

vanguard:creative  
LEADERSHIP COURSES



# BATTLE PLANS:

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# BATTLE PLANS

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Laying The  
Ground Work  
For Victory

## **MODULE 1:**

- ☀ Introduction
- ☀ Before You Start Planning
- ☀ The Things That Hold You Back
- ☀ Module 1 Assignment

# Welcome To Vanguard Creative Leadership Courses!

We launched Vanguard Creative to help Kingdom-minded leaders like you, leverage their abilities and ideas into strategies that create real-world impact on a Kingdom level.

One of the ways we do this is through our online courses. We want to share what we have learned about Kingdom leadership, both our successes *and our failures*, in order to help you achieve all that God has put within you to accomplish. Through our courses, we hope to share insights, challenge your

thinking and expose you to ways of looking at your own potential in a different light.

We firmly believe that the world rises and falls on the leadership of the church – not religion, but empowered believers who UNDERSTAND and ACT upon the calling that God has placed within them. The world we leave our children will be shaped by the level of our faith and the boldness of our actions. Our goal is to provide you with the tools you need to make a difference wherever God has placed you.

We want to help you to dream bigger and reach further. We want to provoke you to take on challenges that seem out of reach and we want to challenge your heart to see the potential in places that others have written off as unchangeable.

We want you to take what you learn at Vanguard Creative and apply it in your own way. Innovative thinking can come from anyone and we truly believe that society needs your leadership. This is your invitation to jump into the bigger picture of what God is doing in communities and nations all around the world. Dream big. Reach far. Make an impact in 2015.

# About Battle Plans:

## 2015 EDITION

Welcome to Battle Plans 2015, a four-week introductory course on implementing the prophetic into your personal action plan for 2015.

Vanguard Creative is an organization dedicated to helping individuals and organizations leverage their strengths and abilities into actionable ideas that create impact within their field of influence.

The goal of this course is to share a framework upon which you can build a strategy for advancement in your career and personal life. We hope that the questions and insights you will find in this course will support your own thinking and work in creating impact within your field of influence,

and we also hope that it will demystify the process of implementing big picture prophetic revelation into actionable strategies on an individual level.

Our ultimate goal is to empower you so that you have a better understanding of how God sees you and the type of influence He desires you to have.

# Course Overview:

# 1

## Module 1:

- Introduction
- Before You Start Planning
- The Things That Block Your Vision
- Module 1 Assignment

# 2

## Module 2:

- Why Prophecy Matters To Your Plan
- The 2015 Word Of The Lord
- What The Word Means For You
- Module 2 Assignment

# 3

## Module 3:

- Getting Your Plan On Paper
- Prophecy In Context
- God's Word - Your Responsibility
- Module 3 Assignment

# 4

## Module 4:

- Principles For Prophetic Activation
- Dealing With Distraction
- Systems, Systems, Systems
- Praying Your Plan Into Action
- Module 4 Assignment

## Course Learning Objectives:

- ☀ Understand how prophecy can be better implemented into your personal and professional goals.
- ☀ Explore your own values, motivations and goals for how you want to impact the world.
- ☀ Reflect on your leadership journey and the changes you might be willing to make in the future.
- ☀ Provide a set of practical tools to help you turn your goals into a daily plan of action.

## This Course Is For You:

You will get as much out of this course as you put in to it. You can read through each lesson and gain some value, but the real value of the course comes from taking time to look at the materials as a whole. In this first lesson, we will explore some important questions that you must look at before you can create an effective battle plan. Please don't overlook the importance of taking time to thoughtfully answer these questions. If you don't dig deep within yourself, you won't have a proper foundation upon which to build in 2015.

As we move into the exercises, take time with them. Pray over them. Ask God to show you insights beyond your own levels of creativity. Remember, your first plan is never your best plan. By nature, we tend to think safe and small, but that is not how God thinks and it is not how He sees you. You were created with a purpose that you may not have yet fully identified. This course is designed to help you look at your life within the bigger picture of His plan for you.

