

Session Fifteen: Vision Overview

Overview: This session introduces the key templates to use for a ministry to articulate its values, mission, and vision. Strategy, the fourth component of this flow is addressed in the Section on Strategy that begins with Session Nineteen.

The four sessions on the Section on Vision are as follows:

Session Fifteen: Vision Overview

This session introduces a template with key questions to use as a ministry articulates its values, mission, and vision.

Session Sixteen: Congregational Values

Talks about the importance of core values and gives tools on how to discover and share them.

Session Seventeen: Mission and Vision

Shares a Vision Discernment Process that enables a ministry to understand and build on the various components that go into discerning a vision.

Session Eighteen: Sustaining the Vision

Sharing the vision is an ongoing process of listening and responding. This session outlines key strategies for keeping the vision alive.

Session Setup:

- One guidebook for each person
- DVD player hooked up to a TV or LCD Projector with screen
- Flip chart with paper and markers, or a large white board or chalkboard to take notes for everyone to see
- Comfortable room with tables and chairs setup in an oval or u-shape so you can see each other
- As people enter, have music from the DVD playing "Open Unto Me."

L¹ Love: Incubate Your Heart & Formation Que

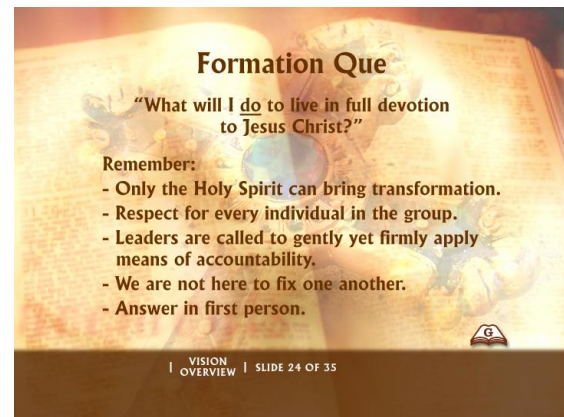
As you begin, use slide 2 to show the group where it is in the process, and slide 4 to remind people of the expectations of the Incubator.

Seeing the Invisible

Principle: Vision unfolds through a process of listening and responding. Three aspects of vision frame the congregation's ability to listen:

1. Vision begins with the end in mind
2. Vision is about a future reality
3. Vision is not for the fainthearted

Facilitate: You can approach this in a couple of ways. One way is to silently scroll through this whole section (slides 5 - 22) asking participants to make a note of those phrases that most speak to them. Another way is to break it down into the three vision statements and talk about them. Give participants some silent time to resonate with the quotes and scriptures and take time to share. Finish by singing "Open Unto Me." As this is a new song, consider playing it twice to give them an opportunity to live into the mood of the song.



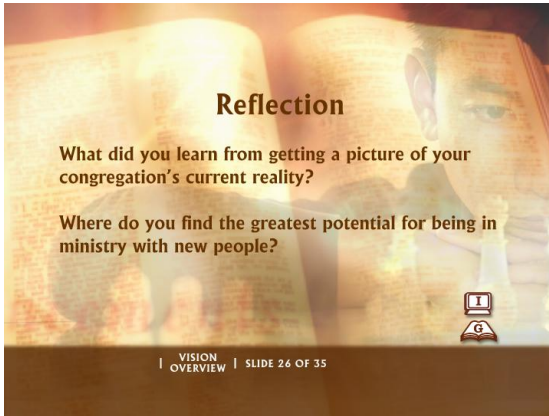
Principle: The Formation Que (question) is a covenantal question that all L³ Incubator participants agree to answer and be accountable to each time the Incubator meets. The question each person is asked to respond to is: "What will I do to live in full devotion to Jesus Christ?"

Before starting the Formation Que, review the basic ground rules that are on the slide. Remind participants to answer in the first person.

As people share, they first will be asked to talk about how they did with the items they talked about the last time. Consult your list (the notes you took on page 69 in the guidebook) as they share. Some may need to be reminded what they said. Invite them to start a new list on page 73.

