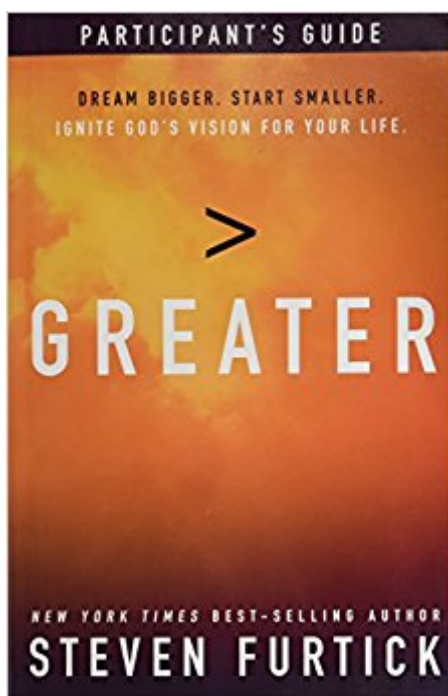


The book was found

Greater Participant's Guide: Dream Bigger. Start Smaller. Ignite God's Vision For Your Life



Synopsis

Take Hold of God's Vision for Your Life. A Life that is GREATER. This companion guide to Steven Furtick's life-changing Greater DVD will help you take the next step and the ones after that to follow Jesus's call to do even greater things than He did (John 14:12). Drawn from the powerful book Greater and designed to be used with the Greater DVD this user-friendly resource shows you how to apply four "greater-releasing principles from the prophet Elisha's life:

- Burn the Plows: Make a decisive break with your old life.
- Digging Ditches: Start small and make practical preparations.
- Upon Further Review: Live with the knowledge that faith is never wasted.
- Strike the Water: Step out to live the greater life God promises.

Each chapter includes a study plan that corresponds with the DVD, discussion questions, space for individual reflection, a Bible study, and suggestions for group leaders. Created to ignite your passion and move you forward, the Greater DVD Participant's Guide will inspire you to reach for the greater life and show you how to get there. DVD not included.

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Customer Reviews

Steven Furtick, author of the best-selling book, Sun Stand Still, is founder and lead pastor of Elevation Church, which in only six years grew to more than ten thousand in regular attendance at six locations. He holds a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He

and his wife, Holly, have three children: Elijah, Graham, and Abbey. They make their home near Charlotte, North Carolina.

Welcome! I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. — John 14:12

For most of us, the experience of our daily lives is a far cry from the greater works Jesus talked about in John 14:12. We've had some big dreams about what God might want for our lives. But so many of us are stuck in the starting blocks. Or are dragging along at the back of the pack. We know we were meant for more. Yet we end up settling for less. We're frustrated about where we are. But we're confused about how to move forward. I think we all know instinctively, even if we can't articulate it exactly, that something isn't squaring up. There's a huge gap between what God said in His Word and the results we see in our lives. I wonder if you can relate. If so, you need to know that the frustration that's simmering on the back burner right now might boil over one day, and you'll be bitter about the opportunities you missed. Opportunities to be used by God, to touch lives, to get outside yourself and be a part of something greater. I know it's not easy. But don't tell me it's not possible. Jesus Himself said it was. The fact is, we have the potential to be so much better than we've become, because God is so much greater than we're allowing Him to be through us. That's why we've developed this Greater DVD Participant's Guide. It's a tool for you and a group of others to use in diving deep into the message of Greater — not just considering this message on a conceptual level but wrestling with what it means for you. Offering discussion questions combined with personal reflection topics and suggested action steps, it's a guidebook to take with you on the way to the greater life. Here, as in Greater, the prophet Elisha shows us the way. Through four key incidents from his life, we'll be learning four key truths that we've got to know if we want to embark on the greater way. The DVD that goes along with this participant's guide is strategically designed to present the concepts and enhance the content in a multidimensional way. The teaching sessions on the DVD were filmed at the famous Abbey Road Studios in London. Additionally, each session features support footage that was filmed on location where Elisha performed his miracles in the Holy Land. And each video session on the DVD ends with an original worship song written just for that session and performed at Abbey Road. We pray that these elements will stir your passion and incite your imagination to seek God for greater things. And I hope you'll bring lots of friends, family, and fellow church members with you on the journey.

How to Use This Guide

The book

Greater wasn't designed to stand alone. Instead it was intended to serve as just one piece in a whole set of related resources. I didn't want the message to exist merely as a book that people would read and set aside. I prayed that God would use it to spark a movement in the hearts of men and women everywhere, helped along by every format that's appropriate. I'm grateful to God that He's allowed it to happen. The participant's guide you hold in your hands is an important part of the Greater resources. Our vision is that people will use this participant's guide in adult or youth small groups, Bible studies, Sunday school classes, or ministry team meetings on a church-wide basis along with a four-week series of sermons for leadership training and personal development in business and community settings as individuals or couples. However you choose to use this participant's guide, I hope you will maximize your experience by using it in conjunction with the core book, the Greater DVD, and the Greater collection of worship songs. Also check out the greaterbook.com website for more information and updates. This participant's guide doesn't simply cover all the same points the book does. Instead it builds on the foundation of the book, offering expanded biblical and practical reflections on the principles in Greater. It focuses on four images from the prophet Elisha's life: how he burned his plows, commanded some kings to dig ditches for water, raised a boy from the dead, and struck the waters of the Jordan River with his mentor's cloak. In exploring these four images, it also presents four key ideas that are crucial to pursuing the greater life. Here's how we've broken them down:

Burn the Plows: To pursue a new life that is greater, we first have to make a decisive break with our old lives. (See also chapter 4 of Greater.)

