

10 years ago, a dream was born: to become a church for unchurched people. A place where people who couldn't connect to God in a traditional setting could hear the Good News about Jesus in language that makes sense to them. Over the last 10 years, we have become that church. Catalyst is filled with people who have learned God's love for them and chosen a life of faith.

So what's next for Catalyst? Where do we go from here? In the last 10 years, we have become a church for unchurched people. In the next 10 years, Catalyst will create spaces where everyone can embrace their God-given calling. 10 years from now, we want to be able to say, [1 VISION slide] **"Catalyst creates spaces where everyone can embrace their God-given calling."**

Central to this vision is Paul's encouragement to the Ephesian church. Paul was a Jew - an insider. But most people in the Ephesian church were Gentiles - outsiders, people who before Jesus' death and resurrection weren't allowed to be part of God's people. But now, Paul tells them:

**"We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things God planned for us long ago." -- Ephesians 2:10**

Think about that -- we are a work of art. God is making something here at Catalyst, calling us all to be part of it. God rescues us so that we can join into the work of announcing the good news about Jesus. That's what Catalyst has been about from the start, and what we will continue to be part of moving forward. The next 10 years aren't starting over. They're expanding our canvas. The masterpiece God began 10 years ago at Catalyst will include more people, more places, in new ways. We don't know what that looks like yet - God is the artist, not us. But as we look to the future, we can discern the materials God is using to create. That's what our vision statement is about.

[2 Everyone] What do we mean when we say Catalyst will be a church for everyone? That has a lot to do with how the city of Rowlett is changing in the next few years. Today, Rowlett is a city comprised mainly of nuclear families - parents with kids who live at home.

As we said earlier, That's why Catalyst looks like it does today - to reach the unchurched people in Rowlett, we became a church comprised mainly of nuclear families with kids who live at home.

But Rowlett is changing - within 5 years, the city will have a large young professional population - unmarried, no kids. We'll also have many more apartments and condos, which will house anyone from recent college graduates to empty-nesters and retired adults. The demographic of Rowlett is changing quickly and dramatically and we need to be ready to change with it.

In the next 10 years, we'll look beyond Rowlett as well - how will we follow God's call to other neighborhoods in Dallas? What about in the rest of our country? In the world? Everyone means more than just everyone in Rowlett.

We want to be a church for everyone. That means in the future, Catalyst will be a place for people like you, but also for people who aren't so much like you. We'll be conservative and liberal. All races. All ages. We'll disagree on a lot - about the only thing we'll all agree on is that we are God's masterpiece. That God is rescuing all of us. That's how Paul describes the Church in Ephesus.

We don't want anyone to wonder whether they have a place at Catalyst. God loves everyone. God is speaking to everyone. God is calling everyone. So Catalyst will be a church for everyone. You'll never have to ask if it's okay for someone to be here. Everyone means everyone.

[3 Creates Spaces] And of course that means we have to change - that's what we mean by "create spaces" where everyone can embrace their God-given calling. We hear "create spaces" and we immediately imagine doing work on the building that sits at 7200 Princeton Road. Of course that can be part of it - we need better spaces for our amazing Kids' Ministry. We want more room to connect and socialize outside of our worship gatherings. We've even kicked around the idea of converting a big part of our unused land into practice soccer fields for the community to use. But that's really just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to "creating spaces".

Creating spaces also looks like imagining different times to gather, different kinds of worship that connect with young adults, young professionals most of whom are spiritually-minded, but don't think much of church. As the character of Rowlett becomes more diverse, so too we as a church must create spaces for those new persons. And we won't feel bound by 7200 Princeton Rd - Catalyst is not a building. Catalyst is the people of God who are gathered - today - at the Texas Skatium. Catalyst is the people who gather in C-Groups all over Northeast Dallas. Catalyst is the people wherever we are, so long as we gather to share in what God is doing in our lives and we won't allow our vision for what God wants to do next in our community be limited by where our building is located (or how many people can fit in there at once).

Most importantly, creating spaces looks like creating relational space for people who are different from us. We like to be with people who are like us - that's not a big revelation. But we grow when we're stretched, and we're stretched when we're in relationship with people who aren't like us. People who aren't the same age. People who come from different backgrounds. Who have different religious and political beliefs. Who are in a different place on cultural issues. Whose families look different from ours.

