (v.47). What are the obstacles that church leaders can remove so that God can bring about growth? What role do we play in allowing God to grow His church?
- 6) Is numerical growth the result of a program, or, is it the result of God moving in and through the hearts of his people? Where have you witnessed "spiritual transformation" in our church this past week?

- 7) Acts 2, describes how these first Christians were "devoted" to one another. How does "deep devotion" translate into spiritual and numerical growth?
- 8) There is a UM hymn called, "We are the Church." Verse one says, "The church is not the building, the church is not a resting place, but the church is the people." Does our perspective matter in how we view the church? How can you be "the church," to someone this week? What type of impact for the Kingdom of God would we have if we all began to shift our perspective from "attending church," to "being the church?"