



# JO MCKEE

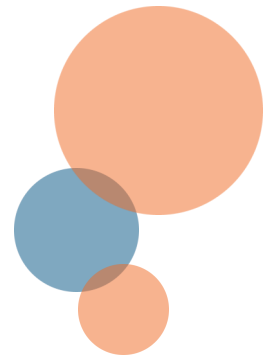
## Discerning Personal Vision

Jo is the incumbent of St Andrew's Radcliffe in Manchester and the Director of the CPAS Arrow Leadership Programme.

Jo is passionate about her church being 'family' to one another and sharing the Good News of Jesus to their community. Over the past three years the church family has grown numerically, spiritually, financially and is in the process of establishing a new worshipping community in the local area.

She also loves to facilitate church leaders growth, encouraging and the sharing of good practice, which can be seen Arrow and why she is also New Wine's North Manchester network leader.

Jo is married to Nick, who is also ordained, and they have one daughter. Before becoming a full-time church leader Jo was a professional musician and now, only occasionally, the dust is blown from the case to play with BSO (Bolton Symphony Orchestra)!



### JO MCKEE

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Incumbent and Director of Arrow

# DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)

## Introduction

### Module Aims

- To identify what vision is.
- To continue the process of discerning God's vision for our lives.
- To explore one way of more fully discerning God's priorities for our lives.

### Exodus 3:1-12

- Vision of God (3:4-6).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Vision for God's people (3:7-9).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Vision for Moses (3:10-12).

### Why is Discerning Personal Vision Important?

#### CONSIDER...

- Question one.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Question two.

### Key Insights

'If we find God with great ease perhaps it is not God that you have found.'

Thomas Merton

'If spiritual leadership is anything, it is the capacity to see the bush burning in the middle of our own life and having enough sense to turn aside, take off our shoes and pay attention.'

Strengthening the Soul of your Leadership, Ruth Haley Barton

'...the most important thing for you is your vision, your sense of God. The richer, deeper, wider your vision of the Divine Reality, the more rich, real, deeper and fruitful your work will be.'

Evelyn Underhill, 1927 addressing a conference of teachers

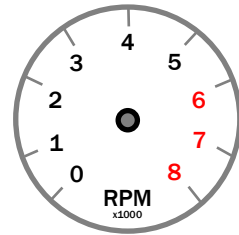


# Some Symptoms of Red Zone Living



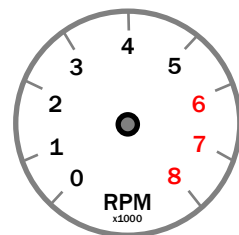
## Spiritually

- Prayer is reduced to cries for help.
- Constantly distracted during public worship.
- You no longer exercise spiritual disciplines.
- You begin to rationalise misbehaviour.



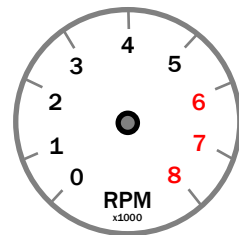
## Emotionally

- You don't have time to pay attention to feelings.
- You become strangely vulnerable to escapist sin as your soul cries out for emotional comfort.
- You become dispassionate about the plight of suffering people.
- You have escapist thoughts.



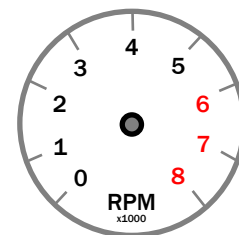
## Relationally

- Your relationships become superficial.
- You don't have time for friendships.
- If married, you spend more time with other people than with your partner.
- If single, you promise to see friends but never seem to make it.
- If you have children, you are always apologising to them for not being there.



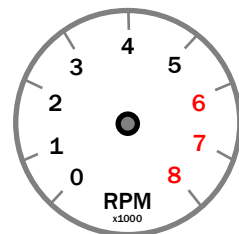
## Intellectually

- You become stagnant, relying on past stimulation to resource present ministry.
- Your bookshelf reflects when you left training.
- You are less open to new ideas.
- You become bored with your own preaching / teaching.