Facilitate: You have ninety minutes for this time. As people get used to doing this, it is easy to lose track of time. If you have twelve people in your group, each person only has seven-and-a-half minutes to share. There will be times when someone needs more time. Your job will be to keep things moving and allow everyone time to share.

L2: Learn: Reflection & Key Concept



Facilitate: As you do your reflection time, divide the Incubator into groups of four. Take another look at the results from your Assessment Tool. Where do you find the greatest potential for being in ministry with new people?

Vision overview:

Principle: The Vision Template is setup to help participants see the vision process.

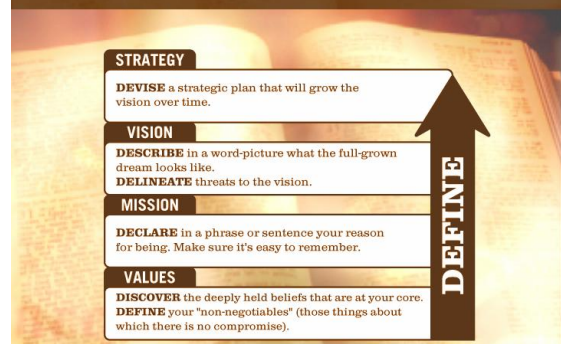
Values are the foundation on which everything else is based. Most people want to start with the strategy – the end result - and work backwards. So they start a new worship service (strategy) without asking who they are trying to reach (vision) or stating the reason why they are doing it (mission). When it does not work they wonder why they did it in the first place and question if they have anything to offer to the community (values).

The Incubator process comes at this from a different angle. By first identifying Values a ministry is able to build a strong case for a particular strategy as well as making sure that all the strategies of a congregation rest on the same set of beliefs. Shared values allow a congregation to have different strategies for different people groups in a community. So they may have a Classic worship experience, an Emergent worship experience, and a worship experience for people in 12-Step Programs. Although the worship experiences may be quite different, because the congregation as a whole shares the same values, mission, and vision there is a common direction for all of congregational life.

During the Session Fifteen to Eighteen you will be working through these templates that also can be found on pages 75 to 78.

Facilitate: Your main goal at this time is to introduce the process. Some may feel overwhelmed by the number of questions. Go through it step by step so they can see how the process flows. Scroll through the slides to clarify the process. Start by

reading the Values questions on the bottom then working up through Mission, Vision, and Strategy. Slide 33 has questions you use to realign, remind, refocus, and review these steps. Vision is never fixed. It demands ongoing attention.



STRATEGY
What actions are you willing to take to live out the strategy?

VISION
Are you willing to give your life to the shared vision?

MISSION
Is your life mission consistent with the shared mission?

VALUES
Are your personal values consistent with the values of your faith community?

VISION OVERVIEW | SLIDE 31 OF 35

STRATEGY
We are committed to...

VISION
The vision of our Church is...

MISSION
We are called to...

VALUES
Our congregational values are...

VISION OVERVIEW | SLIDE 32 OF 35

STRATEGY
REVIEW constantly. Are we doing what it takes to get there?
REPORT on progress toward the vision.
REORGANIZE if necessary to live out the vision.

VISION
REFOCUS on the vision, keeping the future in mind.
RENEW commitment to the right direction.
REVISIT your context to see if you are on target.

MISSION
REMINDE people constantly what business you are in.
REMEMBER why you are doing what you are doing.

VALUES
REALIGN your values constantly, because drift happens.
RESTATE you values often.
RECLAIM your values through new people.
REVIVE your values through self-examination.

VISION OVERVIEW | SLIDE 33 OF 35

Assignment
I-MAP
Research the value statements of two effective churches and report them back for the next session.

VISION OVERVIEW | SLIDE 35 OF 35

Facilitate: Go over the assignment and encourage them to do some research about effective congregations and bring back value statements to share with the group.

Close in prayer.