## Structure:

Course content will be delivered over the internet. Each week, you will receive readings, a series of activities and specific assignments designed to assist you in creating your plan of action for 2015. The course is designed to be taken individually or if you prefer, in a group. Forming a group will provide great benefit in brainstorming sessions, as well as creating a greater level of accountability in implementing the plan that you create. If you choose to form a group, we recommend a size of 2-4 people.

# Module 1: Laying The Ground Work For Victory

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**Welcome to Battle Plans Module 1: Laying The Ground Work For Victory**

## **Estimated Time:**

This document contains all the materials you will need to complete Module 1.

**Reading and Reflection:** 1.5 hours

**Module 1 Assignment:** 2 Hours

## **Objectives for Module 1:**

By the end of this module you should be able to:

- ❖ Identify any issues hindering your progress
- ❖ Better understand where God has planted you for Kingdom impact
- ❖ Conduct an annual review, evaluating your current status (highs and lows) while clarifying areas you would like to work on in 2015.



# Introduction:

At Vanguard Creative, we believe that God wants to move in every part of society and we want to be in the middle of what He's doing! We also believe that the most important force for change comes from hungry, passionate believers who are willing to do whatever it takes to make an influence where God has planted them.

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**“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”**

*- Peter Drucker*

That's the kind of person you are.

Committed. Eager. But maybe a bit unsure of yourself and what it will take to get where you know God wants to take you.

We wrote this course for you:

To help you better understand yourself, to clarify your goals and to show you how to better partner with God's plan by tapping into prophetic insights.

## The World Is Our Inheritance:

Each generation has a responsibility to move the world closer to God's original intention. Some generations have done well; some have failed. Now it's our turn.

But He hasn't asked us to do this on our own.

He wants to work with us to bring our communities, families and workplaces in line with what His Kingdom looks like. One of the ways that He does this is through prophecy.

**“Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.”**

*Amos 3:7*



**We have an edge that the rest of the world doesn't have.**

Through prophecy, we can see how God plans to move this year and position ourselves to make an even greater impact.

**Think about this:**

What if you could hit the ground running in January? What if you had insider information that allowed you to understand how 2015 is going to play out?

How much more effectively could you plan your year? What if you could see the challenges ahead of time and position yourself to be the solution?

What kind of leverage would that give you?

Here's the exciting thing: Through prophecy, we've already received a sneak peek of what's coming.

In September, trusted prophets began unpacking what God is saying for 2015. We received some detailed insight about what to expect, how God intends to move and how it might impact us.

**Knowing that, how will that information affect your 2015 battle plans?**

**That's what we'll tackle in this course: How to interpret and apply the word of the Lord for this year to your own unique situation.** We'll also look at some practical ways to turn your ideas and insights into actionable strategies. But before we can start to unpack the prophetic word for this year, we need to do some important prep work.

That's what we'll cover in this session.

# Before You Start Planning:

**Important:** Don't jump ahead. Every good leader understands the importance of preparation. The things we'll talk about in this session are incredibly important to your success this year. The exercises are key to opening your mind and spirit up to what God wants to say to you. If you skip over them, you'll miss valuable insights.

So let's get started:

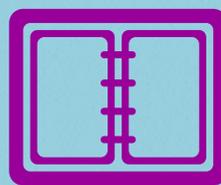
## How Do You Fit In God's Plan?

If you're like most people, January is the month that you take stock of where you are at and make plans for the new year. Resolutions are made, exercise equipment is purchased, and notebooks are filled with goals and plans for a better year.

The problem is that most of those goals and resolutions fail to make it through the end of the month. The exercise equipment goes in the garage, old habits win out and January's excitement gives way to business as usual.

It's the same with our spiritual goals.

A big reason most people fail is that they don't stop to ask the important questions that could set them up for greater success.



## STOP AND REFLECT:

Take a moment to consider the following questions:

- ☀ Have you placed any limitations on your plan?
- ☀ Are there things you have taken off the table? Why?
- ☀ How do you see yourself? What are your limitations? Are these limitations real or self-imposed?
- ☀ Looking at your current situation, who's kingdom have you been building – yours or God's?

## Who's Kingdom Are You Building?

This is one of the most important questions that you have to ask yourself before you start planning. Most people work on their own plan and fit God in the periphery, adding things like praying more or increasing giving.



