

Visioning Exercise: Our Preferable Future

Directions

Alone or with your leadership team, work through the steps of the visioning process to arrive at a vision statement for your Sunday school program.



Step 1: Core Ministry Values

Core ministry values are the spoken or unspoken assumptions that guide a program's actions. They demonstrate your program's priorities and are confirmed by behaviors, not just by words. They are the essential ingredients of a program's identity.

Here are some questions you might ask to identify core values for your Sunday school program:

➤ What strengths of our current program do we want to keep?

➤ What weaknesses do we want to improve?

➤ What new priorities do we want to add?

What key words would quickly and easily describe our Sunday school program to others? (List five or six words; add a statement to explain each if needed.)





Step 2: Purpose (Mission) Statement

A purpose statement says why your Sunday school program exists. It states the "business" you're in.

To draft a purpose statement, ask this question:

- Why do we do Sunday school in our church?

How can we express our purpose in a brief statement? (Draft a statement that is memorable and can be printed on Sunday school stationery, in the bulletin, and so on. Every leader and teacher should be able to recite this purpose statement.)



Step 3: Vision Statement

The vision statement is consistent with your program's core values and purpose. It provides concrete and specific direction, stretches and inspires you, paints a mental picture of a preferable future, and motivates you to get up in the morning.

To formulate a vision statement for your Sunday school program, ask this question:

- Given our core ministry values and the purpose for our Sunday school program, what do we hope, believe, and pray that God will do with us and through us?

Write your vision statement below. (Think of it as your dream for the Sunday school program, something that you can accomplish in the next five years but that you can work toward right now.)

—Steps and adapted descriptions from Dirk J. Hart,
Charting a Course for Your Church, CRC Publications, 1997.