

5 Questions for Ministry Planning

Question 1 - What Do You Most Want to Accomplish?

If you want to create a ministry that can help a lot of people for a very long time then start by building a strong foundation.

Ministry is Meant to be Shared

- Invite God and your team in as you decide where to focus your mission.
- Ask your team what is important to them. Talk through each suggestion by asking the following questions:
 - What problem in your church or community needs to be solved?
How would you solve it?
 - Do your resources support this vision?
 - Is this vision sustainable long term?
 - Does your team feel excited about this vision?
 - Does this vision support your church's mission?

Write a Clear Mission Statement

- Your mission statement should clearly communicate your focus to those who read it.

Understand Your Intended Impact

- Intended impact is a set of statements that clearly express where your organization is focusing, what your desired outcomes are, and the timeframe for achieving them.
- Intended impact helps keep your ministry on track by laying out measurable goals.

Make Your Ministry Inclusive for People with Disabilities

- Invite people with disabilities into ministry planning to help you learn how to create environments that include everyone.

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Question 1 - Narrowing Your Focus Questions

Build a strong ministry foundation by narrowing your focus. Start by asking your team these questions to find out what you most want to accomplish.

1. What problem in your church or community needs to be solved? How would you solve it?
 - List potential barriers to the solution and potential ways to overcome them.

2. Do your resources support this vision? **Y or N**
 - If no, could new resources become available for the mission? How?

3. Is this vision sustainable long term? Why or Why not? How could it become sustainable?

4. Does your team feel excited about this vision? **Y or N**

5. Does this vision support your church's mission? **Y or N**

Which ONE objective did you choose? What is the next step to move forward?

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Question 1 - Writing Your Mission Statement

There is one thing that all successful ministries have in common. They outlast the current leader. Write your mission statement as if you were giving the next leader a road map to your most important goal. This means making your statement specific enough that anyone reading it could answer the question “what do you most want to accomplish” (and why that matters).

Consider Incorporating these Elements into Your Mission Statement:

- Be clear about what your organization does, who it is for, and why it matters.
- Write in a tone that reflects your organization’s personality.
- Make it open-ended enough to be able to stay relevant as the organization grows.
- Connect to the heart.
- Keep it brief.

Examples:

1. Our mission is to spread the gospel.

After reading this, do you know who specifically this organization strives to reach? What makes this organization unique? Why do they believe this mission matters? If you had to step in and lead this organization, would you know where to start? **Too General.**

2. Our mission is to make five-minute, animated videos that help spread the gospel by engaging students, leaders, and volunteers at churches or other faith organizations, or for people at home to watch and learn.

Would this statement grow with the organization or box them in? After reading it, do you feel inspired to invest your time here? **Too Specific. Too Long. Too Uninspiring.**

3. Our mission is to provide tools to help churches and families work together to disciple children impacted by disability, because we believe that the gospel is for everyone.

This tells you what the organization does (provide tools to help children impacted by disability), who it is for (churches and families), and why this matters (because we believe that the gospel is for everyone.) **Just Right.**



Equipping Churches To Serve Families Affected By Disability

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Question 1 - Write Your Mission Statement

Answer these questions, then start writing your mission statement.

1. What do you do?

2. Who is it for?

3. Why is this important?

Write your Mission Statement:

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Question 1 - Understanding Your Intended Impact

Unlike mission statements, the intended impact statement is more for internal leaders, than the public. Its objective is not to inspire, but rather, to define what objectives your organization wants to reach and provide a timeline for reaching them. This helps keep leaders on task and accountable for the goals that were set.

Write your own Intended Impact Statement by asking these questions.

1. Who does your ministry want to reach?

2. Where is your focus?

3. What specific outcomes do you desire? Are these objectives measurable? (If your goals are too general to be measured, go back and write a few objectives that are more concrete.)

4. What is your estimated timeline for to achieve your desired outcomes?

Example:

Help churches and families work together to disciple children who have intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by creating a free online library of resources. This will include 50 church training videos, 50 adapted children's Bible story videos, 25 social narratives, and 10 downloadable classroom tools. The project will be completed by the end of 2027.

Write your Intended Impact Statement: