

Essentials to Leadership: Strategic Planning

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

Course description: Strategic Planning– part 6

Our lesson continues to 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. Examined and discussed three biblical examples of legacy.
- B. Evaluated five key factors involved in a legacy.
- C. Discussed four ways we can leave the kind of legacy God intended.

Outline of the class:

- A. Keep the following thoughts from John Maxwell in mind as we move through the class:
 1. Achievement comes when someone does big things *by* themselves.
 2. Success comes when they entrust others to do big things *for* them.
 3. Significance comes when they develop leaders to do great things *with* them.
 4. ***Legacy comes when we put leaders in a position to do great things without us.***
- B. Divide the class into three groups (if class is 18 or less), or groups of four (if class is more than 18). Assign the following passages, one to each group (if three or less groups) or ask multiple groups to consider the same passage (if there are more than three).
 1. David's legacy to Solomon: 1 Chronicles 29:1-5
 2. Jesus' legacy to the apostles: Matthew 28:18-20
 3. Apostles legacy to the church: Ephesians 2:20 - 3:5
- C. Give the groups 15 minutes to discuss what they learn from these passages about legacy as it relates to the thoughts expressed by John Maxwell above.
 1. Ask each group to share what they learned with the entire class.
 2. After the first group finishes, ask if there is any connection to the type of legacy leaders should leave the church today.
- D. John Maxwell identifies five factors involved in leaving a legacy.
 1. Vision: Leading today with tomorrow in view.

2. Learning to multiply: “To grow, lead followers. To multiply, lead leaders.”
 3. Sacrifice: Pay the price today to ensure success for tomorrow.
 4. Group leadership above individual leadership: No one can do it alone. The larger the group, the more important this concept.
 5. Walk away with integrity: Be able to walk away and allow the successors to do their own thing.
- E. Ask each group to take 10 minutes and make a list of ways we can build a legacy for the future of the church.
- F. After they finish the task, ask each group to share one way and write them on the whiteboard. Here are a few suggestions to consider, if they are not suggested by the class:
1. We must know the legacy we intend to leave.
 2. We must live it now.
 3. We must determine on the successors.
 4. We must mentor them.

Conclusion:

- A. Leaders must think about the legacy they leave behind for the church. We suffer today from the lack of forward thinking in a previous generation. We must ensure that we do not make the same mistakes today.
- B. The legacy we leave must be one that ensures the future of leadership for the church, not just in the next generation, but the generations after them.
- C. Next week, we will move into a new section of study that discusses succession planning for the church.

Recommended Reading:

Collins, Jim. *Good to Great*

Collins, Jim. *Built to Last*

Maxwell, John: *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*

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