

Developing a Vision and Mission

“Where there is no vision the people perish” – Proverbs 29:18

Where is your children’s ministry going? Before you steer a boat, you may want to know what direction to go in. A thriving children’s ministry will have a destination - the vision statement.

Vision is a vital part of leading children’s ministry leaders and volunteers. Vision will bring purpose and unity to volunteers. Vision will define your ministry and help you steer your ship affectively.

Your children’s ministry vision and mission should line up with the vision of your church, but be unique to your department. If your church focus is community, you may want to include that as part of your vision and mission statement. If you are partnering with families make sure this is integral.

To help you get started here are a few vision/mission statements from other churches. These were written specifically for their church, but can help you get started in the right direction:

Vision - Transforming communities one child at a time (Romans 12)

Mission - In strong partnership with parents, grandparents and caregivers

- To lead our children into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ
- To enable and empower our children to play an active role in God’s story of redemption and restoration

Vision - to win kids to Christ and grow them spiritually!

Mission - Our children's ministry exists to SHARE Christ with the kids in our community. TEAM them with other Christians and ADVANCE them in their spiritual maturity. Helping them to RECOGNIZE their spiritual gifts and SURRENDER their lives to God.

Vision - Go, prepare, send : to know, love and follow Jesus

Mission - to make sure the children of the church are encouraged to be, and recognized as, a functioning part of the Christian family, that they get the best possible teaching, and are surrounded by God's love. In summary: Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

Another great idea to help you get started is brainstorming words that remind you of your children’s ministry such as fun, diverse, extraordinary, revolutionary, wild, revival, global, missions, go, big, power... People you may want to include in your vision are kids, volunteers, parents, the community.

Once you know where you are going, what words describe your ministry best and know how you want to write your vision, than get started. Don’t hold back, be bold in the vision you

see for your ministry. Write the vision so that everyone, big and small, can understand and run with it (Mal 2:10)! But remember to keep it simple. If people can't remember it, they can't follow it. Keep it as short as you possibly can as long as it motivates and directs people.

How you accomplish your vision will evolve. But answer this question before you write your vision - What do you passionately want to accomplish in the lives of the children and families in your church / community? That is your vision.