## Physically

- You are physically depleted with little time for exercise.
- Stress targets a particular part of your body (which part may change as you age).
- You become ill at the start of your holiday.

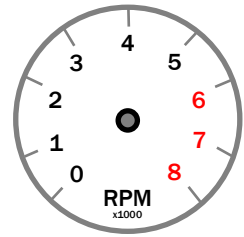


# Some Symptoms of Tick-over Living



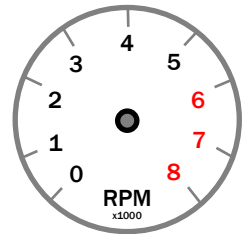
## Spiritually

- Loss of expectancy that something might happen today which requires the agency of a supernatural God.
- Intercessory prayers about maintaining the status quo rather than seeing new things come about.
- Bored with worship services and with leading them.
- Personal times with God become too routinised/carefully controlled. Hard to imagine God 'breaking in' with a fresh word.
- Avoid situations which might challenge or discomfort.
- Don't readily share openly with any accountability partner.
- The balance between care of oneself and cost in discipleship is unduly biased to the former. Retreat from any sense of active, risk-taking faith.



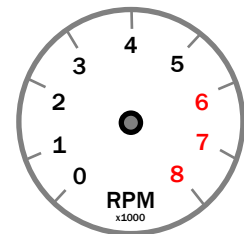
## Emotionally

- You rarely allow yourself to enter situations where your emotions might be stirred. Can't remember last time you wept over the suffering of another.
- Your life is pretty well in control and you are rarely if ever surprised by anything.
- Fear prevents you stretching yourself.
- Easily distracted (box-sets?), quickly cynical (why bother?), defensive when others ask about what you do/how you spend your time.



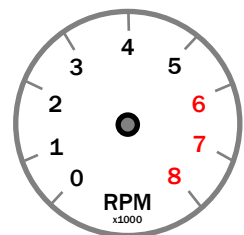
## Relationally

- You rarely if ever take an initiative to show love and care for those with whom you are in closest relationship.
- You spend disproportionately more time on solitary pursuits which energise you than in doing shared activities with family/friends etc.
- Pursue personal pleasure. Hobbies become idols.
- In danger of taking others for granted.



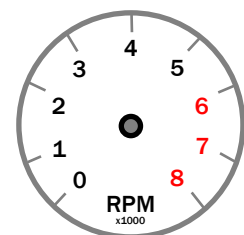
## Intellectually

- No new thinking or ideas, change of practice.
- You don't read anything stretching or challenging.
- Preaching hasn't changed in the last five years.
- Micro-manage unimportant things, focus on trivia.
- Bored, lethargic, focus on other people's ministry rather than your own.
- Focus on maintenance of what is rather than pioneering what might be.
- Become bloated on training.



## Physically

- Your levels of fitness are declining.
- You never attempt anything which might exert you or push you. You rarely let yourself get out of breath.
- You spend increasing amounts of time 'lounging'.



# DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)

## Why is Discerning Vision so Important?

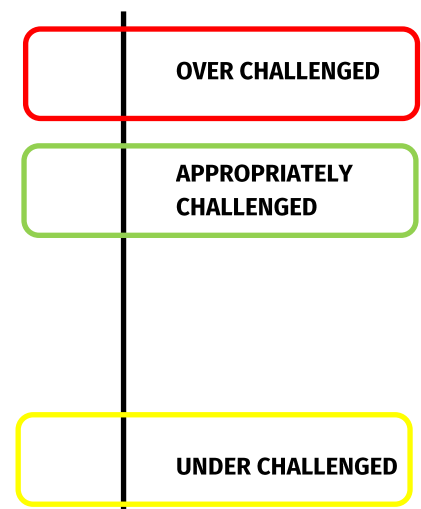
What Might Lead You into the Red Zone?



What Might Lead You into Tick-over?



Where are You on the Challenge Scale and Why?



# DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)

## Reflection

### What Can we Do?

If you were to fault yourself in one of these three areas which would it be?