All good things, for sure, but Kingdom planning is about putting God's imprint on every aspect of your life. It's about stripping away self-made limitations to take on unfathomable possibilities. It's also about understanding your role as an heir.

God sees you as one of His heirs.

Stop for a moment and ask yourself, ***“Do I really believe that?”***

As a believer, you are an heir and with that comes all of the rights AND the responsibilities of the Kingdom. To create an effective battle plan, this is something that you can't just give lip service to. It must become the central thought in your planning.

That means stepping outside of yourself to see the bigger picture you are a part of.

In Genesis 1:28 God laid out a mandate that applies to every believer.

**Then God blessed them and gave them this directive:  
“Be fruitful and multiply. Populate the earth. I make you trustees of My estate, so care for My creation and rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that roams across the earth.”**

*Genesis 1:28 The Voice*

We are trustees to an inheritance. As the scope of the world has grown, the responsibility of each successive generation to lead and care for that which we have been entrusted has grown.

Most people don't look at their lives from that perspective. They might think about where they came from, or want to provide an inheritance for their children, but even those who have given their



lives to Christ fail to take in the scope of what God has called them to share in stewarding.

To tap into all God has for you in 2015, you have to see yourself as a person that can make a difference. You must tap into your potential as a creator. The following quote from [The Vanguard Manifesto](#) illustrates this:

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**“We are living in a time when it’s not us who are waiting on God to move; it’s God who is waiting on us.”** - *Dutch Sheets*

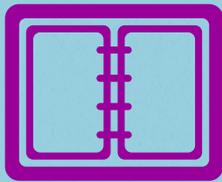
**“So pursuing Kingdom means we don’t retreat. Instead of isolating ourselves from the world, we create something of substance within it.**

**We are made in the image of our creator...meaning we ought to look like Him, act like Him, think like Him. That means that as believers connected to the mind of God, we ought to be the ones creating cures for diseases, innovating products that revolutionize people’s lives and building businesses that strengthen economies.**

**When you act as a creator, it lifts you to another level of connection with God. You are living as He intended you to. It moves you from being one of the crowd to being a son or daughter. When you do the things He does, you become more connected, and more identified to Him.”**

*The Vanguard Manifesto*

To create the kind of plan that God wants you to in 2015, you must step back and look at the bigger picture. You need to see the potential that you have and you need to understand the responsibility that goes with it.



## STOP AND REFLECT:

**Take a moment to consider the following questions:**

- ☀ Where has He planted you?
- ☀ What is He asking you to watch over?
- ☀ Are you thinking beyond what's in front of you – family, job, etc.?
- ☀ Are you making choices with the next generation in mind?
- ☀ Have you taken ownership of the things God created you to impact?



# Removing The Things That Block Your Vision:

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**"If you chase two rabbits, you will not catch either one."  
- Russian proverb**

Seeing the bigger picture is only part of the work you need to do before you start planning for 2015. You also need to take some time to deal with any issues that may be hindering your vision.

Remember, one of the greatest attacks the enemy will launch against you is to cause you to see yourself smaller than you actually are. His goal is to keep your eyes on your limitations and off of your potential.

**Before you move forward, take a few minutes to evaluate how any of these common traps may be affecting you:**

## **1. Hanging On To An Old Vision:**

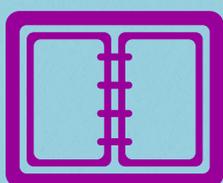
It's impossible to move into a new identity if you are clinging to an old vision of what your life should look like.

Here are some things to consider:

### **Mantles Shift:**

While the call of God never changes, the nature of how we walk out that calling is constantly changing. God is always doing new things. He anoints things in one season, but when He is ready to move on, the anointing shifts as He moves. It's easy to get stuck holding on to what's familiar. It's foolish to get caught holding onto a dead vision.

If He's calling you to a different role, you cannot think the way you used to think. You cannot do the things you used to do. You can't hold on to the familiar. You must let go of who you were in one season before He can move you into your new season.



