

5 Questions for Ministry Planning

Question 4 - How Do You Decide?

Leaders are deciders. This means that leaders must make hard choices in order to protect their resources and their mission. Sometimes it can be difficult to know what the right answer is. By creating a Goal Hierarchy tool, requests can be tested against desired outcomes.

When it comes to accomplishing your mission, decisions matter.

- Accomplishing your mission doesn't come in one big push. It comes through the small decisions you make every day.
- Creating a Goal Hierarchy can help you look at things objectively.

How to create a Goal Hierarchy:

- First, write down your organization's top 3 - 5 goals.
- Next, rearrange them in priority order.

How to use a Goal Hierarchy:

- Then, take the decision that you are trying to make (should you do _____ or not do _____) and ask yourself one question, "If I say yes, will this positively, negatively, or neutrally effect my mission?"
- Start at the bottom of your goal list and work your way up.
- If a request is positive or neutral in a lower goal, keep moving up the list.
- If a request is positive or neutral to all your goals, then the answer is likely yes.
- If a request is positive in lower goals, but hurts an upper goal, then it's a no.
- If a request has many positives in lower goals, but hurts your upper goals, then this may be a sign that you should approach the request in a different way.

Check out WW [Question 4 - Where are the Gaurdrails](#) to see an example in action.

What leaders should know::

- When you have to say "no" to a request, understanding the why behind the decision can help you explain your decision to others. It also helps you know that you did the right thing.
- Sometimes exceptions should be made. Use your best judgement.

5 Questions for Ministry Planning Question 4 - Create Your Own Goal Hierarchy

Use these prompts to create your own goal hierarchy tool.

1. Write down your top 3 - 5 ministry goals in short statement form.

2. Review your mission statement and core values. Now take the goals you wrote above and place them in priority order, with the most important goal at the top.

3. Write down a request and ask "If I say yes, will this positively, negatively, or neutrally effect my mission?" Start with the bottom goal and go up. What did you decide? See [video](#) for example.

Request:

Decision - Y or No or Not Yet