

FirstSteps for Planting a Missional Church

Coaching Guide #1

Developing Vision & Values

Henry & Richard Blackaby in their book, Spiritual Leadership write, "Vision is something people produce; revelation is something people receive. Leaders can dream up a vision, but they cannot discover God's will. God must reveal it." They continue, "Visions that drive spiritual leaders must be derived from God." (pg. 69)

Biblical leaders need to learn how to capture God's assignment for their unique setting. God has a vision because God is on mission. A good vision statement expresses the redemptive revelation of God for your community and the world.

Vision is the what. Values are the how. Values describe how you are going to behave in achieving God's vision for your unique setting. Values determine what is important as you make critical ministry decisions such as budget, location, staffing, goals, etc.

Biblical Insights

- Matthew 28:16-20
- Luke 24:44-49
- John 20:19-23
- Acts 1:3-9
- Acts 2:42-27

Checklist

- A vision statement written and tested.
- A vision motto developed and tested.
- A values statement written and tested.
- Coach has approved vision and values statements.

Reflective Questions

- How well is the great commission clearly articulated in your vision statement?
- Is evangelism and edification reflected in your vision statement?
- Can you define what a disciple is through your vision statement?
- Can you define what a leader is through your vision statement?
- Are your values rooted in God's purposes?
- Are your values measurable?
- Can your values be turned into reproducible systems?
- Can you describe specific behaviors with each of your value statements?

Conclusion:

My personal opinion is the church and church plants don't break down over vision issues but issues around competing values. Every church on some level would say they exist to reach the lost and teach believers. Where the rub comes is in the values which guide and drive the implementing decisions of the vision. Articulating your vision is crucial for recruiting financial supporters and for potential team members. Developing a clear set of values will help you develop and maintain unity and harmony within the new church.