



Vision and Goal: *What would happen if the whole church in our city were known for what we are “for”, rather than what we are “against?” What if the whole church was “For Charlotte?”* The goal of the For Charlotte unified sermon series to cast a vision for how a unified body of Christ can transform our city together. For four weeks in September of 2018, pastors across Charlotte are preaching this same sermon series, using the same texts, topics and key takeaways, while customizing the series to fit its own context and particular needs. September has been strategically chosen due to the natural “rhythm” of churches launching new vision and initiatives aligning with the school calendar.

Weekly Sermon Overview:

Week 1 Sermon: *For the Gospel*

- **Date:** September 9, 2018
- **Key Text:** Galatians 2:11-21
- **Big Idea:** Highlight the centrality of the gospel for life and societal transformation. Our motives are both temporal and eternal as the gospel forms the grounds for who we are and what we do. If we get the gospel wrong, we get everything wrong.
- **Video Idea:** A video depicting the spiritual “lostness” of Charlotte and the need to proclaim the gospel.

Week 2 Sermon: *For the Church*

- **Date:** September 16, 2018
- **Key Text:** John 17:13-23
- **Big Idea:** Preach through Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer and His desire for us to be one. This sermon would declare that we are all on the same team and need each other to advance the mission of Jesus in our city. The greatest declaration of the gospel is seen and experienced in the unity of the Church. While we may have doctrinal and denomination distinctives, the core of the gospel is the same and we need to act in ways that promote partnership and fellowship with one another. Understanding our unity in Christ should compel us love one another and repent for past division.
- **Video Idea:** A video showing pastors talking about why there is so much Church competition in Charlotte and how that must change if we are to see our city transformed.

Week 3 Sermon: *For Our Neighbor*

- **Date:** September 23, 2018
- **Key Text:** Luke 10:25-37
- **Big Idea:** This sermon will address the need (and struggle) for us to love our neighbor and to think strategically about how we can minister in our neighborhoods. This would allow us to address some of the particular needs in our city and those found in close proximity to our church campus.
- **Video Idea:** A video capturing the increasing ethnic diversity of the city and how the look of our “neighbor” is changing.

Week 4 Sermon: *For Our City*

- **Date:** September 30, 2018
- **Key Text:** Jeremiah 29:1-14
- **Key Idea:** This sermon would address a 30,000-foot view of citywide transformation brought about by the collective partnership of the Church of Jesus Christ in Charlotte. Utilize the State of the City Report to paint a high level picture of the cities needs, and then cast visionary for the future if we will work together for the cause of Christ. We can address large initiatives that address some of the most pressing needs of the city and its future.
- **Video Idea:** A video interviewing key city leaders asking them, “How can the church help?”
- **Key Takeaway:** State of the City Report (Emailed to every member) & each church inform their congregation about the For Charlotte Platform, connecting them to their church partners and the boarder needs of the city.