

Essentials to Leadership: Strategic Planning

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

Course description: Strategic Planning – part 1

In this course we focus our attention in the area of strategic planning. The necessity of goals is critical to the success of the church. Too many congregations coast along hoping that everything will be different with a new preacher or once they have elders. As essential as vision is to the growth and development of the church, so is strategic planning.

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Reviewed the NOW and THEN components of the vision lessons.
- B. Considered biblical examples of planning and why strategic planning is essential.
- C. Examined two types of bridging strategies by Bobby Clinton.

Outline of the class:

- A. Before class, go back and gather the information assembled from the vision classes. Put together and review with the class the NOW and THEN information.
 - 1. Remember that NOW represents the present reality. This is where the church is now, what it looks like, programs, missions, evangelism, classes, groups, etc.
 - 2. The THEN, represents the desirable future. If we could paint the perfect picture of what we want the church to look like in all the areas above, what would it look like?
 - 3. The bridging part of getting from where we are NOW to where we want to be THEN involves strategic planning.
- B. Strategic planning is a biblical concept. Consider and discuss with the class the examples below. After looking at each passage, ask the class to describe how these passages involve planning.
 - 1. 1 Chronicles 28:11-12 How was the temple going to be built by Solomon?
 - 2. Proverbs 20:5 When we draw out a plan, how is that beneficial?
 - 3. Proverbs 21:5 Where do the plans of the diligent lead?
 - 4. Jeremiah 29:11 What plan does God have for us?
 - 5. Acts 2:23 How was Jesus part of God's plan?
 - 6. Ephesians 1:4 What was God involved in doing before the foundation of the world?

7. These are only a few passages, but if God set plans in place from before the foundation of the world, and if we see the benefit of plans taught throughout scripture, doesn't it seem essential that we develop some strategic plans today and seek God's favor in blessing those plans?
- C. In Bobby Clinton's book *Bridging Strategies*, he discusses two types of strategies, listed below.
1. **Closed Bridging strategy:** This is a strategy that moves toward a relatively fixed end as the anticipated situation.
 2. **Open Bridging strategy:** This is a strategy that allows for the final result to be changed as the plan is formulated.
 3. Ask the class to discuss the following questions and make a list on the board of their responses.
 - a. What are the benefits of having a closed bridging strategy?
 - b. What are the benefits of having an open bridging strategy?

Conclusion:

- A. Strategic planning is a critical component that is essential to leaders when it comes to the growth of the church.
- B. Planning is a biblical concept and there are a variety of ways to approach strategic planning today. Leaders must spend the necessary time to develop the type of strategic planning that will help the church achieve the vision set before her.
- C. Next week, we will continue the discussion about strategic planning and examine various thoughts others have expressed about the need for goals and goal setting.

Recommended Reading:

Collins, Jim. *Good to Great*

Collins, Jim. *Built to Last*

Clinton, Bobby. *Bridging Strategies*

See the following link: <http://bobbyclinton.com/store/books-manuals/bridging-strategies/>

Hybels, Bill. *Courageous Leadership*

Kouzes, James M. and Barry Z. Posner. *A Leader's Legacy*

Maxwell, John. *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*