## **STOP AND REFLECT:**

**Take a moment to consider the following questions:**

- ☀ Are you holding onto responsibilities that no longer fit your role?
- ☀ Are you trying to do more than God has asked you to do?
- ☀ Is there anything that you are holding onto out of comfort or recognition?
- ☀ Do you ever think, "I would love to do that, but I'm not qualified?"
- ☀ Is there any part of you struggling to trust God?

### **God isn't in love with your idea:**

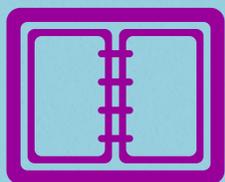
You shouldn't be in love with it, either. It can be tempting to regard your idea of how your calling should play out as sacred, but that's not the case.

### **Here's what I mean:**

When God speaks a word to you, you interpret that word through a lens.

But what if that lens is wrong?

It might be too small. It might be focused in the wrong direction. It might require a partner you don't yet have. There are lots of variables. The point is, the idea you came up with is just that – the idea YOU came up with.



## STOP AND REFLECT:

Take a moment to consider the following questions:

- ☀ Are there any areas of your life that are not producing?
- ☀ Could it be that you are holding onto an idea that is not for this season?

## 2. Disappointment:

It's impossible to move forward into a new season if your mind and heart are trapped in the past. God may want to move you forward into a new opportunity, or a new identity, but you will stall the forward progress that could be yours if you refuse to deal with the disappointments and failures of your past season.

Perhaps there are areas where you know you failed. You may see years that were wasted,

opportunities aborted or dramatic failures that have occurred. If you lock yourself into the identity of failure through the refusal to forgive yourself, you will never be able to move forward.

Or perhaps someone let you down and you find it hard to trust. If you let your fear take the lead, you may miss valuable relationships that are necessary to getting you to your next level.

In every place of pain, there is an appropriate season of grief, but if you stay in that place too long, bitterness, shame and regret take root, locking you into an identity of failure and disappointment. Once you have missed a window of moving forward, a sense of hope deferred begins to take root and you may find yourself resigned to the thought that your only option moving forward is plan B.

That is not God's intention for your life.

Listen to the heart of God in this prophetic word given by Chuck Pierce:

**"I have determined your seasons -- not you. I am the God of seed-time and harvest. Because you have strived to stay in a season that I have determined to end, you have lost the power of seed-time and miss(ed) the harvest. I am opening a window to reorder My blessings and**

set you in My timing. Submit today, and allow Me to determine the season ahead. For today, a new season has shifted upon you and if you will allow Me to be the determining factor of that season, your best will be ahead."

– Prophetic word given by Chuck Pierce

**“Fundamentally holding on to a belief is dangerous because it takes a lot of effort to override, especially when it's a belief you hold about yourself.”**

– Ishita Gupta

God is the author of our seasons. Even if you have missed a window, He can get you back into proper timing.

But you must be willing to deal with disappointment.



### **EXERCISE:**

**There is always a root cause that is connected to disappointment.**

**Ask God to show you where disappointment has a root in your life and what you need to do to move forward. Then ask God for the ability to see that season through the eyes of grace.**

### **3. False Labels:**

Words are powerful. They build up and they tear down. When something is spoken over you, it has the power to send you spiraling down a path that was never intended for your life.

Sometimes these labels come from other people: our parents, teachers, our spouses, our bosses and sometimes they come from us. On their own, labels are powerful, but when we agree with them, they become an unholy fixture upon which we build our identity.



## EXERCISE:

List any significant labels that you feel may be affecting your life.

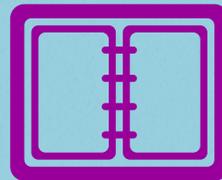
Who were they spoken by?

How have they affected you?

## 4. FEAR:

You will never move forward if you are playing defense. When fear has authority in your life, you'll find yourself playing it safe rather than taking on the challenges that God has designed for you in the year ahead.

