

**CHM Leadership Certification
Level II, Course #1**

GROWING A VISION FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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(Handouts)

What Does the Bible Say?

"Where there is no VISION, the people perish; but he that keeps the law, happy is he."

Proverbs 29:18

Ellen White's Counsel

"Your lack of spiritual vision makes you stumble like blind men. Had you had singleness of purpose, it would have been in your conference an element of tremendous power."

Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 296

What is Vision?

- Vision is seeing what is around you and perceiving what God wants you to do with it
- Vision sees beyond
- Vision stirs the emotions
- Vision directs actions

Where does Vision come from?

- It comes from God
- It will include your passion and your beliefs about children's ministry in general
- God has created, trained, and equipped you
- God will use all He has invested into you to craft your ministry vision
- God will help you create and evaluate everything you do in ministry

How to Seek God for a Ministry Vision?

- Know what you believe and feel about ministry (ministry philosophy)
- Recognize and stir up your passion about children’s ministry
- Understand the needs of today’s children
- Ask God to give you a clear vision that will satisfy His will, your passion, and the needs of the people around you.

Nehemiah’s Vision

- This is basically what Nehemiah did as he set out to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem.
- In Nehemiah 1 read about his passion as he wept over hearing about the condition of the wall. He mourned, fasted, and prayed for some days to receive God’s blessing and vision for the work.
- In chapter 2 read about God’s gift of vision to Nehemiah evidenced by his plan. This is the same process you and I need to follow as we seek to rebuild the broken walls in our children, families, and community.

What’s the Equation?

Inspiration + Information = Vision

Creating a Ministry Vision

- Every ministry vision should focus on how you will fulfill the Great Commission:
 - * “Go”—how will you go to them?
 - * Make disciples”—how will you attract children and interest them in Jesus?
 - * “Baptizing them”—how will you lead children to make commitment to Jesus?
 - * “Teaching them”—how will you teach children in a way that motivates them to learn more on their own?
 - * “To obey”—how will disciple the children & lead them to obedience and service?

“Go” A Great Commission Vision

1. We will Go into the world of today’s children with trained, passionate, godly adults who carry the message of the Gospel.

2. We will Go into the church, community, and the schools with a child's ministry image that attracts children.
3. We will provide a safe, nurturing environment so parents can be assured that our children's ministry is a positive place to which their children can Go.

"Make Disciples"

1. We will Make Disciples by drawing children into the presence of God through dynamic worship.
2. We will Make Disciples by teaching children how to pray and experience God's presence and provision.
3. We will Make Disciples by teaching children the truths in the World of God, and providing opportunities to explore these truths for themselves

"Baptizing Them"

1. We will develop a process of child evangelism which leads children into a relationship with Jesus.
2. We will train our team members in the child evangelism process.

"Teaching Them"

1. We will train our volunteers in effective Teaching methods based on the interests & needs of children.
2. We will Teach Them with relevant curriculum that is Bible-based.
3. We will establish a variety of child-targeted programs that Teach them to apply God's Word in their lives.
4. We will support parent in Teaching their own children through seminars.

"To Obey"

1. We will teach children To Obey the commands of God by participating in supervised service projects.
2. We will teach children To Obey Jesus' command to be "salt" and "light" to others through their words, actions, and choices.

3. We will expect the children To Obey Jesus' Great Commission by volunteering to help in the children's ministry.

Pair and Share

- Turn to your neighbor beside you and share one vision you have before or now.
- Write a vision statement for your children's ministry.

The Ministry Vision Wheel

- Programs
- Recruiting and training
- Curriculum
- Discipline plans
- Growth plans
- Parent relations
- Outreach
- Facilities
- Service projects
- Discipleship of children
- Ministry policies

Sources of Vision Infestation

- Traditions
- Fear
- Complacency
- Fatigue
- Short-term thinking

Treatment for Infestation

1. Value traditions as foundations for the future. Don't throw out traditions or be controlled by them. Build upon them!
2. Don't focus on your fears; focus on God's power and vision. Growth requires risk. Move forward cautiously, sensitive to people's needs, and with much prayer.

More treatments . . .

3. Remember, restore and protect your passion! Read books about CHM. Network with others in CHM. Pray for more passion! Complacency can kill passion.
4. Fight fatigue, both physically and spiritually with plenty of sleep, protected days off, and a Sabbath worships.

More Treatments . . .

5. Ask God for the ability to focus on the future, not on today. Remember that God's vision for a ministry may well outlive the person who first had the vision. You are part of a bigger picture! Look beyond!

Vision & Children's Leaders

■ BE A SERVANT

- * humble attitude to serve God
- * gain respect from team members

■ DISCIPLE OTHERS

- * train others to share the tasks with you
- * lay aside your ego
- * delegate duties

Based on Steve Alley, Growing a Healthy Children's Ministry, 2002.