People who are Catalyst people are people who choose to love other people exactly as they are because we are loved exactly as we are. Catalyst people know that faith flourishes in diversity, not conformity, that God is more interested in conversation than consensus. Catalyst people are a church that is messy because we're real and we're not afraid of the mess; we find the mess

beautiful because we find God in the midst of the mess, calling us together. We find life and hope and beauty in how the Spirit is working among us.

Catalyst people are happy to create spaces in our own lives for everyone to embrace their God-given calling.

[4 Calling] What does it mean to "embrace your calling"? At Catalyst, we say everyone has a calling. God is calling everyone to join in the work of living out God's rule here on Earth as it is in heaven. Too often in churches, "callings" are reserved for pastors, for people we put on pedestals. We put a fence around God's voice, reserving hearing and following God for professionals.

But God calls everyone. Right now, today, God's voice is whispering to every person in your home, in your neighborhood. Every person in your office. Every friend, every enemy. Every person. As Catalyst creates spaces for those persons, we expect they'll learn to hear God calling them. And we want to partner with them, to equip them to follow God's call.

We hear God's call in our worship, as we are gathered by the Spirit to be formed into the image of Jesus. We hear God's call in our C-Groups as we share and care for each other out of the gifts the Spirit has given us. And we learn to hear God's voice when we share our lives with other believers who are in a different place in their journey than we are.

God calls us using our loves, our desires. God calls us using our skills and talents. God calls us using our experiences. God calls us by giving us spiritual gifts - something like teaching, or serving or organizing. Compassion and wisdom and mentoring - these are all gifts. God gives us gifts as invitations to join God's work. If that sounds a little complicated and overwhelming, well it can be. That's why it's helpful to have someone who's further along in their faith than you are to guide you [Pic of Yoda and Brown] (think Master Yoda or Doc Brown).

This process has a long history in the Church. It's been called everything from Spiritual direction to mentoring. We like the idea of mentoring - a good spiritual director wants what's best for you and they have cultivated the ability to call it out in you. A spiritual mentor works with you to help you figure out how God is calling you and how you can live into that calling. We have a dream that spiritual coaching will become a deep part of who Catalyst is in the next 10 years. That we would be a community of people who discovers how God is calling us and how we can live into that calling.

As we discover our calling, everything in our lives begins to orient around that calling - including how we serve. In the next 10 years, we want how Catalyst engages the world around us to transform dynamically. As people begin to live out of their callings, we'll begin to see how those callings can address deep needs in our community and our world. From our partnership with LifeMessage to the ends of the earth, we will follow God everywhere we're called.

[1 VISION slide] Catalyst creates spaces where everyone can embrace their God-given calling. As we stand on the edge of the future, looking ahead with wonder and awe, let Paul's words to the Ephesian church be our rallying cry:

We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders... In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us... He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. -- Ephesians 2:10-22

Catalyst is for everybody. There is no wall between Jews and Gentiles, between insiders and outsiders. There are no "good people" and "bad people" -- there are just people. We're all children of God, loved and welcomed into life.

God is building a holy temple of the people of Catalyst. We are the bridge between heaven and earth, the place where people can encounter the living God who died and was raised from the dead so they might have life. We are the place where people might hear the call of this God, to leave death and come into life, that they might be made new and begin to do the good things God prepared for them long ago.

Will you join us as we step into the future?

### **Communion SetUp**

[Communion Slide] Our journey into the future begins at Jesus' table. This meal points us to the meal he shared with his followers the night before he was killed. At that meal he broke bread,

gave it to us as his body. He passed us a cup of wine, told us it was his blood, poured out as a new relationship between us and God.

Jesus invites us to participate in this meal, to come to the cross with him, where there is no Jew and Gentile, no good or bad, just people brought together and made one. By coming to this table, we participate in the death of our prejudices, our fears, our selfishness. We leave as one people, sent by God into the world to find that same God already at work, calling us to join in the work of announcing the good news that every wall has been broken down - the wall between God and humanity, the walls we've built between each other.

You don't have to be a member of Catalyst to receive this communion. If you want to be part of what God is doing here, if you are willing to listen to God's call, to set out for parts unknown, to step bravely into the future with us, then you're welcome to come, to receive Jesus' meal.