- The ability to prioritise.
- The lack of desire to organise around these priorities.
- The lack of discipline to make these priorities happen.

### What is Personal Vision?

- Finding and fulfilling God's particular call for our life, giving direction to how we use our time, talents and treasure.
- Keeping the end in mind.
- Personal vision is like a magnifying glass; it helps create focus.

### Key Insights

'Everyone was saying that I was doing really well, but something inside me was telling me that my success was putting my own soul in danger.'

Henri Nouwen

# DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)

## Personal Vision

### Where does it Fit with our Calling?

- Our primary calling is to discipleship.
  
- Our particular calling is to discern God's unique purpose for our lives.

### A Personal Vision Statement is...

- 'A tool to help us identify God's priorities for our lives.'
  
- Developing a personal vision statement is like a compass, it helps give direction.

### Key Insights

'Jesus knew his calling. He wasn't just passing through life, but pursuing a vision.'

Leighton Ford



# DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)

## What is a Personal Vision Statement?

### Five Areas

- Spiritual: how is God calling me to grow in my relationship with him?
- Personal: what areas of my character does God want to develop in me?
- Relational: how does God want me to grow in my relationships?
- Professional: what does God want me to do in my work?
- Physical: how does God want me to take care of my body?

### How does it Help?

- Brings direction.
- Clarifies priorities.
- Informs decisions.
- Fuels motivation.
- Strengthens perseverance.
- Guides evaluation.

### Key Insights

‘Beware of anything that competes with loyalty to Jesus Christ. The greatest competitor of devotion to Jesus is service for him.’

Oswald Chambers





# DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)

## How do we Develop a PVS?

### Getting Started

Two problems:

- Getting started.
- Having an idea of the end product.

### An Exercise

Choose one of the two options (go with your instinct) and use the five areas listed below to inform the areas you reflect on.

- Personal: what areas of my character does God want to develop in me?
- Relational: how does God want me to grow in my relationships?
- Spiritual: how is God calling me to grow in my relationship with him?
- Professional: what does God want me to do in my work?
- Physical: how does God want me to take care of my body?

### A Process

Seek your personal vision through exercising spiritual disciplines.

Sharpen it by capturing it in detail.

Test it by submitting it to others.

Develop it through obedience.

Clarify it through reflection.

### Key Insights

‘Experience is not what happens to you. It is what you do with what happens to you.’

Aldous Huxley

‘Vision for Jesus was seeing how the truth as his Father showed it, touched life as Jesus lived it.’

Leighton Ford



# DISCERNING PERSONAL VISION (1)

## How do we Develop a PVS? (contd)

### Remember

- It comes from the heart.
- We, alone, can make this statement.
- It is radical and compelling.

### Common Blockages to Vision

- Too much activity.
- Pressure.
- Poor self concept.
- Fear of failure.
- Forgetting.
- Lack of focus.
- Imbalance.
- Tiredness.

### Journal Time

You might find it helpful to reflect on this module using the following.

Write a letter to God about your understanding of his vision for your life. Talk about

- Your hopes.
- Your fears.
- Those things you want to do.
- Those things you want to leave behind.

Draw a picture/sketch.

Write a prayer of offering.

### Key Insights

Disturb us, Lord  
when we are too well pleased  
with ourselves,  
when our dreams have come  
true  
because we have dreamed  
too little,  
when we arrive safely because  
we have sailed too close to  
the shore.

Disturb us, Lord,  
when with the abundance of  
things we possess,  
we have lost our thirst for  
the waters of life;  
when having fallen in love with  
life,  
we have ceased to dream of  
eternity;  
when in our effort to build a  
new earth,  
we have allowed our vision  
of the new heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord,  
to dare more boldly;  
to venture on wider seas  
where storms will show your  
mastery,  
where losing sight of land,  
we shall find the stars;  
to push back the horizons of  
our hopes;  
to push in the future in  
strength, courage, hope and  
love.

## Some Symptoms of Red Zone Living



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# SPACE FOR REFLECTING ON YOUR PERSONAL VISION STATEMENT