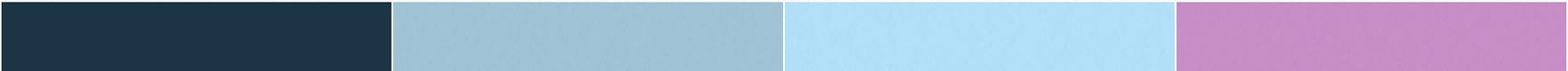
Whenever you are afraid, it's important to ask yourself, "Why am I afraid?" Sometimes fear is rooted in anger; oftentimes, it's rooted in pride. We are afraid to fail. And that fear of failure stems from our fear of what people will think of us. Insecurity is one of the most insidious enemies you will face, because it appears as an innocent weakness and leaves you with a victim mentality.



## STOP AND REFLECT:

Take a moment to consider the following questions:

- ☀ Are there any areas in which you have stopped believing in yourself? Why?
- ☀ What will it cost me if I don't change?
- ☀ What will I miss out on if I don't act now?
- ☀ What has my inaction already cost me?
- ☀ What might be possible if I make the changes I need to?



# Module 1 Assignment:

## ASSESS YOUR CURRENT REALITY

### 1. CONDUCT AN ANNUAL REVIEW

This exercise will lay the groundwork for the rest of the course. To do an effective annual review, you will need a few hours of focused alone time. No cell phones, no email – no distractions. Get a notebook and a pen. You can write, sketch, mind map – whatever helps you to best capture your thoughts.

To get your thoughts flowing start by answering these two questions about 2014:

- ❖ What went well?
- ❖ What didn't go so well?

Try to come up with 5-6 examples for each question.

### 2. DIGGING DEEPER:

Now it's time to dig a little deeper into your annual review. We will use these categories as a launching point for the remainder of the course. Feel free to add any other categories or questions that you feel are relevant. If you would like, you can use this [thought map](#) to get started:

#### **Relationships:**

What are your relationships like right now? Would your family, co-workers and friends agree? *If you're not sure, maybe you need to ask someone.*

#### **Career:**

Are you where you should be? (*Position, company, etc.*) Are you giving the effort that you should? If you're not where you want to be, why?



### **Finances:**

What is your financial status? Are you aligned with God in your giving? Have you taken on debts that are holding you back? Do you have sound investments?

### **Spirituality:**

How is your relationship with God? Do you feel like you are in proper timing with His plans for your life? Did you see growth in your spiritual life this year? Are you aligned spiritually with the right people?

### **Health:**

What kind of shape are you in? What is your energy level like? Do you get enough sleep?

### **Fun:**

Are you enjoying life?

### **Service:**

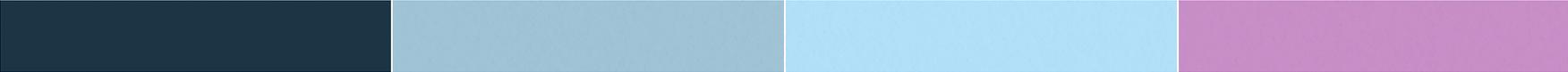
Where are you serving? What is your perspective on service? Have you taken on too much? Fighting burnout? Are you utilizing your abilities in the best possible way, or are you helping put out fires? What contribution are you making to the lives of others?

### **Learning:**

Are there gaps in your learning? When is the last time you picked up a book or listened to a podcast? Do you have what you need to move forward?

### **Emotional Health:**

How is your stress level? Are you at peace with yourself? How often do you find your emotions getting the best of you?



### 3. EVALUATE:

Take a few minutes to look over your observations. To conclude your annual review, answer the following questions:

- ❖ Do you see any key themes that you are excited about?
- ❖ Any areas that need work?
- ❖ Are your goals relevant to your current output? If not, what are you going to change to get yourself positioned properly?
- ❖ Are you expanding energy in one area at the detriment of another?
- ❖ How does your career affect your health?
- ❖ How does your energy level affect your relationships?
- ❖ What is the connection between your spirituality and your finances?
- ❖ If you are unhappy with your answers, what do you think is holding you back?

## Looking Ahead:

Here's an overview of next week's module:

1. We'll look at how God speaks prophetically through time and why it's important to include prophetic revelation into your yearly planning process.
2. Review the 2015 Word of The Lord.  
*In this section, we'll look at a detailed summary of key prophetic words that have been given by several well-regarded prophets who are known for prophetic accuracy.*
3. We'll work on some brainstorming exercises to help you start connecting the big-picture Word to your life.