Digging Ditches: We can start small as we seek a greater life, but we need to make practical preparations that demonstrate our faith. (See also chapter 5 of Greater.)

Upon Further Review We can't let ourselves become discouraged as we advance toward God's greater purpose, because our faith is never wasted. (See also chapter 8 of Greater.)

Strike the Water: For each of us, there comes a time to step out on the word God has spoken to us about a greater life. (See also chapter 12 of Greater.)

These are the truths I talk about on the DVD, which includes five video sessions. The first video session is introductory, and I suggest you watch it before the first group session to get an idea of the flow of the study. For example, if you're in an established weekly small group that's going to be using this participant's guide, you could watch the introductory video session as a group the week prior to starting your Greater study. The four numbered video sessions go along with the four group sessions, one after the other. Obviously, many using these resources are already experienced group leaders and have a clear sense of how your meetings

should be organized and conducted to fit your context. But for those who want a little more direction, here are some suggestions to get you started. **Group Use** If you're using this participant's guide in a small group of some kind, try to keep the size to no more than a dozen people so that everyone can share easily. You'll need to meet in a place where you can watch a DVD on a large screen and then sit comfortably to discuss the questions.

There's enough material for about an hour's worth of meeting time, though you can shrink it or stretch it, if you need to, depending on how your group manages the discussion time. **The Sessions** The sessions are designed to follow a simple format. You'll find an introduction you can read and an opening question that will help to establish how the session topic applies to your life. Then you'll watch the video for that session, taking notes on your own as you watch. Each teaching will conclude with a portion of an original worship song inspired by the message of Greater. Hopefully, this will establish an atmosphere for a productive extended time of group discussion that breaks down the key idea for the session and starts to apply it in the participants' lives. Look for the discussion questions in italics. Finally, you'll conclude your time with prayer. **Group Leader** One person should serve as the facilitator of the group sessions. This isn't a formal class, and there's no need for anyone to lecture or dominate the group, but someone should take responsibility for keeping the discussion rolling. See the **Leader's Helps** at the back of this book for more information. **Community** Make these sessions an opportunity for relationship building. Spend time getting to know each other, encouraging and praying for each other. You might want to serve food. Maybe you'll want to put on some Beatles music when your group is This icon identifies a quote from one of the video sessions on the Greater DVD.

I was not sure what to expect from this author as I have never done a Bible study with him. It has been a challenging study and his insights are great. Our bible study group has found it to be a meaningful and deep study.

Very thought provoking look at how I CAN do greater things when I obey God. Sometimes I must give up good things to make room for greater things!

This book really makes you consider what you are holding on to in your life and why. Whether an idol or emotions this author helps you see what it is that holds you back from God's greater vision for your life. It isn't easy to let go, the book isn't a self help in a whole bunch of steps. It is a book

that helps you see where you are standing in God's way.

I loved reading this book and discussing it with a small group from our church. The participant's guide was good to follow. The DVD was excellent although I wish we could know the words to the songs that were sung. I really enjoyed Steven's sense of humor. The study was fun to do.

If you feel like God has given you a vision - a dream - to do something that you feel is impossible to do, you must read this book. It is packed with truths from God's Word, and it is an incredible encouragement to start taking small steps toward that dream.

have seen furtick at the okc lifechurch campus a few timeshe has a great way of presenting things that are riveting and meaningfulbought this for my son who felt that steve was speaking directly to himbought the products for him which will be put to good use

Gave as gift.

I have to put myself in the "high hopes but disappointed" category. My main problem with this book is, it offers the promise of "igniting God's vision for your life" but the author only devotes a minute percentage of the first chapter (let alone the rest of the book) to getting the "vision." I was actually hoping the entire book would be devoted to discerning God's vision. Without seeing the vision as the first step, one never gets to "burning the plow," "digging the ditches" or the subsequent steps. The message seems to be that God will speak to you. But after reading the first chapter (and the rest of the book) I still have no real idea how to recognize when God might be speaking to me. The examples given do not really help -- the persons described (including the author himself) just say "they knew." But in other parts of the book the author points out that The Adversary is always out there trying to derail you. How did the people in the examples know it was God speaking? How can you tell the difference, assuming The Adversary is charming and persuasive? In other words, you get a strong feeling that you are being told to do something, and it sounds good, but The Adversary is saying "He sure fell for that one." Another problem is, much of the book seems like "Sun Stand Still" told in a different way -- e.g., you should ask God to help you achieve the vision . . . but this is how you should react when the vision doesn't pan out, because sometimes it won't pan out . . . very similar to the progression in Sun Stands Still. So I am not saying the book is worthless, just disappointing.

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