



Working Together

Sam Luce

My favorite definition for strategy from dictionary.com is:

“A plan, method, or series of maneuvers or stratagems for obtaining a specific goal or result.”

A strategy is a plan of action with an end in mind. Too often churches fail to take the time to develop strategy. Massive programs and ministries exist to make a difference in a community, but rarely is the question asked, “Are we producing the desired results?” Or even more importantly, “Do the produced results really matter?”

You need to start with the end in mind. What is the goal of a successful children’s ministry?

I have had a few conversations with children’s pastors who seem happy that the kids don’t want to leave their ministry. To me that is very self serving and unnatural. I believe a successful children’s ministry works hand in hand with the youth ministry.

What success looks like to me:

1. The transition from children’s ministry into youth ministry is seamless.
2. We preach the same values as the youth ministry.
3. I have a great relationship with the Youth Pastor.
4. I am genuinely happy when the youth ministry is successful.
5. There are places in my ministry where young people can be involved.
6. The Youth Pastor and I work together on developing these leaders in ministry.

When you look at a kid do you see the same thing your youth pastor sees?

I believe that commonality of vision is one of the most important things Youth Pastors and Children’s Pastors must share.

Because you have commonality does not mean you have to be a carbon copy. You don’t have to do everything the Youth Pastor does in kid format. But it does mean sharing with each other the values that will define what a disciple looks like.

If you want to work with the same end in mind and develop a strategy for faith development that is integrated sit down with your Youth Pastor and ask these questions:

1. What am I doing to hinder your success?
2. What am I doing that is helping you?
3. What are the 3 things you want every kid to know to be prepared for youth group/church?
4. How can we help kids make the transition from kid’s ministry to youth ministry?
5. What resources can we share to make both of our ministries more effective?
6. Are we providing opportunities for face time in each ministry? (When I say face time I don’t mean you have to speak at each other’s service but are you physically supporting each other.)